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Asian Peace Zone

Kuala Lumpur

Senior officials from five non-Communist nations met yesterday in this capital city of Malaysia to draft a blueprint for a neutral Southeast Asian peace zone, including communist Indochina, free of defense pacts with big powers.

Conference sources said the Association of Southeast Asian Nations hopes to have a final blueprint ready for adoption by the foreign ministers who begin a three-day

conference tomorrow.

The non-communist nations in ASEAN include Indonesia, Malaysia, the Philippines, Thailand and Singapore. Four years ago they declared their determination to create a neutral zone to include both Vietnams, Cambodia, Laos, Burma and the ASEAN members.

The sources said provisions of the blueprint would require zone members to be free of foreign military bases and prohibit zone na-

tions from having defense pacts with outside powers. Existing bases would be accepted as temporary arrangements to be phased out.

The conference is the eighth annual ASEAN foreign ministers meeting but the recent Indochina developments have made it much more significant and the implications of Communist victories there are expected to dominate discussions.

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