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SUMMIT: LEADERS WILL REVIEW SITUATION IN CAMBODIA, SAYS SIAZON

KUALA LUMPUR, Dec 14 (Bernama) -- Philippine Foreign Secretary Domingo Siazon said today Asean leaders meeting here will review the situation in Cambodia and look at the progress made by Asean in restoring political stability in that country.

Speaking on the sidelines of the Second Asean Informal Summit, Siazon said certain Asean members would like to see elections take place in Cambodia before making any decision on its entry into Asean.

"The focus here is how to attain progress in restoring political stability and moving towards the elections in 1998," he said.

The foreign ministers of the Philippines, Indonesia and Thailand are charged with finding a role for Asean in restoring peace in Cambodia following a coup in Phnom Penh last July which saw the ouster of its First Prime Minister Prince Norodom Ranariddh by Second Prime Minister Hun Sen.

Siazon also said Asean would try to encourage more Cambodian opposition Members of Parliament to participate in the National Assembly.

He said: "I can say things are looking good. I think the group of 27 opposition Members of Parliament who went into Cambodia feel that they can participate in the political process."

The informal summit kicks off tonight with a dinner hosted by Prime Minister Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad. -- BERNAMA

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