

28 January 2008 (Unofficial Translation)

Inaugurating Svay Rieng's Hun Sen-Svay Rompea Junior College



28 January 08—Samdech Akka Moha Sena Padei Techo Hun Sen Observes the Photo Exhibition of the Construction of the Hun Sen — Svay Rompea Junior College in the Province of Svay Rieng's Svay Teab district.

... It is indeed a great pleasure for my wife and me that we preside over this auspicious ceremony to put into official use the Hun Sen - Svay Rompea Junior College (HSRJC) and a 13.5 kilometer dirt road covered with sand from mountain. It is indeed another achievement that we have scored after the liberation in January 1979 as whole and in the province of Svay Rieng's Svay Teab district in particular. I am so happy to note that we all have increase the pace of development day after day - big or small, fast or slow.

We have in the college seven school buildings or 32 classrooms in which five buildings or 25 classrooms for general education, a building for vocational training, and a building for directors. It is also equipped with special solar energized lighting system, water pump and football field. It is known that the cost of this college is 340,000 US dollars in all. It has started as far as I know from 0.4 hectare of land and a

sum of money has been spent to expand the school ground to the current size of four hectare. I usually urge not to sell land that belongs to school, hospital, etc. These professional places have to be expanded instead for future need. The number of population of today will not be similar for the next day because we have a good number of birth everyday. Increase of birth means that we have more children who would eventually need more school for education.

You may remember that after 1979 when we toppled the regime of Pol Pot, we had a population less than five million but we now have a new figure of 14 million. You can see that the need for life necessity has been increased, partly of cause the need for school in which we have to take into consideration their well beings - the teachers and students when talking about building school project. Having said so, I am satisfied with the setup
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30 January 2008 (Unofficial Translation of Selected Comments)

During the Visit to Arun Rah Children Village in Kandal

... First of all my wife and I are so happy to return today to see all of you partly to see the progress made in the Arun Rah Children Village (ARCV) but also to engage in a TV interview program for a TV station in Hong Kong - Star World.

I am so taken by joy to have heard a welcoming report by Ms Geraldine Cox, director of ARCV in fluent Khmer language. Ms Cox has indeed been offered the Khmer na-

tionality already. I also thank child Kongkea who represents all other orphan children who have been staying in ARCV. I am so pleased to have seen that you all are living happily in the village because it consists of an area of ten hectares. If we were to sell it we would make a lot of money but as has been pointed in the request, the land will not be sold but kept for your need for survival here. We have honored ARCV a contract that will last for 70
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19 January 2008 (Unofficial Translation of Selected Comments)

Bokor Mountain Resort Renovation & Development Starts

... I have a great pleasure today to join with all of our people and monks from the districts of Kompong Bai, Kompot and other places so as to witness the groundbreaking ceremony to build the road 32 which is 33 kilometers long from the National Road 3 through to the top plateau of Bokor. In just 30 months away we will have this construction ready to be officiated as a new achievement. Though it is being built by the private company, it will become a road for the public, and be owned by the state and people.

Maybe I should elaborate what has been at the background of the construction project here today. Bokor resort was first built in 1922 when the country was under the French colonialism and later was managed and maintained by the Sangkum Reast Niyum (populist society). It was left in ruin and complete abandonment under

the war and genocide until 1998 when the country was coming toward end of the war.

Kompot province could be said as one of the last to put an end to the war because it contains areas like Phnom Voar, Bokor area, where armed clashes occurred frequently in those days. This is the area in the country where development has taken a slow pace. This area has also been framed in as a protective zone issued by a Royal Decree and managed by the Ministry of Environment. Though it has become a protection zone but before then it has already a Bokor resort, which consisted of hotel, casino, guesthouse,
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here.

I just talked to Gen. Sao Sokha, the Head of the National Military Police and who initiated and sponsored the building and development of the Hun Sen - Svay Rompea Junior College if it is possible to later develop it into a senior college. He said he could see to that recommendation. Therefore I advise that in the school year 2008-2009, this college should be upgraded to a senior college aimed at gathering students from the area around to continue their studies here. We still have space and the infrastructure is already in place. So children can study here from primary school to junior college and to finish their senior college studies.

I have a sad memory of the time when I was young, and I was not the only one to have had that experience, that I had to go away from my family in pursuit of education. But we now have a situation that reverses what most of us had suffered, which is that there are more schools to be built closer to residential area aimed at responding to the fact in the Cambodian culture and tradition that parents do not wish to let their teenage children to go too far from home or family. So we have narrowed down the gap in gender disparity in term of education, which is a basic solution to addressing thing gender issue.

Indeed we have one more achievement to celebrate. That is the sand covered road from the national road 1 through to the college. We covered the road with sand because we could not find or too expensive to get rocks or laterite. But sooner or later we will have the possibility to improve one way or another these rural roads. HE Sieng Nam, MP of Siemreap province, had asphalted some of rural roads in steps

because reconstruction of dirt road every year cost him ore or less the same. I learned that HE Chan Sarun, Minister of Agriculture, Fisheries and Forestry also wants to do so for Takeo province. Other officials think of doing that in Battambang province as well.

My wife came by with me and noted that there are a few palm trees and she admires the idea of keeping them in the school. They have been here with us since our ancestors. It is a symbol of Cambodia. We should avoid taking them out to make space for anything.

In Svay Teab district among its eleven communes, we have 36 primary schools, six junior colleges and 3 senior colleges or in other word we have about three primary schools for a commune. This has indeed been the policy of the Cambodian People's Party as is stipulated and adopted in its ten point prioritized policy by the CPP extraordinary congress of its national representatives on January 12 and 13. The policy of education and human resources is indeed still a priority of the Party policy. If the CPP is scoring another victory in the forthcoming elections, which is six months from now, this policy will indeed become the policy of the Royal Government of Cambodia.

I do not start up campaigning but if you want this policy/resolution to actually be implemented or Hun Sen to stay on as the Prime Minister, you may have to vote for the CPP leadership. I still think of 21 years ago or in 1987, when the Government of the state of Cambodia proclaimed water, road, electricity and human resource to be its prioritized policy in the national restoration efforts. They have been correct and continue to be responding to the present moment. Talking about this I met

with met with the Prime Minister of Vietnam Nguyen Tan Dung. I requested for a supply of electricity from Vietnam to the provinces along the border on the Cambodian side. HE Suy Sem, Minister for Industry, Mines and Energy negotiated for an initial supply of electricity and now we have proposed to increase the amount of electrical supply.

We have been faithful to the cause of national development and the people and national interest. We always refrain ourselves from making empty promises and making plans that will stay on paper. The Cambodian People's Party has the best human resource who faithfully advocates our country's development policy implementation.

You may want to hear a tale about the King's pumpkin. Trying to figure out who is faithful to him, the King invited his officials to take seeds of pumpkin to grow and tell them to bring him some when they harvest. Different groups of officials behaved differently. Some pick a great number of them, while some less, but there was a group who did not at all. Some months later the King summoned them to ask about the pumpkin. A group of officials told the King they grew a lot of the pumpkin but when they brought some for the King they were stopped and turned away by the guards. Another group told the King they also grew many of them but not harvest stage yet. One other said they did not grow pumpkin because their children and rats accidentally spilt and ate them all. The last group says they did not even take the seeds because the seeds are already cooked. CPP has the third and fourth types of officials but does not have the two before that. It is a good food for thought and a good lesson because the season of "telling a lie" has approached.

I am joyful that HE Jieng Am, the Governor of Svay Rieng province, reported on the cultivation progress in the past year. Because of the drought in 2005, I initiated the construction of the "twin-canal" which runs through two provinces - Prey Veng (at Kompong Trabek River) and Svay Rieng (at Vai Ko River). The canal has enabled our people to grow dry season rice whereas before it is almost impossible to even grow rainy season rice. We also have industrial zone in Bavet which creates the increasing economic potential that requires more labor forces. It has now been 8000 laborers and we all think that in the future Bavet will become a city.

We have a four star general of the police builds schools in the east, a four star general of the military builds schools in the west. These achievements are the beginning we have achieved after downfaling the genocide regime of Pol Pot, protecting our rebirth, preventing their returns, disorganizing the Pol Pot's politically and militarily, while bringing a full peace to the country.

Last night I saw on TV in Kenya there was a violent act in tribal clashes and killings with number of death soaring in great number. I was so astonished with the cruel scene. This is a country from here Mr. Yash Ghai, the special UN human rights representative to Cambodia is coming. I do not mean to humiliate him but to suggest to the UN to reconsider someone whose country is in a better shape than Cambodia. There is a piece of article in the Herald Tribune that when Kenyans were in trouble, the UN officials were in hunting tour. As a member of the United Nations Cambodia has the rights to urge the organization's exercising thrift because it has many

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years in using land provided for this purpose.

The village has actually been here ten years already or six years from the day of inauguration. We should think of making this village a sustainable one. Of course as you can see that my wife and I, as well as other leaders in the village here are getting older but we hope there will be someone to take on this task. We call it like an orphanage but in fact the facility has also been welcoming children of the poor as well. They have enjoyed not only the life supply but also education.

As is said by the children representative Kongkea just now, at the time when the first settlement was re-claimed by the owner, they and the children organization Arun Rah were ordered to move out. How can they be sustainable when they do not have even a facility on which to function? That is why at that moment in time we took a strategic solution to get a piece of land not for one or two months or years, which would need only 3 or 4 hectares, but for a long lasting one that guided us to get for the village a size of ten hectares. This solution will last longer. When the center grows bigger, its reputation would draw in help from other sources while it would in the later stage be transformed into a vocational training and social assistance development center, so to speak.

After ten years time, my wife and I - you may consider us your mother and father - are so happy to see that some of you have graduated and are getting on with life taking jobs in factories or companies, etc. Some of you are in your study. I would urge those who have grown adult, married or teenage to look after those who are still immature and young. Be-

cause we learned about and suffered from orphan condition, we then know best others difficulties when they fall into this life without parenthood and in poverty. Because I used to be a boy lived and fed by the Buddhist monks patronage in the pagoda, in addition to being separated from family, becoming a stranger to my own children, what you have gone through so far have been well understood.

It is in this concept that I urge you adult and married, or teenage to look after younger ones and give them guidance deems appropriate so that they could be elevated from being dependent to independent so as to take on more responsibilities for the center or the country as a whole. We still have more children to take care of ranging from those left from the Pol Pot's regime, who have turned to be at least 28 years old, through to those became orphans due to war, accidents and disasters, diseases, etc.

Indeed I am glad to hear that ARCV also has its projects to replicate similar centers in Siemreap province and in Sihanoukville. I am also thankful to many generous being as is listed by Ms Geraldine Cox of their contributions. I think this is something that Khmer of all political tendencies could do so as to help other Khmers. Is it not possible that the Khmer share their resources to help other? We should not keep ignoring the fact that foreign friends help us to deal with our own problem. We should be ashamed for that if we, who share similar flesh and blood, let others do what we as the country's owners should and are able to.

As a leader if the country, in the past 29 years I have traveled to many countries to beg for help, but some Khmers also went there to ask those friends to give us less assistance or none at all. We tied to

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under HE Say Phuthong and Tia Banh did not match up with the genocide armed forces which at that time contained 180,000 soldiers. With the appeal for help by the National United Front for the Salvation of Kampuchea, the Vietnamese soldiers took up an historic mission in liberating the Cambodian territory and people from death. As of this moment at that time, almost all on the eastern side of the Mekong River were liberated because we started the operation in December 2 - the day we declared the NUFSSK in the district of Snuol, Kompong Cham province.

Some of the commanders and sub-commanders here had been with me at that time. The city of Kompong Cham was liberated on January 1, Svay Rieng on January 4, Prey Veng on January 5 and Phnom Penh on January 7, which has become the Day of Liberation from Pol Pot regime. The Vietnamese armed forces established a hospital here called 7D that provided treatment services not only for the Vietnamese soldiers but also for the Cambodian soldiers and

build this country but they have been happy to do something on the contrary or to destroy it.

However, I would in this instance urge you, who have not finished your study yet, to keep up studying and not to drop school. I would suggest HE Sien Borat, my advisor on education affairs, to screen my scholarships offered by various private tertiary institutions to get them places according to their wishes and intelligent abilities. I also urge you to stay healthy and to carry no HIV/AIDS into the center, to use no drug or bring it to Arun Rah and to make no friend with gangsters...■

people.

The truth here is that the Vietnamese was not here forever but what they have left for us is the livelihoods and achievements for the Cambodian people while they have lost many lives and many soldiers maimed. We are helping them to discover their remains to be brought back to their native country. When they left Cambodia on September 30, 1989, the Vietnamese forces did not in fact take the hospital 7D to Vietnam with them but left with us not only the buildings but also equipments and materials for the Cambodian army to make use of them. Later on the Military Region II Hospital had to be relocated to the eastern side of the Mekong River the place had been transformed as the School of Pedagogy, which was used later by the Indian UNTAC (United Nations Transitional Authority for Cambodia) mission. After the UNTAC withdrawal, and because we see there is a need for medical service, HE Governor Hun Neng decided to give the location back to the Military Region II for use as a hospital once again. Since the hospital is being built with the helps of various sources, my wife also included, it has been named "Charity Building Bun Rany Hun Sen." We put into operation eight buildings - of which three buildings are those of the Charity's.

I would urge our medical staff here that all treatments ser-

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places to be well spent on. Giving money to Yash Ghai to work in Cambodia would be a loss because Cambodians are not the worst since they have solved their problems and made progress from killing fields though to the present condition...■

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and plantation.

Why did the Sokha Hotel Group of Oknha Sok Kong obtain this project? I wish to give our people not only here but throughout the country an explanation. There have been three companies - two foreign ones and one local one - expressing their interests in taking up investment project of Bokor resort. A US company with its registration in Europe expressed its wish to refurbish buildings and infrastructure on top of the plateau but it would not care about roads and infrastructure from bottom to top of the mountain. This means the building of a road to the top of the plateau will rest in the burden of national budget.

Another company agrees to build a road that links to the top of the plateau but only if they are allowed to tax people five dollars up and five dollars down for each car. How could our people afford to spend a lot of money in that road tax obligation? The Sokha Hotel Group agrees to build the road and refurbish the top plateau's infrastructure that are laid in ruin, which means the company will spend twenty million US dollars for building the road to be open for public use. The company at least has to place a sum of 20 million dollars before being granted the investment project of the Bokor area.

I have ordered the Cambodia Development Council to give priority to any company that agrees to build the road and allow our people to use for free. If we want tourists to go up there we need to have a road. Without road how could we say it is a development? The road will be concrete and enlarged from 4.5 meters to seven meters wide. It has to be concretized otherwise it could not withstand the wearing out by water shed. I need not men-

tion that our people around will be able to grow vegetable and their cultivation can be around the year so as to supply to demand on top of the plateau. They also can grow flowers. Under Pol Pot growing flowers could be a death sentence. They also do not allow sports. But we do. In the recent Cabinet meeting we discussed this issue of how much we award in cash to those who obtain gold medals, etc. There was a suggestion from the Ministry of Education, Youth and Sports that the Gold Medal should be bestowed with a reward of 40,000,000 Riels or ten thousand dollars.

I proposed to give Gold medal award winner 80,000,000 Riels or twenty thousand dollars because it is extremely high effort to get the medal. With this amount they could feed their families and it is an encouragement to our sport practitioners as well. As far as flowering is concerned, here we could grow flowers and vegetable like in Vietnam's Dalat, from where flowers and vegetables are being brought into the city of Ho Chi Minh and other provincial towns.

I would like to take this opportunity to thank the Sokimex Company, since its establishment in 1990, to the period between 1885 and 1991 in which the market transition started to intertwine with the centrally planned economy, and through to the present have become a multi million company that invest in many sectors ranging from textile to hotels in Sihanoukville and Siemreap, and Chroy Changva, various other investment in the region of Kirirom, etc. Talking about millionaires in Cambodia some started their business from selling threads.

I warn again that some people, because they were promised by the party with posts of dis-

trict heads, like a case that happened in Dang Tung district, have sold out their land and house to help the Party. It is not the Party that decides but you have to pass the exam. Since it is approaching time to make promises (the general elections) I again warn that any posts can be given only through passing exams and you have to be officials in ranks according to the incumbent administrative reform. I would urge all of you that if you want to get a post, the only way is to study hard and pass the exam. You all should no longer heed the promise that if so and so party wins you would be bestowed upon with ranks and posts. Some politicians go around and say so and so will be joining the Government and promise those who help with positions.

What happened so far has been a case in point that Fun-cinpec suffers a great loss because of this. A real man with his identity "A" for example is actually plowing in Banteal Mean Chey province while someone has bought his identity working with rank in Phnom Penh. We could simply say they sell their post to someone. This is where corruption happens. On another count, can we say people in Phnom Penh are corrupted when they came into Phnom Penh and occupied houses? After some time they sell them and buy new ones. Each time they do so they gain profit.

In Siemreap province, if we were to take a look at the investment in hotel and resort, 100 functioning hotels and 16 new ones under construction - which are going to be open in this year - gathered a sum of one billion US dollars and between 70% or 80% are local investment while only 5% or 6% are investment from external sources. In the past, Cambodians keep their money in the banks in Switzerland or

France but nowadays the Cambodians inside the country use money to create money where those who live abroad also send money as investment to the country. They no longer send money to foreign banks. I encourage this pattern of financial principles. Please do not get me wrong that we offer good projects only to local companies. If the local companies are incompetent we would not honor them as well. Take for instance this project is a one billion US dollar project and will take up to 15 years to get implemented.

This area has a great potential for tourist development and attraction but few years ago it has been, like Kompong Thom province, a war zone. But we now do not boast about fighting anymore but developing. The win-win policy allows us to have development and Cambodia no longer has blue, red or white Khmer (color represents ideology or political tendency).

It is a good thing that we help each other and first of all local companies but that does not mean we will help the local ones in negligence of the foreign ones or to create an empire of corruption. It can be seen too that other countries also foster their companies. Take for instance we will implement strictly the tax policy so as to ensure accountability. We apply a strong discipline in term of tax collection, companies with tax due will be warned and a strict measure will be taken or they face their accounts frozen. I thank HE Thach Khon, the Governor of Kompot, for his report of the current development situation. This is part of the overall development in the whole country. Let alone the tourist sector, the whole country absorbs a certain number that is yet corresponding to the country's potential...■

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Banteay Meas and Dang Tung districts with communes under their administrative supervision. I do not know if you agree with me but I have the vision that Kampot is the province where it is known for three products, along the line of one village one product concept. Firstly Kampot is the only province in the Kingdom that salt is produced. Thanks to the understanding of the Republic of Korea we will be able to renovate the national road 3 from Kampot to Phnom Penh and I will be coming again in March for that matter. Secondly, Kampot is now making itself known as the only province in the Kingdom to produce cement (K-Cemnet or Kampot Cement) and we will have another factory by the Thai Boon Rong Group and the Chakrei Ting Group that produce cement also in the future. It is not appropriate to understand that where there is natural rock, we can produce cement at all. In Cambodia, some rock is not even durable for building road because of its premature level. In some other places we have rock that can be used for different purposes but they have been placed under protective zone because of their close relation to the country's history. Most of the rock mountain that can be used for producing cement lies in the province of Kampot.

Thirdly, we will soon have electricity in the area of Phnom (mountains of) Kamchai. This product can also be exported to other province, especially its 193 MW could support demand for electricity in the whole city of Phnom Penh. It is in this remark that I see that Kopmpot will be a province of three major products - salt, cement and electricity.

Indeed what also caught my attention is the fact that the factory will be providing some 520 jobs among which 170 are

going to be those students graduated from the university and specialized training institutions and 350 others will be our people in general. It is important for us to start re-dressing the trade imbalance in anyway we can or we will face this situation that we depend solely on imports. Having done so we could, if the amount of production (of cement) exceeds the amount needed locally, export the rest to foreign market, while creating jobs for our graduates and people.

Some people make so and so complaints but they should know that building a factory to produce cement is not a complete task within one or two days but more than two years already. And we have just started the first stage of production and we will have to wait and see the second stage that requires follow-up investment of another 100 million US dollars so as to upgrade the production system to increase the production to over two million tons of cement per annum. By then we will be able to address about 70% of the country's requirement of cement. But if at that time our need for cement rises to five million tons, the expected increase will be addressing only 30% of local demand.

We have reduced the use of woods in construction therefore we have increase demand for cement. Talking about this why it is under my leadership to have some of the naturally-defunct lakes filled is wrong. The place where my house in Phnom Penh is located is formerly a lake called Boeung Raing. It was filled so as to build a city.

Take another example the area where we now build the new National Assembly building, it was before a river shore where HE Chea Soth and Samdech Moha Akka Punnhea Chakrei

Heng Samrin caught fishes and grew vegetables.

However, in some other places if development is not in accordance with the general environmental norm, take for instance the Long Chheng Group's building in the water reservoir of Ta Mork, which blocked the water way, we would not allow either. While some reservoirs or other forms of natural recollection system of water are not causing obstacle or damage to the ecosystem and there is a need for drainage to be built, we will have to make a decision on that.

Coming back to the cement factory here, aside from the jobs created for those who will have to perform duties inside the factory, it also provides sideline jobs for people involved in cement business. I would urge that attention must be paid to transportation of cement too, as overload and overweight vehicle will cause damages to our roads. We will not be able to make profit to mend those damages. We cannot afford to gain from cement but to lose on damaging roads.

It is indeed true that we are making local production so as to reduce imports but we must think about quality and guarantee affordable price. We cannot, in the market economic system and globalization and as a member of the World Trade Organization, ban imports from other countries in protection of local production and I hope we all understand this well. You cannot later on come to the Government and say look my factory is to fall down because of external competition.

Quality and affordable price will be a push in local market. If you fail to guarantee quality, no one will buy your product. If you give similar quality to

those imported from other countries, the market will not be good either because customers will buy those imported cement instead.

We will guarantee that there will be a fair competition in our market. The local authority and other related institutions will have to prevent the tax evasion of cement especially, and all other items in general. The price of tax evaded cement could be lower to a level the local production would not be competitive anymore. Loss from tax evasion, especially in this case would on the one hand lead to loss of tax income and on the other killing local production. You may need to remember that.

I would also remind the company that it has to maintain good relation with local authority for its activities of quarrying rocks because it is the matter of safety. Quarrying could produce strong explosion sound and scarify people. All explosives should be prepared according to the norm stipulated and seriousness must be applied in controlling and managing them since it could be a serious issue and a grave security issue for the country when it falls into the hands of terrorists.

In addition to this I would urge the factory to consider creating more jobs opportunity since we have more graduates who could be of use in this kind of operation, especially when the production system expands. I would urge prioritized demand for those students who would like to conduct their researches about the factory since it is the first of its kind in the country and it would be a plus for them to analyze the possibility of technology transfer, management, productive system, etc.

Another area that needs to be addressed is the possibility of

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with so many hotels going up and many more investments are on the way. More bridges will be built across the Sangke River. The armed forces have been so destructive in the past blowing up bridges, placing mines, but we Cambodians also implement the win-win policy to unite our country without wasting a bullet either. I would recall that the win-win policy is built up on three principles - first, the guarantee for personal life, second, the guarantee for employment and jobs, and third, the guarantee for property and ownership. No one loses anything. We are a happy family now. We destroy rifles... We have to strive to keep peace that we have

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or Kenya (of Mr. Yash Ghai) we would send only our demining specialists or construction platoons and not the fighting forces.

Today I would like to take this opportunity to make an appeal to the whole armed forces - army, military police and police to continue to work for security for our people in the framework of defending independence, sovereignty, territorial integrity, good neighborly relations while assisting the people in the construction of infrastructure, roads, water canals, as well as helping our people in their cultivation. I am glad that the armed forces have proven to be the backbone of the core intervention forces of the Prime Minister and the Royal Government in dealing with matters ranging from flood, drought to plane crash.

Yesterday I received a report about auction for provision of fuel and rice for the Ministry of National Defense. I would not object what has been requested for rice though it may have been a bit higher than the budget law. But we have a problem as far as fuel auction

won with hardship. It is our diamond opportunity.

Our armed forces no longer cut the roads, fight here and there, report of dead or injuries, but all are taking training, studying law, learning ways to improve combat skills and living conditions, helping with treatments to soldiers and civilians, de-mining and rebuilding villages and communes. In Cambodia, monarchy revived after being dead for 23 three years, the royals involved in politics, while being so, they are politicians and face with all circumstances across the board like others and once again peace has been regained after a long—all are unimaginable...■

is concerned because the price of oil in the international market has gone up and is exceeding the budget package. I would seek understanding in this matter not only in the armed forces but also the civilian ministries that in 2008 we should not utilize oil in excess to what has been allowed by the pre-defined budget... As we have passed the old year I watched on TVs the celebration of new years everywhere in Singapore, in Hong Kong ... they have been so happy. However we also noted that there is also sad events in some countries - take for instance in Pakistan where the former Prime Minister Benazir Bhutto was assassinated, bombs explosion in Iraq, some 400 cars were on fire in France but what impressed us all the most is what happens in Kenya - of the human rights guru Yash Ghai - where ethnic clashes reached an alarming level. If the United Nations is considering a UN solution, Cambodia is ready to send in its volunteers in any specialized fields to help Kenya. This is to prove that Cambodia is competent not only to solve its own problem but also to render help to others...■

03 January 2008 (Unofficial Translation of Selected Comments)

Military Region II Charity Hospital/Achievements Inaugurated

... My wife and I first of all would like to take this opportunity to extend on behalf of the Royal Government of Cambodia and Buddhist practitioners to give the best wishes to our army officers, soldiers and our people throughout the country the five Buddhist blessings in entering the year 2008.

Today my wife and I have a true pleasure to be here in the time of new international year in the province of Kompong Cham which is my native province. We have spent almost 40 years experiencing hardship. We are indeed excited to be here with all of you to put into official use the Military Region II Hospital at the time that we will be celebrating in the next few days the 29th anniversary of the January-7 Victory (1979 - 2008) - the day that we all survived from the genocide.

January-7 Victory can be considered an achievement that is immortal and it was from scratch that we have rebuilt our country to the present state and for an even better future. I would take this opportune moment to express my appreciation to HE Governor Hun Neng as well as the military regional commanders of all levels who have defended not only the land of the state but also built a grand building that we all have a chance to officiate today. The hospital would render its treatment service to the army personnel as well as to the public.

I think this is another achievement that the army has greatly contributed to the country. It had toppled the genocide regime, prevented the return of the genocide, kept security and peace for the people, and rescued people at the time of flood and drought but also

building for instance a huge hospital here so as to provide service to the society.

HE Hun Neng has just mentioned a brief background of the hospital. We should also recall the role played by the Vietnamese volunteer soldiers who helped us toppling down the Pol Pot's genocide. I was one of the leaders in the movement for national liberation. Before the uprising in the eastern zone, I was the highest commander in the eastern side of the Mekong River (which flows through Cambodia from north to south). I am sure many generals who are present here today could well remember my historic role at that time.

With the help of the Vietnamese Military Region VII, the remains of my soldiers were kept in Vietnam's Dong Nai province because we could not figure out where their families are. I did send HE Moeng Samphan, Secretary of State for Defence, HE Sao Sokha (Head of the National Military Police) and Tchoen Sovantha (Head of the Military Region II) to identify their relatives and places of contact but we could not find out. I would like to once again express my sincere thanks to the HE Commander Le Manh for his offer to set aside a plot of land for keeping the remains of my soldiers. It should be reminded that every year the Cambodian army brings flowers and organizes the Buddhist rituals for their souls.

Over ten thousand soldiers, which included 28 military battalions plus the rebel forces under Samdech Heng Samrin and Samdech Chea Sim, and some under HE Bou Thang, HE Bun My and soldiers who were in hideout in Thailand

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vices should be carried out in accordance with the principle of charity as stipulated in the hospital and medical buildings' name. Center for handicapped soldiers will be separated from here and each of the handicapped would be provided with a hectare of land plus a house with water for consumption and cultivation. I have seen on the way here an old building provided by the United States and I would offer to rebuild it because it has become too old and rickety and there it should be used as a medical section for pediatrics. We have collated here the contribution of over 200,000 US dollars as a support fund for the hospital in addition to its fund access through the Ministry of National Defense.

I have asked many countries for their helps in financial as well as in technical assistances. The United States of America is providing training to three Cambodian platoons in preparation for a participa-

tion in the military exercise in Bangladesh. The US already trained a Cambodian platoon which participated in the military exercise in Mongolia. Cambodia is currently having its troops in Sudan. Cambodia in the past was occupied by the French colonial forces, then the US military, then the South Vietnamese forces who invaded us, and then the Vietnamese volunteers who rescued the Cambodian people from the genocide and then the UN forces.

Therefore it is now time for Cambodia to send its troops to help other countries under the UN umbrella. Cambodia would not be able to send its troops to other countries as a response to request by so and so countries at all - take for instance to Afghanistan or Iraq. We will send our forces to anywhere being led by the United Nations. However, even with United Nations leadership in Afghanistan, Iraq

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exporting cement to outside market take for instance Guanxi's Nanning of the China where demand for cement has gone up to about six million tons while we locally need only two to three million tons. If we produce more we could look at the market in China and a thorough market study should be conducted.

Last but not least I urge you to apply the art of sharing so that people in the vicinity of the factory will have a better life. For instance I ask on my people's behalf that the K-Cement Group provide lighting to the roads, schools, hospitals and pagodas ... Thank you very much. They just said to me they agreed to do so. I would be grateful if you could do that before the Khmer New Year because our people will be enjoying the Ramvong

(circling) dance.

I am so happy today that we have a new product in place and it is indeed contrary to what ill-willed politicians say that the country has gone poorer. I am sure our people can make judgment on what could be the truth because they have been able to practice religious belief while they could not do before; they have children graduated from university and make their livings for example from working in this factory while it could not be even dreamed of under the Pol Pot's genocide, etc.

I am grateful to the CPP working group who help people in the district of Dang Tung and Banteay Meas and I am sure they have made more achievements that we have yet the time to officiate them...■

21 January 2008 (Unofficial Translation of Selected Comments)

Military Region V Headquarters Inaugurated—Battambang

... First of all I would seek your understanding when I reschedule my presence here on December 01, 2007 due to the fact that I had to facilitate the visit of the Prime Minister of Myanmar. Late is better than never. My wife whose effort has been so decisive to come and help with the development here is falling sick and is therefore not able to join me in this trip. It is indeed so impressed that we have many new achievements. These are achievements of the whole nation and also particularly the Royal Cambodian Armed Forces in MR-5 which is entrusted with the task to ensure security in the northwestern territory.

I am so pleased with the report that is provided by HE General Bun Seng. In the name of the Royal Government and my own behalf, I express my sincere appreciation and congratulations to commanders and sub-commanders who have pooled together their efforts to build up shelters and offer help to needy people. Why the MR-5 took it so long to have its headquarter built compared to other MR? In the past we did not assign it as MR but we called different areas as region 1, region 2, region 3 and region 4. Later on we have developed them into MR. But this MR used to be under command of the MR-4 which was in Siemreap province.

After the creation of the province of Banteay Mean Chey on January 1988, the MR-5 was established for operation in the northwest region which covers the provinces of Kompong Chhnang, Pursat, Battambang through to Banteay Meanchey. Their headquarters was an old pagoda with Gen. Prum Din as commander. We later moved here and settled

down with boxes left from the UNTAC (United Nations Transitional Authority in Cambodia) time. Now we have built a good headquarters. What impressed us all is the fact that the construction did not cost national budget or the budget of the Ministry of National Defense at all. It was built thanks to the resource sharing method for which I am taking this opportune moment to express my sincere thanks and appreciation to those contributors.

It should also be noted that contributors not only share their resources helping the MR-5 but also other MR as well. I also would like to thank the MR-9 of the Socialist Republic of Vietnam for extending their assistance in the construction of all buildings. All forms of assistance have been molded into hospital, residences, etc. I also thank the Royal Thai Infantry for providing a sum of money for the construction and the US command for Asia and the Pacific for a building they provided as study operation for terrorism and drug in the province of Banteay Meanchey.

I am so glad to have listened to the ten-year progress report, which gives me a complete different scene to what I used to see. Ten years ago when I traveled from one place to another I always heard the report about armed clashes and dead body counting and damages. But thanks to the win-win policy, we have peace, national unity and reconciliation, and we all are aware that it is the best moment we have as the country is now united after many conflicts and wars tearing us apart. Cambodia was never one country even when we were under the French or the Japanese or after

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14 January 2008 (Unofficial Translation of Selected Comments)
Kompot Cement Factory in Dantung District Inaugurated

... It is indeed my great pleasure to return to this site after my presence on January 26, 2006. This time we inaugurate a new factory to put into official cement production in Cambodia. HE Suy Sem, Minister of Industry, Mines and Energy already mentioned in his report that this achievement has come into existence thanks to joint venture between the Siam Cement Group, the biggest cement production group from the Kingdom of Thailand, and the Khaou Chuly Group from the Kingdom of Cambodia.

The construction costs about 93 million US dollars with its initial production of 960,000 tons annually with a 21 megawatt electric power station. I would say that we have made the cake right at the time that we all need to eat. I mean 29 years after the fall of the Pol Pot's genocide, Cambodia has for the first time produced cement by itself or after the trial period of cement production under the time of Sangkumreast Niyum - Chakrey Ting - under the leadership of Samdech Preah Karun Preah Bat Norodom Sihanouk.

We did produce for quite a while the P-400 high quality cement, but the production did not make any profit. When HE Som Chen was the Governor of Kampot, I also came to see the factory at Chakrey Ting. We flew the Soviet experts to conduct a feasibility study. They said that if we were to produce 50,000 tons of cement, it would cost us also 50,000 tons of oil. So we decided to import cement from South Korea instead to Cambodia because to produce cement using the outdated setup and technology is unprofitable and unaffordable.

We now have set up a new

factory on a new location and as I said earlier we could bring the production to 960,000 tons per year or about 40% of local demand, which has been estimated to be about 2.4 million tons per annum.

This achievement is not only something new for the people only in Kampot province but also for the Royal Government and people of Cambodia throughout the country as well. It is indeed a private investment. In this world, except a few countries that are left with state ownerships, for most of the countries the private sector has a role to play as a locomotive for economic growth or the sector that produces according to demand of the consumers.

Demand for construction materials in our country has gone bigger and perhaps 2.4 million tons of cement would be deficient, because take for instance the construction of CamkoCity project would need a lot of cement and we are bracing for 42 and 55 storey skyscrapers in addition to our people's needs for housing construction, etc. I would like to take this solemn occasion to express my sincere appreciation for the K-Cement Company that is making great efforts to put into place a fruitful achievement as such along the line of the Royal Government's triangular through to rectangular policy/strategies while placing high urgent need for socio-economic development where the private sector is taking the lead in the country's economic growth.

I also take this opportune moment to express my sincere appreciation to the Kampot province authority as well as the districts' authorities that are adjacent to the factory -

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the independence in 1953 because we still had armed clashed in various places take for instance in Samlot, Battambang province.

So some parts of the country had not been under the Government complete control and various Cambodians from different tendencies had been referred to in colors - red, white, blue, pink, etc. There was this effort at that time to establish sub-provinces aimed at countering armed actions by some rebel groups when in 1967 and 1968 there was strong attacks on the Government forces. In 1970, Cambodia was split into two parts - one side controlled by Lon Nol's regime with help from foreign forces and another by the liberation forces also with help from foreign countries as well.

Between 1979 through to 1993 the country was under four different controls and through to 1998 Cambodia went back to two parts where one side was under the Royal Government and the other was under Democratic Kampuchea. The win-win policy has provided the people of Cambodia the opportunity to work together as we all are of same flesh and blood. I am so proud to have been founder of the win-win policy. Politically, what Gen. Bun Song said is correct but if we were to have no people's support, no commanders and soldiers' supports in the whole country, the win-win policy would not be able to take effect.

In fact I had a plan to capture Anlong Veng before the Khmer New Year in 1997, but it was not implementable because of the fact that there had been conflicts in Phnom Penh, while in Battambang HE Ung Sami and Serei Kosal were not in tone so I have no one to conduct negotiation with

Khieu Samphan. What could we do in the front if we had problem in the rear? The Samlot area, as far as it is concerned, were twice integrated - in 1996 and again 1998. When they heard about what happens in Anlong Veng, a part of Samklot's integrated forces took to the jungle again. Indeed if we were to have no setback in Phnom Penh, we could have reunited Anlong Veng before the Khmer New Year in 1997 already.

After we encircled and stopped the fighters in Phnom Penh, one faction claimed to have what they believe to be balance of force like the former Soviet Union and the United States, we have finally achieved the goal, which is to hold hands with one another and sit down working together. Gradually in one year Anlong Veng also joined in the elections in July 1998. With regard to the win-win policy, my mother and my aunt, both of whom have passed away already, asked me in closed door why I decided to go to the enemy region. I told them that if the worst happened, only I and perhaps a hundreds other people going with me would die but if it did not happen, I would have the whole country back in peace. Let's imagine if I did not go to Malay, Phnom Proeuk, Kamrieng and Samlot, would those people have trust in the win-win policy.

What we have now to settle for them is the road. Road 53 will be built in March and we have roads 57 and 10 under preparation so as to connect Battambang to Pailin and to the border with Thailand. We will take Pailin as the place for groundbreaking ceremony to build the road and we should invite all provincial governors to take part. Battambang has indeed been changing a lot

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