

(Continued from page 1)

New Year – we have solved this concern of our people that they were to be deprived of the chance to continue to do business in the market.

The CPP work team led by HE Suy Sem and Chhai Saret has clearly shown that the market is restored and the people's concern is fully addressed. Ill-intent people have raised countless but false arguments by frightening our people that their rights to trade here is going to be deprived of. However, the presence of a few members of parliament from the opposition parties has been denied by our people while they tried to mess thing up.

I thank our people for their trust in me by making clear to them that “we are here for Samdech Prime Minister Hun Sen to help us.” Indeed I have a habit of not solving whatever is stirred up by the opposition because of the fact that they create problem for their own gains.

The third achievement - the Bun Rany - Hun Sen Development Center (BRHS-DC) which we are putting into official use, as reported by HE Chhai Saret, the Governor of Pursath, has been the main event of the day. I would like to express my sincere thank to Madame Bora Si for keeping regular visit and making report about the BRHS-DC.

Thanks also goes to Madame El Bunna for a proper management of the center, which is the leading center in terms of management, vocational training and job creation. I want all centers to develop into this style of development of management, where there is also shop for selling marble statue, mat, scarf, skirts, etc.

Sustaining Centre's Activities

To provide training for 140 trainees here needs a sum of more than 7,000 US dollars. Therefore to get the center up and running is one difficult task but what is more difficult is to sustain its activities which means that it should be able to cover the cost of water, electricity, lodgment and training fees, etc. That is why if the CPP is voted out then some projects will have to cease. As for me here I think that who among my children will come to replace their mother in Pursath, who will go to Angsnuol (also BRHS-DC in Kandal province), who will take over the project in Preah Vihear and also in Kraing Jek.

I have a great pleasure to see that the season of rice cultivation has started and rice has grown healthily. With the irrigation at Damnak Ampel, which is already put into use and the irrigation project at Jarek, which is under construction, we have now started to make use of the system. I would urge though our people to cultivate short-term variety rather than long-term and seasonal variety. In Pursath the best variety to cultivate is the short-term (about 100 days) and medium-term variety (about five months).

As of now we have plenty markets for rice but we do not have rice to supply. Africa has good markets for low-quality rice. They do not bother about the quality rice - which is aromatic and soft texture like Jasmine (Mlis) or Sen Pidor variety at all. Senegal has filed a purchase of broken rice from us. This is all I wanted to say and we will meet again after January 7, 2009 because it will be the 30th anniversary of the liberation of our country and we will celebrate on

that very day the Golden Ship Island (Koh Sampeo Meas).

The Last Day before the Start of Election Campaign

This speech today will be the last before the electoral campaign starts. I will continue to be present and appear on TV - to see people, to help people transplant rice, etc. but I would not give a speech or my speech will not be broadcast as the election campaign will start right on June 26 and last for 30 days. Samdech Chea Sim in the name of CPP will proclaim the CPP's political platform, together with the 57th anniversary of its foundation on June 28, 1951.

I have rescheduled the cabinet meeting, which was proposed to me to examine some sub-decrees on July 5, to take place anytime after the elections as at this point the members of the Royal Government are busy taking part in the campaign. We will go on as usual after the elections because the current National Assembly and Royal Government will come to the end when the new National Assembly and Government take over.

This time we will not have this situation of stalemate or the party that loses the elections will hold the winner hostage at all. There was a meeting yesterday in Battambang recently (by a political party) in which they promised that they would join the Royal Government and those who defected their Party would eventually lose their positions - take for instance HE Ngo Sovan, Sok Pheng, Prak Phally, Lun Phun, etc. (they are defectors from the Sam Rainsy Party). I would affirm here that if they were to win, they could have everything but if they were to lose they would be left out. I would

make the situation going the way you want in 2003 - "with me (Sam Rainsy), (it has to be) without Hun Sen or vice versa."

The Extraordinary Congress of the National Representatives of the Cambodian People's Party which took place once in 2005 and again in 2008 clearly states that if it were to get re-elected, CPP will set up a coalition only with Funcinpec, and if Funcinpec does not have any seat at all, CPP will rule alone. Valuable or not, those defected from those parties have all become the CPP members already. It is indeed the CPP's care to look after them.

Taking this opportune moment I would like to place an appeal to our citizens and all institutions, civil and armed forces:

- to try and maintain security, public order while creating favorably neutral political atmosphere for the elections to be conducted in a free and fair manner, with transparency, free from violence in the period prior to, during and after the elections.

We have the examples of violence in Zimbabwe, Kenya and other countries in the post election period. We must not let those bad examples happen in Cambodia at all. Let's accept the result of the elections of July 27. I appeal to all political parties to refrain completely from making use of the blood of our people as a means to reach out for power. We cannot accept the pattern of people power to usurp the power that the voters have given in the ballot box at all.

In some countries, people power has been used as tool to

(Continued on page 8)

(Continued from page 1)

No other Interest but National

Some politicians have more than one nationality and possess houses in foreign countries. As far as I know some has got up to 600 hectares of land in Siemreap province. It was the plot of land that has been reserved for the construction of the Handicap Center. How do they get the 600 hectares of land? Some politicians have to pay tax to foreign countries...

As for me I have no other plan but to think of strategy and review the possibility that will be implemented for the generation of income. One side we have to exercise thrifty policy in national budget and to gather assistance from external sources on the other and this also includes the act of resource sharing among our people.

Some politicians say that foreign countries gave a lot of money and they should divide the money among our people. I would ask your advice as to which country would give their money for you to do so. I would argue that no country in this world that would offer their money for you to do so.

Everything to enjoy financial assistance, take for instance, has to be ranked in order of priority. Take for instance this district level road would not get financing because it would be classified as low economic efficiency. You should think of this road as the money that the Government helps reduce the cost of your travel on this road.

To reduce poverty is not a simple issue. I used to say that I always want the salary to go high for our Government officials but if I were to pay too

much attention on that, neglecting the construction of the roads, schools, hospitals, our people would go on suffering. Increasing salary has to be performed on a concrete basis or in the end it will come to taxing the people for salary rise.

A Bigger Share to Infrastructure, a Small Share to Salary

I am accused by some politicians that I do not pay attention to the officials and employees' salary but as I said they all have their parents living and working in the countryside. Do they like to have their parents go without roads, bridges, water canals, hospitals for the sake of salary rise?

The best way to deal with this is perhaps to solve the need on the two fronts – to increase a certain level of salary for the staff but also to save a bigger part for roads, bridges and school construction.

Some people demand the bigger share but forget the fact that how many percent of population that depend on salary. I do not deny the fact that there is a need for salary increase, and if we were to keep the money from building schools, roads, etc. we could give staff salary a bigger package.

When they said the money could be divided among our people, please tell which country authorizes that. As far as we know donors normally come to us with conditions – take for instance the Work Bank and Asian Development Bank. They give out loans, grants and conditions attached – foreign consultants have to be used.

Take for instance HE Kol Pheng came to see me the

other day and told me that there are in all five experts to the Ministry of Education, Youth and Sports. We need only three out of five. They said if we can't take two more they would not give us the money. No choice but to accept their condition. So they should not fool our people on that issue.

Misleading Remarks

I would ask other politicians to stop making remarks that supporters of the Cambodian People's Party are the "Yuon" (the derogatory term for Vietnamese), while other people keep asking questions why people vote for the Cambodian People's Party (CPP).

It is indeed so simple (for this fact) because people know that CPP liberated them from the genocide, preventing the return of the genocide, bringing peace and development to the people, and if there were no CPP, we would not have today.

Samdech Preah Norodom Sihanouk, the Heroic King Father said on December 2, 1987, during our meeting in Fère-en-Tardenois, France, "if it were not for the army of Your Excellency (Hun Sen) and the Vietnamese troops, I would have been dead." Many of his children died in that regime. One of his children who survived in foreign country at that time attacked me and I had to respond in protection of my name.

I appeal to HM the King to issue a message to warn anyone who claims that monarchy belongs to only oneself. The National Election Committee already warned him but he paid no attention to that.

I wonder what happens if he were to cover himself under

the flag of monarchy and lose the elections in competition with the ordinary people. He already lost many times using the card of being son of Samdech Ov (the Heroic King Father).

The CPP said that in case it wins, Hun Sen will be posted as the Prime Minister or if they are happy with Hun Sen they should vote for CPP. We tried to protect the monarchy but they do the opposite.

Reduced Fishing Lots, Increase Dry Season Rice Field

I recall when I came to the district of Sot Nikum, and because of information given from Anlong Samnar, that I set out in 2000 the policy of reform which takes out 56% of the fishing lots for people's use. In those days there was this misconception that confines fishing lots to wherever there water stretched. Over half a million hectares of the lots have been trimmed out for people's use ever since.

The people of Anlong Samnar have changed their cultivation from floating to dry season rice. In Kompong Thom the policy has brought about some 20,000 hectares of land for dry season rice. For your information, the price of rice in Vietnam is between 1,000 and 1,050 US dollars per ton and in Thailand the price has gone up between 1,050 and 1,090 US dollars per ton.

In Cambodia, the price of rice has been between 650 and 700 US dollars per ton. I seek our people's understanding of those living in town and not cultivate rice to try and keep the price of rice within an affordable level so that our people in the cities – workers, etc. could go on...■

15 June 2008 (Unofficial Translation of Selected Comments)

Building Another Bridge Over the River of Tonle Saap**The 996.2 Meter Bridge, the 8-Kilometer Road**

I am so happy to be presiding over the construction ceremony of the bridge over the Tonle Saap river with the total length of 996.2 meters and the road of over 8 kilometers to connect the bridge to the NR 6A. In addition to the bridge over Prek Kadam, today we have one more bridge that will cross over the Tonle Saap River. I appreciate the effort made by the Phnom Penh Municipality, and concerned Ministries ranging from Transports and Public Works, Land Management, Urban Planning and Construction, Water Resources, to Agriculture and the Cambodian Development Council who in the recent past have pooled efforts in brining about this historic investment and historic construction project.

I would like to take this opportunity moment to thank the LYP Group for its leading role in making contribution into the country's infrastructural development. Okhna Ly Yong Phat has already made one historic contribution in the province of Koh Kong – with the 1,900 meter long bridge, the first bridge we ever had over the sea corridor. This bridge is going to be the second one. It is a significant contribution to the Kingdom of Cambodia as a whole and to the city of Phnom Penh in particular.

Private Investments in Infrastructures

Lately the Royal Government of Cambodia has made special attention in pooling resources with the private sector for development of infrastructure. It is a part that is the most difficult to get a commitment for investment. The bridge over the Tonle Saap Lake costs up

to 42 million US dollars. I would like to take this opportunity to thank the local investment company with its partnering companies for making such an investment by the private sector into the infrastructural project jumping high after the EUR 300 millions - project of Koh Puos bridge development that I presided over the launching last week.

The Cabinet also decided new hydro-electric projects of Ta Tai and Russei Jum Kraom which record the investment of over one billion US dollars. Some countries have the courage to make use of private funding for building project of nuclear power stations, whereas the state will use its coffers to fund other projects.

Phnom Penh and 7-January Jubilee Anniversaries

In relation to the capital Phnom Penh we will celebrate its 575th anniversary next year which would fall on the 30th jubilee anniversary of the 7-January victory as well. This means that we will celebrate two jubilee anniversaries next year. We will make sure that they are big events. We already have the statue of Grandmother Penh inaugurated by HM the King. After 30 years of liberation, the city of Phnom Penh also has evolved from the ghost city through to be a beautiful one.

Phnom Penh went through devastating state from generations of war which no country or city in this world could compare. Cambodia's Phnom Penh city had become a country of no economy, money, schools, hospitals, whereas, worse of all, people became slaves. We have started from scratch. When the country

(Continued on page 5)

(Continued from page 1)

lieve how could that person participate.

As we now have a good school, it is not yet a final stage of our effort. There needs good teaching and studying as well. We notice that some of our children have reached high school but some also abandoned school. Some youngsters have gone this far because of their involvements in morally wrong acts, and consequently they have not only abandoned schools, caused sad experiences to themselves but also their families and communities. We know it is not a simple task to raise and educate children and we seek a close cooperation between teachers and parents in this matter to keep them under control.

Surplus Rice in Takeo Province

It is indeed a good thing to listen to the report of HE Srei Ben, Governor of Takeo province, that the province has recorded a surplus of about half a million tons. HE Minister Chan Sarun, who is not here today for his trip to join the Food Forum in Rome, said that Tramkak which used to be food insufficient has now become a district with surplus rice production.

Before becoming the Chief of Staff in 1988, HE Pol Saroeun was the head of Takeo province. I remembered at that time that they did not bother with the medals but with the people's hunger. That is why I see that they have made a good job in land reform in the province. Governor Pol Saroeun never allowed for the solidarity groups to exist in reality.

I visited Takeo frequently to learn from their experience. I

visited the district of Koh Andet to see their dry season rice fields.

Intensive Rice Cultivation and Aquaculture

Tramkak has been a leading district in intensive rice cultivation because there are 13,828 households among 80,000 households that applied intensive rice cultivation throughout the country. It has reached the yield of 3,749 tons per hectare compared to the average output of 2.2 tons per hectare. Many researchers have come down here to conduct their studies.

Takeo could also move ahead with the plan to improve its aquaculture and transform the province from fish scarce to fish abundant province. If it goes all the way to export level, that would be a great change. Aquaculture has been conducted in many forms – in ponds, in rice fields and a combination between them. It is indeed a good thing that in the province there are in all 21 fish breeding centers. As water is getting shallow, and fish is getting scarce, we have come to the situation that we have more people than fish. This is a reversal pattern from the past when we had deeper water, more fish and less people to feed.

It is no longer possible to depend on natural water system to feed people with fish. We have to conduct the aquaculture approach in replacement of those depleted resources. I have learnt also that growing vegetables also has taken a strong lead in the province. HE Chan Sarun said that Tramkak will be making a progress not less competitive than the province of Kandal. In the past we had so many difficulties both in producing as well as marketing. But we

(Continued on page 8)

(Continued from page 4)

was liberated from Pol Pot, we could say that the only capital we had was being alive, and our two hands to defend and rebuild the country at the same time.

I was then 27 years old. When I met my wife and kid again, my child did not recognize me and called me "uncle". I know how bitter it is when it comes to separation. Cambodians do revive because of the Cambodian People's Party and we all should be frank with that. Some gave their supports to the Khmer Rouge at the expense of the Cambodian people, blaming the Phnom Penh Government, etc.

National Infrastructural Development

Phnom Penh in 1979 was a 70 – resident city has now become a city with hundreds of thousands of cars and motorcycles. The infrastructure of the city that was built for a population of 700,000 - according to the French master plan - has now mushroomed into a state beyond control. Its sewage and drainage system have to be reworked. The NR 6A that was built with the Japanese assistance will have to be enlarged. All our newly built national roads are 11 meters by width but they are still congested with vehicles of all sorts.

Facing with these developments, we could not afford to depend only on the Japanese built bridge at Jroy Jangva. We have to building another bridge for heavy trucks at Prek Kadam with the Chinese assistance, which will partly divert traffic of those vehicles from Kompong Cham or Kompong Thom on their directions to Kompong Chhnang and Pursath without having to pass by the Jroy Jangva Bridge in Phnom

Penh. They can also go straight from there to the seaport in Sihanoukville, Kompot, etc. for similar benefit.

With this bridge over the Tonle Saap Lake, we could, relocate factories to the eastern side of the Tonle Saap River and even some factories in the district of Khsach Kandal in Kandal province as well, after the bridge of Prek Tamak is complete. The bridge itself has brought us tremendous economic interactions whereas people will benefit from transports, traffic congestion could be lessened, and more jobs will be created.

Continue to Do What Has Been Done

We have many projects in the making and some are in their completion stage, but Cambodia now have come to face with many candidates for Prime Ministers or in local jargon "if-to-be-PM." I am an incumbent and also one of the if-to-be Prime Ministers too. I make my commitment that I will continue to do what I have been doing so far – peace, stability, development and people from all walks of life could co-exist with the CPP.

SRP Defection and Intelligence Proofs

There has been an attempt in using an unrecognized group for many terrorized attempts as presented by Mr. Nhek Bun Nhien. I have just appointed Mr. Nhek Bun Nhien as advisor to the Ministry of National Defense. He has brought so many files of proofs to be studied because according to what he had said it has complicated nature and deep involvement with intelligence and security in Siem Reap and other assassinations.

The proof should be verified
(Continued on page 6)

11 June 2008 (Unofficial Translation of Selected Comments)

Inaugurating the Buddhist Pagoda of Bakong in Kg Thom

Bakong – a Visit after 12 Years

I am so glad to have come once again to the pagoda of Bakong after my last visit in 1996. After twelve years, the Buddhist temple here is already completed. Another difference to mention is I was then 44 years old and now I am 56 years old. My hair has changed its color to gray and my children have been married and have children of their own too. In the course of our country's development both in hardship and in progress, Bakong had been a pagoda that did not have its temple yet. The construction effort was made in 1970 but was at the same time destroyed after only a few beams were erected. The Polpotists broke the beams for steels to make nails. Concrete buildings everywhere had been subjected to demolition for steels. They called this their development.

Peace – Encouraged, War - Discouraged

It is in this concern that everything has to start from peace because with war no construction is possible. Take for instance the Buddhist pagoda like Bakong, it was destroyed after the war broke out in 1970. So whatever actions that are leading to instability and war should not be allowed. On the contrary, whatever actions lead to peace and stability should be encouraged and supported by our people.

Wining or losing, when war broke out in Cambodia, it is the Cambodians who shed their blood. It was in this understanding that the win-win policy has been carried out so that the people are the true winner of the situation. I am so glad and thankful for the support rendered by all parties in conflict to my policy aimed

at unifying our territory and rehabilitating our country.

Thanks for Voting CPP

I would like to thank our people in the province of Kompong Thom province as well as the people in the whole country for their supports for the Cambodian People's Party in Kompong Thom in particular and in the whole country in general. CPP has won 4 out of six seats in Kompong Thom or two thirds of the seats. This has been an encouragement for the CPP leaders to continue to serve our people. I will cease to make public statement from June 23 after the inauguration of achievements in the province of Pursat.

I will not make comments or speeches everyday as I am doing now anymore. I will also stay out of the electoral campaign as well. No matter how serious and perfidious their attacks are going to be, we will continue to be patient. I am so grateful to our people who have taken their time to defend the Cambodian People's Party on radio Apsara station which has been relaying to other forty radio stations.

Rain Comes, Rice to Grow and Export

On my flight here I have noticed that the rain has come and our people early start cultivation. We will have rice to harvest in August this year, so there will be plenty of rice in the Cambodian market. As of now we have one million tons of rice for export. We could go without oil with difficulties but we could die to go without rice. Cambodia has been praised because of its decision to re-export rice after a two-month break. It is

(Continued on page 8)

(Continued from page 5)

in relation to assassination attempt like on my life in Siem Reap, which we already know but we want to have more light on some other matters. After the CFF (Cambodian Freedom Fighters) operation in Phnom Penh was frustrated, there was this movement of the Moha Nokor (or Great Country) in Pursath. We would like to know who is behind the movement. A thorough investigation must be conducted. We should not ignore what could jeopardize the country's national security. I know their concern when Mr. Nhien left the Party. This force is top secret as HE Ngo Sovan does not even know about it. An investigation must be conducted and some foreigners have also been involved in the case. I have suggested a journalist to be on bail and this act should not be misjudged that I did it because I was under someone's pressure. All depends on the court. If he is going to be convicted he will be brought to serve the court's sentence. No matter where he goes. Take Heng Peo (a Cambodian police commissioner extradited from Malaysia) as an example.

Cambodia's UN Mission

Learning well the consequence left by the United Nations Transitional Authority for Cambodia (UNTAC), the Royal Government of Cambodia took every measure to educate its de-miners who in turn operate in the UN mission in Sudan. UNTAC left Cambodia with HIV/Aids at the highest rate ... Cambodia is making all preparation for the reserved forces to respond to the UN's need for their operation. We will send our forces to anywhere not only Sudan but on the condition that they are not engaged in combat mission...■

(Continued from page 7)

island or land to Angkor Wat. People who said such a thing were those who at one point had been the one who initiated package sale of the island too. In China, the Qing dynasty rented land of Hong Kong to the United Kingdom, and Macau to Portugal. When the rent expired Hong Kong and Macau became one-country two system administrative zones and both are under the Chinese sovereignty.

It is what is left by the colony but China maintains its control over the sovereignty of the two islands and therefore all infrastructures have now become the Chinese properties. As for Cambodia, we do not sell our land to Russia but offers on a concession investment. We have similar cases in Thailand, Malaysia and other islands in Africa. If we want more jobs we need to have growth and to achieve growth we need to have investment. We have determined that the private sector is the engine of growth whereas the Government is the economist who leads the economic policy and provides guidance wherever is necessary. If we do not have the project to build the bridge, the Company of Koh Puos also has not got the opportunity to make investment.

The Biggest Investment from Russia

It is the first ever investment at the cost of 300 million Euros by the Russian company in Cambodia. In the near future there is a request by another Russian company to invest in another island – Koh Krabei. I would like to express my sincere thanks and appreciation to HE Ambassador of Russia for his efforts in bringing the Russian investment to Cambodia. I would

like to welcome the company and others that are coming along.

Aside from the lease amount, more important is the job creation. Take for instance there will be a hotel of 2,000 rooms and about 3,000 jobs are being created. What our people can see beyond is the fact that tourists come in package of air fees, visas, airport tax, food supply services, etc. The average estimation of jobs for our people has been between 20,000 and 25,000. So it is important to state here that the contract is for 99 years and after the completion of the agreement, the island will be transferred to the state. After that the state will go on leasing to those who are interested.

The Dragon Head Setup

We have to make effort to improve our beaches and city facilities as one of the most important poles of the country's economy. Here we have tourists, seaport and special economic zone – Stoeung Hav, Prey Nub and the Sihanoukville port with the Japanese assistance. It is a pole with many service areas. In Sihanoukville we have already connected it to Phnom Penh by the NR 4, to Vietnam by the NR 3 and to Koh Kong and Thailand by NR 48. We also have the Kang Keng airport in operation whereas the deep seaport is in full operation too. Here lies the head dragon economy of the country. More banks come here and perhaps more will go to the island. We might have a stock exchange center here too. Projects under study are the provision of electricity, with the possibility of wiring between Sihanoukville and Kompot, from Kompot to Takeo and to Phnom Penh, with the possible electric source from Vietnam. We

also look at the possibility of wiring up electricity from Kirirrom to Veal Rinh too. This is indeed the sixth bridge across the sea corridors – one in Koh Kong, four on the NR 48 and this sixth one will be finished by 2010. People will then travel on this bridge to the island free of charge.

A Drug Addict

Because the election is approaching I would in this occasion like to present you, especially our people in the Sihanoukville constituency, former members of the SRP, who have now become the members of the Cambodian People's Party ... In one of the Apsara Radio talk shows led by HE Sok Eisan, I heard HE Ngo Sovan said that in the SRP people have been made to believe that Hun Sen takes addictive drug in cigarettes. That was absurd. It is a serious offense. After taking the cigarette I offered, HE Om Kim Sea said to HE Ngo So Van: "Hun Sen's cigarette is normal." They have insulted me for my wounded eye, now they affront me as a drug addict. Isn't it too much?...■

(Continued from page 8)

more will be welcome. We need human resources and this will unite for the country's development and progress. I will soon finish talking as it is my habit that I do not talk at all in the electoral campaign period. We want to win the elections but also we need to have an election free, fair and non-violent.

I would stay in control of the situation politically and economically in this very important stage. Whatever comes out of the elections will be actual and I would suggest the CPP members to be patient and mature in face of political attacks, and all matters should be resolved by legal means...■

(Continued from page 8)
buildings reaching out to students therefore I encourage parents to send their children to school.

Gender Equality in Education – a Way to Go

I have just led a Governmental delegation to make a report to HE the King Preah Baat Samdech Norodom Sihamoni about gender equality in Cambodia and policy issues that are relating to gender, especially the gap between male and female children being registered and sent to school. It is the Cambodian social belief to send male children to school and keep females for housework. The best option to increase female children to have access to education is to build more schools adjacent to the villages, thus we could address two issue of making both male and female students have equal access to education. What is more important indeed is to work out workable policies to address the gap between rural and urban, the rich and the poor.

Developing Rural to Keep Up with Urban

Some political parties have made their policy to confiscate from the rich to give out to the poor in their race for power. What they say is nothing but a true copy of what we have seen in the Pol Pot time. CPP is adhering to its policy of going for rural development so as to narrow down the gap. We want our people in rural area to achieve healthcare, human resource training, good and viable infrastructure, roads, bridges and other necessities. We could not afford to repeat what has been done in the past, in Zimbabwe, or elsewhere, as the abolition of class, feudalism, leads to the social devastation. In the case of Pol Pot, no matter how mighty their army was, they

could not survive longer than three years, eight months and 20 days.

CPP was not a big force when it overthrew the regime. Samdech Chea Sim, Samdech Heng Samrin and myself we all have made sacrifice for the country's liberation, to get this country out of the genocide, to overcome the external blockade and constant attacks from then tripartite coalition. I have the honor to claim that peace that we have achieved for the country and the war that came to the end have all been the product of the win-win policy that is putting out by the Cambodian People's Party, and I was the one who commands this policy.

What to Do If Re-elected?

We have a lot of things in hand now. If we were to be re-elected we will go on with what we have achieved while paying attention in finishing up what is left, continuing with the reforms relating to the counter-corruption, legal and judicial reforms, public administrative reform, the armed forces, and others that we have been doing so far. We have more to accomplish, to achieve and to make better.

Agricultural Development – Rice in Battambang

I have a great pleasure to note on the report by HE Prach Chan, the Governor of Battambang, who just now mentioned developments in relation to the province of Battambang. He has mentioned about agricultural sector which has been defined as the priority area in the province of Battambang in the third term legislature. It is indeed a historic achievement that the province has produced the best yield, while the area of cultivation has been expanded from 290,000 hectares in 2003 to 370,000 in 2007.

07 June 2008 (Unofficial Translation of Selected Comments)

Building a Bridge Between Sihanouville and Koh Puos

The 900 – Meter Bridge

It is indeed my great pleasure to join with all of you in the ground breaking ceremony to build the 900 meter bridge of Koh Puos which will connect the beach of Hawaii to the island of Koh Puos (Snake Island). I would like to take this opportune moment to express my sincere appreciation and thanks to the efforts made by the Ministry of Public Work and Transports as well as other concerned parties in clearing problems here to get such an achievement to move ahead.

In between 1994-95 an investment project was signed after the package bidding between the Sihanouville and Phnom Penh and it is going without saying that the issue of having casino in Phnom Penh had in

It is indeed a vast expansion of land for cultivation from arable land that was left uncultivated, especially those areas around the lake of Tonle Saap. With cultivated land expansion, the rice output in the province of Battambang has also increased at a notable rate. In relation to this I have the news that Guinea is going to send a delegation soon to Cambodia in search for an agreement to import rice from Cambodia.

We are open to export rice to Africa and we already did with Senegal, from which an initial demand has been listed to be 120,000 tons and taking this Rice Mill Association in Battambang province into consideration, this amount is a fairly good sum to respond to easily. I flew over our rice field and see that we have plenty of water which could speed up our cultivation and give better time for growing seedlings...■

fact started from here. The casino was not taking place when I was the leader of the State of Cambodia. When the Kingdom was starting its first term there was this package bidding between the city of Phnom Penh and Sihanouville for which the cost of consultancy was three million US dollars. Unfortunately the 1997 Asian financial crisis made it impossible for the company that won the bidding to fulfill the commitment... There had been so many requests there later and I have the belief that anyone that has the ability to make investment here is the one who has the ability to build the bridge. My point is that whoever has the ability to build the bridge would have the green light from me for investment.

There have been many discussions as to how high should the bridge be from the water level. A suggestion was raised that we should have the bridge 45 meters above the water surface so as to allow shipping through to the port. With a compromise from both sides the Cambodian engineering and the company, we have come to an agreement of a height of 32.5 meter above sea level. Our patrol ship could also pass through under it if need be. This should resolve the issue of having an overlapping water area between tourist and shipping lane reserves.

Clarifying National Sovereignty

Are we selling the island to foreign countries as we develop it? I am asking this because it is a sensitive topic that I should try and make clear. In Cambodia, one can be accused of selling anything from

(Continued on page 6)

21 June 2008 (Unofficial Translation of Selected Comments)
Mong Russei High School for People in Battambang Prov.

CPP Top Leaders in Battambang

It is indeed a great pleasure that we all are gathering here today to put into official use the High School of Mong Russei that was built in 1989 and once inaugurated in 1993 – HE Sar Kheng was the one who cut the ribbon. I am also aware that while I am here to preside over the inauguration of the achievements, more will be asked for. I am sure that the CPP leaders and officials are glad to be at our people's service. In this week the province of Battambang has the honor to host two important CPP leaders – Samdech Chea Sim who inaugurated a high school in the provincial town of Battambang and Samdech Heng Samrin who also inaugurated a high school in the district of Thmor Kol. As Prime Minister, and Vice President of the Cambodian People's Party, I am here today in Battambang again which clearly marks the importance of the province for the presence of the three top leaders of the CPP.

I am so glad to be here and thank HE Deputy Prime Minister Sar Kheng and Madame for giving me the possibility to participate in this ceremony, as we have agreed to reschedule the date closer to the electoral campaign period. On June 23rd, I will go to Pursath province to symbolically end my tour visiting the people in the whole country. I will visit construction sites but will not be giving out anything as gift to our people for it will be within the period of the electoral campaign that such thing is prohibited by law.

However, in every five years period, CPP stopped only a month during the campaign while working the rest of the

time for the people. After the elections the CPP teams will continue their works as usual. They will go to see people, look into their problems aimed at improving their living condition and solving their difficulties.

A School on Formerly Insecure Land

I would like to take this opportune moment to thank everyone involved in the construction of this high school. As everyone knows before 1989, this place was a frightening area where corpses were left here. In 1989 the school was built on the foundation of the former health clinic. In 2001, adding on to the seven classroom building that was provided by HE Sar Kheng, I offered another building of six classrooms and more school buildings came in 2006 with corresponding increase of students and teachers.

In between 2003 and 2007, the province of Battambang has increased the number of kindergarten from 81 to 117, the number of the primary school from 433 to 520, and the number of high school from 42 to 79. We have eight more high schools to build to get to our target of having one high school for every commune in the province. Our Constitution stipulates that our citizen in general must acquire the nine-year schooling, but we are striving for a target that our children have increasing access to higher education.

To reduce poverty between urban and rural areas could not be addressed only by words but by actions. What we have achieved here is the fact that we have school

(Continued on page 7)

(Continued from page 2)

force the elected Prime Minister out of office. This will not be acceptable at all. I would urge all CPP members to exercise their patience to the highest level as I expect that there will be ill remarks and insults on the CPP and I am ready to stand to the attacks. All reactions must be done at the level of self-defense and must not be an instigation of clashes which could inflict wounds or danger on life of the people at all.

② to try and maintain the macro-economic situation while striving to push up rainy season rice cultiva-

tion to the best level possible.

③ to be prepared a) to cope with the natural calamity in the form of flood and drought and b) to prevent the offense of all forms take for instance illegal logging, land grabbing, tax evasion, illegal trades, like drugs trafficking; and

④ to encourage our people - no matter who or which party they support - to go to vote to fulfill one's rights in expressing opinion. The high rate of electoral turnout would signify that democracy in Cambodia is healthy...■

(Continued from page 5)

indeed a gesture to contribute to resolve the problem of rice surplus in the local market, so that our people could re-export for cash, and partly to make rice available in the regional and international markets. I have instructed the Minister for Commerce to expand market to Africa for rice from Cambodia. We have rice to harvest almost every month and the price has been between 600 and 700 US dollars per ton, compared to 1000 US dollars per ton of rice in neighboring countries. Some politicians claim they could bring the price of gasoline down to so and so and the price of rice to so and so. I would say they should try and lead only their families because their economic philosophy has not been comprehensive yet. I could remind them of the dialectical relationship of what happens. When they talked about rice, they failed to mention about oil. They would pick only one separate incident for the sake of blaming but everything has its dialectical relationship and politicians should well understand this...■

(Continued from page 4)

have now come to a different situation because the country is better connected and also we have more market demands – like restaurants, hotels, etc. to provide to.

CPP Welcomes Defectors of SRP in Takeo and Abroad

There is this movement of defection from the Sam Rainsy Party not only inside the country but also in foreign countries like in Australia, the United States, France, Canada, etc. Yesterday, Mr. Meas Marin, son of Mr. Meas Chan, announcer of the Khmer language Voice of America, also defected to Cambodian People's Party with a contribution of 500 US dollars. This signifies that he does not sell himself to the CPP but volunteers completely. Mr. U Sovan, advisor of SRP for the United States and Canada also defected to CPP with a symbolic gesture of 100 US dollars contribution. This is to demonstrate that those who defect are not putting themselves on sale.

CPP welcomes people from all sides and more to defect
 (Continued on page 6)