



23 April 11— Samdech Techo Hun Sen and people in Phnom Penh welcomes the arrival of Vietnamese Prime Minister HE Nguyen Tan Dung (Vietbao)

27 April 2011 (Unofficial Translation of Selected Comments)
Conference of Cambodian Women for Peace & Development

In addition to the prepared text, Samdech Techo Hun Sen gives his comments on issues of mother and child healthcare and military and political developments on the Thai-Cambodian border conflicts.

Mother and Child Healthcare

I would like to add a few touches on the recommendation made on mother and child healthcare which is the core issue of our campaign. I would like to take this opportune moment to express my sincere thank for the support provided to me, the Royal Government and my wife in capacity as Honorary President of the Cambodian Women Association though her actions. It is also the world trend that efforts are made relating to issue of mother and child healthcare.

I may say it is the core of our action and its repercussion would be subjective too. When

no good health could be guaranteed for mother and child, we could not assure that there would be physically strong adolescents. We would not get healthy adolescence from a mortal birth or birth of a child who would not get a proper care for mother's post delivery mortem. The baby child would then be an orphan and in need for care.

Let me have your attention on this issue with regard to the displaced situation in the province of Preah Vihear. In the camp specially prepared for the situation by the Bayon Media Company that is administered by my daughter, and in our inquisitiveness, we found that because the camp plan was designed by men, no delivery room has been thought of. Therefore, I would recommend that whoever designs such plan, men or women, delivery facilities must be included.

It is instinctively so if we are committed to guaranteeing safe delivery and reduce delivery
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04 April 2011 (Unofficial Translation of Selected Comments)
High School and Technical School Techo Hun Sen - ROTA

A School for Three Provinces
Please allow me to give my respect to our people who have participated in the inauguration of the Samdech Akka Moha Sena Padei Techo Hun Sen – ROTA General and Technical School Khsach Kandal, Kandal Province and I also have a great pleasure to come once again to the district of Khsach Kandal. It is my nineteenth visit since 1988. This school will be of benefit for nearby districts such as Lovea Em and Mok Kampoul of Kandal province, Srey Santhor of Kompong Cham province and Pearing of Prey Veng province.

I am so grateful for the Monithappna Foundation's effort in seeking and convincing a contribution from ROTA of Qatar, founded in 1995 by His

Highness Sheikh Hamad Bin Khalifa Al Thani, Emir of Qatar, and represented here today by Reach Out to Asia (ROTA) Director Mr. Essa Al Mannai, for this project ...

A War Zone for Generations
This achievement has come to being on the land that had suffered ill fate for 500 years. In the Cambodian history, this very place used to be battlefields between two in laws, Preah Srey Sokunbot and Hluong Preah Sdech Kan. Also in between 1970 and 1975, between Prek Tamak and Vihear Suor of Khsach Kandal district, it was a war zone between (the armies of the Republic Khmer of) Lon Nol and (the National United) Front of Kampuchea.

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07 April 2011 (Unofficial Translation of Selected Comments)
Agriculture, Forestry and Fisheries 2011-2012 Directions

No More Import of Other Country's Wastes

I have seen from time to time on TVs issue of import of chicken legs from other countries. Why should they import leftovers from other countries? In addition to raising chicken to cater to local demand, strong measures must be taken to prevent such import. I would urge Governor of Banteay Meanjei province to make efforts and use all forces at their disposal to take stern measures to prevent import of chicken legs from Thailand. This should be an order for the whole country, especially those provinces bordering with other countries.

If you let this go on I will have to come to the conclusion if you are weaker or the traders are

stronger. What concerned us most is our people's health. You may have been informed about the fact that some countries have even forbidden import of food-stuff from Japan because of fear of radioactive contamination (due to the Fukushima Daiichi nuclear reactor incident caused by Tsunami). We have not come to that alarming measure yet as we maintain that if the Japanese people could eat their food, we Cambodian could do so too.

In the 1980s, in trend of technical changes Eastern Europe, there was this intention to bring old technology to Cambodia. One of their mobile TV broadcasts given to us, we had to make an extra box so as to place
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and/or post delivery mortem. Let me have your attention on one fact that we have all divinities as female and none of the seven them is male. The Cambodian People's Party also has its symbol made of a female divinity too. As you may have reminded that I would urge that we orientate our actions for benefit of women and children.

I urge that all necessary measures and actions must be taken to reduce mortality from delivery. I am sure our actions and campaign will be of great benefit for our nation and my wife, who has been invited by the First Lady of the General Secretary of the United Nations Ban Ki Moon, along with the first ladies from Ethiopia and some other countries, to make a speech on the issue. I am sure you understand that it is a great honor for every Cambodian.

Death, Wound and Courage - National Gratefulness

I would like to take this opportunity to convey to our compatriots issues in relation to the situation in the last few days. First of all I would like to share my sorrow and condolence with families of the soldiers who died defending our country. I also would like to convey my care and appreciation to soldiers who have been hospitalized for their wounds in various hospitals. I see that it is equally important to express my sincere thanks and appreciation for the Cambodian armed forces for the efforts they have made in firmly defending the Cambodian territory from expansion by foreign robbers.

I also take this solemn occasion to express my sincere appreciation for the local authorities – provincial, district and communal – in their efforts and actions to help our people who have displaced themselves from the armed clashes. Equal thanks also go to the Cambodian Red Cross, the National Committee for Disaster Management, the Ministry

of Health and related institutions whose services have been rendered right through to our people in need. I urge that their actions go on.

I would extend national gratefulness to all Buddhist monks, our people, non-governmental organizations and political parties for making clear their supports to the Royal Government and armed forces in our noble acts of defending our territory against expansion from robbers.

Urgent Care for Displaced People

During the fight at the border in Preah Vihear, there were less than ten thousand displaced persons. But here at Uddar Meanjei province, the number of displaced people has grown close to thirty thousands. It is a big number. I would call for care and special attention to be administered and given to them. Primarily, I would urge the Ministry of Health, which the Minister HE Mam Bun Heng has taken this matter up personally. The situation has been hard as there have been rains and blackouts in the area for absence of electric current from Thailand (in this area of Uddar Meajei province, electricity has been bought from Thailand).

Despite what happens, I would urge extra care and efforts be made to help relieve their difficulties. In so far as I know there has been no problem in term of food and drinking water, however, more efforts need to be made to provide shelter, clean environment and other health related matters. This has been proven to be extra care given by the Ministry of Health when it has delegated its secretary of state and under-secretary of state to manage and resolve the need out there.

Baseless Rumor of Hun Sen's Falling Ill

Yesterday, Thai Deputy Prime Minister said he would not believe the news that Hun Sen has

fallen ill. However, by saying this out loud, he has taken the news from the Cambodian opposition and that of the Yellow Shirt people in Thailand. On April 16, which fell on the Khmer New Year, in a website of the Cambodian opposition, they posted a flash that Hun Sen has been ill and sent for treatment in Singapore or Beijing. As a matter of fact I was having a bath at the sea (at Sihanoukville) with the Governor Sbaong Sarat.

The yellow shirt (spokesperson) Panthep Puapongpan, and those who are misguided historically, said that "Hun Sen has fallen very ill. Prior to his death, he had to fight and capture the temple of Ta Moan and Ta Krobei before transferring power to Hun Manet." He even said that Hun Manet led the fight there while making an accusation that there were also Vietnamese forces too. It is my humble doubt that how come a deputy prime minister (of a country like Thailand) could have believed that. I would respond to him that because he is older than I am, I am sure I would not pass away before him. Those who have posted this groundless information would have their days shorter than mine too. After posting this ill and groundless information, those involved have warned their bosses for reactions from Hun Sen. That is my reaction to you and I would ask how shameful it is when you made a piece of truth-absence information posting on your site?

Let me also make clear here that (Hun) Manet has been involved in all battles. There is no denial for that. However, Manet has not yet been elevated to commanding post in the battle. We have a group of commanders to do that while Manet, as a soldier with specific duty, has been doing his part.

Maximum Restrain not to Retaliate with Heavy Weapons

As far as the battle in the area of

Ta Moan temple is concerned, the fighting erupted at the place where our people and army had a New Year dance and traditional game on April 17. Our people and armed forces enjoyed the festivities there till late in the evening. The Thai soldiers have requested coming to join the festivities too but our commanders sought their understandings so as to put their requests at some other time. Why has it become a battlefield?

The aggression army launched their offensive attacks on Cambodia since day one. We have exercised maximum patience that we have responded within self-defense right without resorting to immediate response of heavy weapons at all. We have evaluated that no heavy weapons would be used to return favor to Thai heavy artillery at their disposal because we would not like to be tricked to engage in a large-scale war. They have gone on increasing their shelling on us.

On the first day of the fight, which was April 22, there were four attempts by Thai infantry forces and I would elaborate on that a little bit so that those in Bangkok could have a glimpse on their soldiers. Retreating from their first assault, some dead soldiers had been left in the battle at the area near Ta Krobei temple. They assaulted for second time to collect the corpses but they fail to do so but leave more there. This has gone on till at one point they communicated with our field commanders to allow them to come to rescue the wounded that they left in the battle. Since they have been wounded at seven o'clock in the morning and left till around 2pm, it was our conclusion that chance of their survival is gone.

A Truce Sought For

Our commanders tried to have a confirmation from them about the number of 'wounded' they believed there were so that we would work out with them how

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to come get them from the battle. They said there were two at the Ta Moan temple area and another two at the Ta Krobei area. Out of humanism, our commanders suggested they move their troops back and two unarmed soldiers could come in for every wounded one. They then said they would ask for approval from their senior commanders. There were no response from their commanders and shelling and firing upon us has gone on leaving us no time to even take a short sleep. In the course of four-day fighting, Cambodia has not responded with heavy weapons.

As of yesterday, Cambodia acknowledges that it has returned the Thai heavy artillery that fired on us in all sizes and distances but not in a proportionate scale to their attack on us yet. As our soldiers started the retaliatory shelling, I told to Deputy Prime Minister and Minister of National Defense to wait for a call for negotiation from the Thai side on his phone. This has been what we learnt from the Thais in the fight at Preah Vihear. As soon as we made retaliatory shelling, the Thais would immediately call for a negotiation. According to his watch, HE Prak Sokhon (Minister attached to the Prime Minister and Secretary of State of the Council of Minister) said it was exactly ten minutes (after the retaliatory response) there was a call for negotiation.

It was just a coordination that would bring about a meeting between the two Defense Ministers. As far as the issue is concerned, the Minister of National Defense of Thailand called at 3:50 pm and there was a consent that a truce would there to be at 4pm. However, it was truly difficult on the Thai side to seal the deal. Some of their troops did stop but some also went on. Then there was another suggestion to bring in the truce again by 7pm because it was impossible to get soldiers under command. The fight went on and on till

early morning of the next day.

Meeting in Bilateral Level?

As you are now informed of the truth that on their side when the bosses agree to a truce with us, those under their command do not seem to give respect to it. Our people may not be well thought through to the fact that why such a meeting between the two ministers of defense is possible here on a bilateral basis. Let's distinguish this issue of area near and around Preah Vihear which has been brought to the attention of the United Nations Security Council and ASEAN from the one here.

Having said so I would like to make it clear here that negotiation in relation to or about the temple of Preah Vihear, we must respect the role of the ASEAN chair or it must be coordinated by the current chair of ASEAN. As for other areas, meeting for coordination, for a truce and better atmosphere, like in the area of Ta Moan temple and Ta Krobei temple would not require involvements of ASEAN and/or the UN Security Council. I wish that all circles understand this matter clearly.

Negotiation on the war of aggression by Thailand on us in the area of Preah Vihear temple has to be conducted with the presence of the third party, which working out for the presence of the Indonesian observers has been underway. It has been requested in this case by the Thai Defense Minister to come for talk and we also expressed our welcoming position. However, because of his prior engagement for a visit to China, the visit has been rescheduled. It should be noted that at least there has been a discussion on the phone.

In this instance, I also wish to correct what has been posted on the DAP website that this call for a meeting is a sign of Thai being defeated. I would say that this has been overstated and I would seek the press not to make com-

ments and leave all the works to be done by the Ministry of National Defense. The text however has been taken out of the website soon after my remarks.

Rights for Self-Defense

So far we have been exercising our rights for self-defense only. Let me respond to those civilian and military leaders in Bangkok that Cambodia acts in self defense of its country within the Cambodian territory and never have we infiltrated the Thai territory as they have claimed that we are have been the one to initiate the fight. This has always been the case every time there a fight. Have anyone doubted as to how strong Cambodia could be to make an aggression on Thailand.

The Thai army commander, Prayuth Chan-Ocha, has 'reaffirmed the (Thai) army is ready to engage in battle with Cambodia if the government orders so.' Is not it a shame for them? Has there been any practice in the world, that a smaller nation is waging war with a bigger one out of its wish? There has been an exception when Israel, because it is a war of life and death, had unleashed wars on many in the Arab world.

I think that the Wall Street Journal's opinion (*Thailand Going Rogue, Page 11, April 26, 2011*) has been one of the most objective analyses on that.

In another instance perhaps Thais should perhaps answer if they did or did not make an aggression on Laos' Xayaburi which has yet to be resolved. They claim never to have a conflict with neighboring countries, but have they missed what happened with Laos and Myanmar? They have brought conflict to every neighbor but they never acknowledge to have started the problem. If they do not, who could have done so?

Lately they have used some photos of our soldiers' families

to visit their spouses at the front to claim that Cambodia has used women and children as human shields. I wish to make it clear to Thai civilian or military leaders that Cambodia deserves much better than that and we could not imagine they could have resorted to this trick. Not only that we have not done that but also dug more trenches for our people in the rear too.

If No Territorial Loss, Why Make It a Fuss? Inconsistent Position

It should be noted that Thai Ministers of National Defense and Foreign Affairs, relatively speaking the whole of Cabinet, claimed that they have not yet lost any territory. It should be asked if they have not had any territorial loss, why they have fought Cambodia. Where have they fought now? They fight on whose territory then? And if so, why do they claim us to be the one that launches aggression on their territory? When you claim that you have control over all of your territory, don't you mean that Cambodia does not invade you and it is you in fact who invade Cambodia?

They may have to keep track of they have said. Or else, did they mention about Cambodian aggression just to suit the yellow shirts' ambition of seeing simmering tension and increasing trust in the army. They have in fact made a subtraction to nil by saying that Cambodia has invaded them on one instance but claimed no territory loss on the other. As early as five o'clock in the morning, they fought to retrieve the dead but at the same time their spokesperson said they have complete control of the situation at Ta Krobei. If it so why did they have to fight at the Ta Krobei area?

What they have done on us so far has been the most heinous act that Thai Governments never committed. I have worked with numerous Thai Governments
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before and there was no one that resorted to use of force in settling problems as that of Abhisit. I wish to make a statement that not all Thais are that heinous as the Government of the Democratic Party of Abhisit. They have had internal problems endlessly and sought to divert people's attention to border problem with Cambodia.

Border Relations Revision

Yesterday there was a Thai cabinet meeting in which Foreign Minister Kasit Phiromya initiated this idea of reviewing relations with Cambodia, and that would include also the border closure. In 2009, I said it then, after Thai withdrew its diplomat from Cambodia, that if Thais were to close their borders with Cambodia, I would make it our decision for not purchasing Thai goods. I said that Cambodia would see it unnecessary to purchase Thai goods if you already close the border.

They may have to make it a second thought as to who would lose the most. Cambodia would substitute those goods by the ones from China or Vietnam and elsewhere.

We have intercepted such a document (on closing its border with Cambodia) by the Foreign Minister (of Thailand) that we then rejected their offer of 1.4 billion Baht for a road construction. It should be noted and asked to Thais that, as they shell on our roads and civilian targets, do they consider them to be their enemies? I must inform the Cambodians that if Thai closes its border with us, let's stop buying Thai products/goods. We have no more options left. Head of Thai business association has expressed his disagreement to the said policy too.

Border Conflict No Hostage Thai Parliament and Elections

I would warn Thailand to take care of its internal issues, take for instance issue of the southern

part of Thailand. They should not be worried about possible Cambodian provocation on Thailand. There has been concern that the current border clash would halt Thai parliament dissolution, and thereafter, elections. Let me assure you can do whatever you need to do – dissolve parliament and organize elections – as Cambodia would not try and benefit from this situation at all. Even more so, the Government in stand-by could also command the army.

I would urge the Thai leaders, civilian and military, not to use this as a pretext to delay the parliament dissolution and in whatever they do they should not blame for Cambodia their failures. I would not like to see all the above delay with a blame placed on fighting along the Thai-Cambodian border. I would not doubt it at all that if Abhisit postpones the date for the dissolution of the parliament, he would place the blame on us. I therefore have the need to say it out loud now that if he fails to do so, he should not involve Cambodia in the failure.

He may postpone the parliament dissolution and leave the elections schedule indefinitely open but he should not from only one fact say that all is going to be done because of fighting with Cambodia. I have never met in my leadership any one leader with so many tricks as this Thai leader and I need to reaffirm that by saying so I do not count all Thai leaders to have similar attitude of Abhisit's, especially within the timeframe after he took power.

Using Tricks They May Have

I am confident that if the new Government to be elected will not be one under this man, they will see changes of Thai foreign policy with other countries, especially the neighbors. I do not mean to interfere into Thai internal affairs and it is up to the Thai people too to choose whoever they support in the forthcoming

elections. Lately, once again they have accused that Thaksin is in Cambodia and he is behind the ongoing fight. We do not know where he is and we believe he is not a traitor and loses all his dignity as a Thai I do believe he has a great number of support.

In order to discredit Cambodia they even claimed to have confiscated weapons from Cambodian soldiers and showed it to the public. Let me assure you that Cambodia does not have such weapons and maybe they are from their warehouses. The 60 mm that they have shown it to be confiscated from Cambodia is not the one that Cambodian is actually using. Worse still, they even used snipers to shoot three of our soldiers – one dead and two in critical injuries. This has prompted us to retaliate in kind. I must say that waging war of this sort is no more than an act of robbing.

Negotiation in the ASEAN Summit

Cambodia is calling for a ceasefire and each side will have to stay where they are. Demarcation could therefore be carried out. I hope that the new Government, to be elected in the general elections, would be able to readjust its foreign policy towards neighboring countries as well as in the regional context. As of recently, Prime Minister Abhisit expressed his will of negotiating with Prime Minister Hun Sen of Cambodia. Let me respond that I welcome the negotiation between the two Prime Ministers. However, the negotiation should be conducted in the ASEAN Summit.

I do not reject the idea of going for a negotiation but I will discuss this issue in the ASEAN Summit in case that the Indonesian observers have not yet arrived. I would not rest on this even if I have to list it in the ASEAN Summit agenda. In fact we have a TOR that has been agreed upon by both sides. The visit of the Indonesian Foreign

Minister on 24 April, which had been postponed in the last minutes, was in fact for seeking the signature by the Cambodian and Thai foreign ministers. The scheduled visit was cancelled for what the press has put it as (Thai) demand for Cambodia to first withdraw its troops from the temple of Preah Vihear and the Keo Sekkha Kirisavarak Buddhist pagoda.

How could Cambodia withdraw from its territory? Yesterday a clash at Preah Vihear almost took place because of an aircraft which made a sound like a bombardment and our troops also fired from below. Has the world now abided by any rule? Friends have called for our patience, but when we are being fired upon, what shall we do? I may seek advice from all powerful nations with space capability, the US, China, India and Russia, to use their satellites to pinpoint actions along the Thai-Cambodian border to find out the fact.

I have been Prime Minister of Cambodia over 26 years now, even over 32 years since when I was Cambodian Foreign Minister, I have no reason to make war with anyone. If I were new to the post, then they may say that I was a warmonger. As Abhisit is new to the post and he has waged war with us Cambodia, it should be him who needs to be condemned.

From February 22 through to the time when fighting erupted at Ta Moan and Ta Krobei, it is exactly two months or 60 days. I would continue with my appeal as current chair of ASEAN does, if Thailand continues to have difficulty (in making such a decision) in relation to the Constitution, to send their observers to Cambodia. Previously, Thailand also had asked for Indonesia to send in their observers first to Thailand too.

ASEAN Should Uphold Its Role Given by the UNSC

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I must agree with all of you that this is one of the biggest and well equipped high schools in the whole country. Formerly I deemed that the High School of Seila Veti Keat Chhon in the district of Chhlong of Kratie province was the biggest, and then the Bun Rany Hun Sen Mehnot High School, but today, here in Khsach Kandal district, the Samdech Akka Moha Sena Padei Techo Hun Sen – ROTA General and Technical School Khsach Kandal is the biggest and well equipped among all ...

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I would urge President of the Republic of Indonesia who will chair the ASEAN Summit in the near future to make decision as speedy as possible to implement the declaration of the ASEAN Foreign Ministers from February 22 on sending observers to Thailand and Cambodia. The best way to record who might open fire on whom is to have a third party in place, where Cambodia reaffirms its readiness to welcome observers to Cambodia.

I am asking ASEAN to play the role that has been recommended by the United Nations Security Council so that ASEAN actions on this matter could be expedited. Again in this atmosphere I would like to reassert my commitment for a negotiation with Abhisit before ASEAN members as a whole so that we could seek their opinions on the matter. I am sure the ASEAN meeting in Jakarta would be plagued with Cambodian-Thai conflict, which came out of the Thai aggression on Cambodia.

In fact I would not like to create difficulties for ASEAN or the ASEAN meeting would be obstructed by the Thai-Cambodian conflict but there is no other way out for the issue we do not make it so. This matter should be brought to the attention of the top level leaders of ASEAN mem-

Thanks for Efforts Involved

I would like to take this opportune moment to express my sincere thanks, through Mr. Essa Al Mannai, to His Highness Sheikh Hamad Bin Khalifa Al Thani, Emir of Qatar, and Her Highness Sheikhha Mozah Bint Nasser Al Misned, chairperson of the Qatari ROTA Foundation, who had first scheduled her presence but later could not make it for this very important event ...

As is reported by HE Dr Aun Porn Monirath, on an area of 7.6 hectares, the construction of the school and its accessory build-

ber countries.

All Problems to Be Resolved by Peaceful Means

Let me send a message to them that Cambodia would like to resolve all problems by peaceful means and negotiation. Cambodia would not use force to resolve them instead. However, Thailand has been doing it otherwise and threatened to use force against Cambodia, as is said by their army commander. Cambodia wishes to live in peace with its neighbors and solve all problems by peaceful means and refrain from use of force and threat of force in this endeavor.

Cambodia does not wish to engage in any fight but we have been forced to fight to defend ourselves. It has been a failure perhaps for their PV 54 operation, and NC 46 is being incorporated at Ta Moan and Ta Krobei. They may have another operation planned and I just wait and see how far they are going. This is what is called their military plan which was adopted on April 4.

Having said so I do not wish to see they start arresting people in their country. I am so sorry that I have been forced to use strong terms but I think it is still minor compared to those used by the yellow shirts as well as the Thai Government to defame me...☐

ings and facilities cost a sum of 7.4 million USD, for which ROTA provided 4.78 million USD, the Royal Government of Cambodia covered 2.5 million USD, the Monithappana Foundation contributed 120,000 USD, my wife and I contributed 20,000 USD and HE Deputy Prime Minister Keat Chhon also covered 10,000 USD ...

Access to Education One of Basic Human Rights

I am so optimistic to have seen that we are going for long-term vision and reality in education. The Samdech Akka Moha Sena Padei Techo Hun Sen – ROTA General and Technical School Khsach Kandal is composed of two functions – to provide continuing general education from junior secondary school and to provide vocational training after students finish their nine years education. As is reported to me by HE Minister of Education, Youth and Sports, another school of this type which is HM the King's project with funding to be provided from Vietnam and other dignitaries will be in place soon to cater to our interest for human resource training.

I totally agree with what Mr. Essa Al Mannai said about education being the basic human rights. I do not care who might say it otherwise as I have committed from the beginning to the philosophy that there would not be human rights without the right to life, food, healthcare and education. If there were no life, there were to be no rights. Let's take the Cambodian case, if the country was not liberated on January 7, 1979 from the Pol Pot's genocide, our people could have been dead and we would have no say on human rights today.

Without life, how could our people enjoy their rights to education and how could they express their opinion? That is why I find it our common understanding that education and training is indeed one of basic human

rights. Cambodia has taken up this challenge for 32 years now (after the country's liberation from Pol Pot's regime) and special attention has been given now to building more student hostels with facilities for female students and teaching staff.

Sustainable Operation and Development

I have high hope that the high school will provide better future for our younger generation and I would also say that they are so lucky if we happen to compare the chance they now have to that of the previous generations. As I mentioned earlier, this area used to be a war zone for many generations, especially lately in between 1970 and 1975. After the liberation of January 7, 1979, this place had not been so much at war, but because of war situation elsewhere in the country, it was left in its undeveloped condition with so much infrastructural difficulties.

Now that the country has achieved full peace in addition to sprung-up infrastructural development projects, including also educational facilities from kindergarten to tertiary education, we can say that peace has given us the diamond opportunity for our country's development. By saying so I would like to have your attention on the fact that to build a school like this inquires so much efforts and resources. However, what continues to be of attention here is to sustain its management and operation, for which, thanks to involved highly educated officials of the country who provide help here, I trust that can be achieved.

Being a Parliamentarian representing Kandal Province constituency, Head of the Cambodian People's Party team to help people in Kandal province as a whole, and Prime Minister of the Kingdom of Cambodia, I wish to thank the intellectual teams involved in this school project for their qualified and thought

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through project.

To Nowhere that Hun Sen Could Not Make It

Let me now talk a little about the overall development of Khsach Kandal district. In fact I have quite frequented to the village of Sanlong, where I even spent a night there. Yesterday, the Kampuchea Thmei paper, in its 2522 issue for April 3 and 4, published a photo that my wife and I were on a motorbike with caption that reads 'There is nowhere that is too difficult to reach for Hun Sen.' It was in the rainy seasons and people who resided here told us to travel under rain rather than waiting for the rain stop as the dirt road would get slippery.

We spent the night in the village and people around might be a bit disturbed that along with me there was then a group of assistants and their radio equipments, by which exchange of information from the fronts were reported to me. We then left the village and crossed a water way at one point by locally made wooden ferry at Preah Kunlong. The ferry was powered by human pulling a cable. It was in that experience that with the late HE Chhim Seng, then Minister of Transports and Public Works, we pooled our resources and built the Preah Kunlong Bridge, which was inaugurated on April 11, 1990.

It was that night that I wrote a poem that later became lyrics for a song, titled "The Preah Kunlong Bridge: A Golden Offer." On our way here, at the former Preah Kunlong Bridge I noticed that the rest house for travelers is still there. The rest house was then built for travelers, because of difficult road condition and lack of means of transport, to stop and rest while they may need to.

Incompatible Development Method

There are numerous stories about life in places where there

are no infrastructures. There was a time when the Royal Government of Cambodia was committed to improve the road and bridge condition here, a mistake has been made by one of our development partners, whom I may not have to mention its name. They employed their method of building bridges but were all blown broken by flood power.

That is why I always urge that when the task of development is being implemented for Cambodia, development partners should be aware of the Cambodian way. That was our lesson from the flood in 2000, for which I have spent 56 days overseeing and commanding the rescue operation for our people. This area was also included.

Let me now remind you a bit about the national road 8. You may have remembered that on January 14, 2003, I came to the Khsach Kandal district to attend at Wat Prey Baing of Sithor Commune the groundbreaking ceremony to build three roads of 26 kilometers and eleven bridges of 462 meters. I solemnly made a pledge that if I were to be re-elected for the third term, the national road 8 would be built. It sounded like a promise made before the elections, but it was truly not one. I intended only to give our people hope for better roads and bridges. In 2003 we have secured funding for the construction of the road and bridges.

Electricity Brings More Development

The fact is that this road has now been built and is in its final stage of construction operation, and because the bridge of Prek Tamak is also in place, not only that our people could travel between Khsach Kandal's Vihear Suor, Roka Junling and Kompong Cham's Sithor Kandal and Phnom Penh but also ferry service crossing the Mekong has also now come to ending its service. People said they have

saved time like one hour from travel on the national road 8 between Phnom Penh and Kompong Cham, Prey Veng, Monduliri, Ratanakiri, Kratie and Stoeung Treng provinces. Once the segment of road at Punnheakrek district is done, travelers will save even more time.

What once was vision has now become reality. Development made in Khsach Kandal is indeed not a benefit for the district alone. Again, also our vision is that we will see how to wire here electricity so that factories can be built in Khsach Kandal. Here finding land to build factories would not be as difficult as in Phnom Penh. Also, there are plenty of labor sources. When such vision is being realized, people of the province of Kandal's Khsach Kandal, Lovea Em and the province of Prey Veng's Pearaing and Srey Santhor would be beneficiaries of the development.

About Terming Party and Government Leadership

As far as your wishes are concerned I would like to assure you all that I would stay on without the limitation of my time and/or my withdrawal as this matter would rest in how much people would need me to stay through their votes. In Cambodia, it has been constituted to conduct elections once in every five years, and if the Party and people continue to support me I will have to make greater effort in response to their demand and trust. Some politicians wish that a mandate of two terms only should be in place for a politician.

They may say whatever they like but for the Cambodian People's Party, though our Party's President is old, we will uphold his Party leadership for his whole life. We would maintain similar position for Honorary Party President too. They made it a big fuss in 2003-2004 post-elections stalemate because they knew that (if Hun Sen were to be allowed to run freely) they

would not get a chance to beat him. Getting back to what they said then was 'they may accept to work with whomever (from the Cambodian People's Party) except Hun Sen.' How that could be said and done when in the elections the Party was running with my ticket. The Party was campaigning that voting for CPP is voting for Hun Sen to be Prime Minister or if people want Hun Sen to be Prime Minister, they have to vote for the CPP. Well now whatever they say they will have to wait and deal with me again on July 28, 2013.

Today, 41 Years Ago

Let me now look back a bit on the Cambodian history. Today 41 years ago, at this very hour I left my village and took to the jungle which was known to be the Marquis. After the coup on March 18, 1970 that overthrew Samdech Preah Norodom Sihanouk, while the Lon Nol army crashed demonstrations throughout the country, many responded to the appeal of Samdech Preah Norodom Sihanouk to report to the Marquis for national liberation struggle. I was among a group of some two to three hundred young men in that crusade and it was marked to be a change of my life from being civilian to that of the military.

It was from that day that I have taken up April 4, 1951 as my official birthday. However, I was born on the full moon of Tuesday of Sraap (August) of the year of Dragon or according to lunar calendar August 5, 1952. That is my natural one. In a study, this birth date coincided with that of Hluong Preah Sdech Kan who was born in this area. However, because of typing error, in January 1979, it was again April 4, 1951. I became Foreign Minister when I was 27 years old. As I was so young, I seemed to agree to the idea that adding one more year would help me look mature, but now I am see it otherwise.

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Five Wounds, an Eye Loss, in Five Years

Now that I started my fight for liberation in response to the appeal of Samdech Preah Norodom Sihanouk, I had five wounds and an eye loss in the five-year struggle. I then joined the movement to overthrow the regime of Pol Pot and then started from scratch with our people to rebuild this country. If we were to close our eyes and think again of the past, we would see the picture of January 1979 liberation day. As I have seen here in my hand, the Kampuchea Thmei Paper again, ran an article "From Cambodia of 1979-89 to the Present Day Cambodia" in which paragraphs have been quoted from my book "Ten Years of Cambodia's March."

If we were to think of only in 1989, here we had this small wooden ferry powered by human labor and now we have a new bridge in place of the ferry. The Mekong River where there were only ferry that can bring men and mean of transportation from one side of the river to the other, they now can cross in no time without employing the ferry service. Again, here in Khsach Kandal, to get back to the year 2003, we will see that there are tremendous changes between then and the present day.

Three Wonderful Things in My Life

Perhaps I should say that three most wonderful things I am ever content with is *firstly* to overthrow the Pol Pot's regime; *secondly* to contribute to sharing hardships with our people while working our way out of destruction and embargo; and *thirdly* the win-win policy being developed, issued and implemented.

Thanks to the policy, we have ceased to be a country of divisions. It should be reminded that if we were to take into consideration the time when King Punhea Yat ruled Phnom Penh (1473), especially under his suc-

cessor Preah Srey Raja, Cambodia was divided into three parts – Soriyotey ruled this part of the country, and the rest was divided and ruled by Preah Srey Raja and Dhamma Raja accordingly. Later, King Srey Sokunbot, another King had been involved with a lady in this area and because of a dream, decided to have the lady's brother Kan killed. Kan escaped the killing and organized opposition forces. Again Cambodia was divided between area under Srey Sokunbot and Preah Sdech Kan.

In between 1970 and 1975, Cambodia was split into two, where one was under Lon Nol and the other under the liberation forces, which was running against him. In between 1979 and 1993, Cambodia fell into four controls – the State of Cambodia, and three other Cambodian factions. Before the reach of final and secure peace, in between 1993 and 1998, the country was for the most part under (the elected) government and some left to the Khmer Rouge Government of Khieu Samphan. Look, in countries like Libya, Palestine, Lebanon, where there are two militaries in each country, war has been an imminent issue.

Finally, Cambodia Unites

As of 1998 though, Cambodia has become a country of under one Constitution, one Monarch, the Senate, the National Assembly and the Royal Government. It was because of the long and protracted history that our people and country had to go through so much hardships and destructions that their fates had been pitiful.

I am indeed proud that our nation has changed from a divided to a unified country. It is true that we have many different political parties that I hope in whatever disagreement and opposing view we may have, we would not resort to force. I have said on several occasions that where there is hardship like flood, drought or both, Hun Sen would

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of environment. I would warn forestry officials whose duty is to protect the forest but to act in collusion with traders to destroy our forest of severe actions and punishments.

Pumpkin Seed Officials

Well as we are approaching Khmer New Year, let me tell you a story. It is about what I call "Pumpkin Seed Officials." There was a King and he would like to study officials' minds and actions. One day, after the court session, HM told his officials to collect pumpkin seed to grow. Many have collected them. As the season to harvest the pumpkin, HM the King reconvened the court meeting and asked the court officials if they grew any pumpkins. There three groups of officials making their cases about growing pumpkins.

The first group said they have grown so many pumpkins with the seeds collected from HM the King and soon the palace opens its gate, they would bring them in. They did bring in a lot of them. The second group presented their case that they could not grow them because the seeds had either been eaten by rats or left unattended. The third group came out and said 'we did not grow any pumpkin as we ate all the seeds.' HM the King then approved that those who had consumed the seeds were faithful officials, while those who left them unattended and for rat to consume were lazy officials.

However, for those who said they planted so many pumpkins from the seeds, HM the King judged them to be unfaithful and ordered them to be stamped by elephants. How could they grow pumpkins out of cooked seeds?

This has brought us an idea that

try to be there but where life has become better with joy and achievement for our people, Hun Sen would not make his presence...■

those officials who grow pumpkins out of cooked seeds are not faithful. So long as for what I have said above, I warn those officials and investors not to repeat after this example. They assured one way or the other that they have so much money to develop this or that size of land when they asked for land concession but once they got the land they failed to keep their promises. I also wanted to say a few things to the court officials, police and military police on one matter that I call 'Befriend with all'. Let me give an example from our country.

It was about the time when Cambodian was under the French colonial era, there were two people of opposite views. One group, because they were unhappy with the other group assured that when the Japanese entered Cambodia they would sue them to the Japanese. When the Japanese did enter the country and they were to report to the Japanese about the other group, they saw that that group was already befriended with the Japanese. They then said to themselves they would do it when the French came. Later, the French returned, the group went to report it to them but failed again as the same group was now befriended with the French too.

This is to say that people should be careful about making friends with everyone or relying on someone for own interest like being good friend to the police, the military police, the court, etc., that s/he could be evaded from all legal matters. I do not mean to stop our people from making friends but to make friends for protecting bad interest is what I am calling for attention. Whatever it is, the legal aspect should be the point here. This should be construed as real-life story where a good citizen, having known about a bad case of trafficking, fails to report it to competent authorities because the traffickers are friends to all of them...■

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air-condition as it comes without. I then told our officials that Cambodia is not a dumping site for any country at all. This has been illustrated clearly in telecommunication technology that we would rather go for digital than to accept more offer of analog system.

When HE Yim Chhay Ly was Minister of Health, in 1990, there was a proposal for investment on electric production on an island from where they will not only provide us electricity but also an addition of twenty million USD. I asked about possible impact on environment, especially radioactivity. They said, from burning ten thousand tons of wastes, they would have like a small bottle of radioactive matter. I said well that was enough to destroy our coast. There was also this other proposal to bring wastes to Cambodia and make fertilizer for us. I also rebuked the proposal.

Concerning this proposal of setting up a plant to process used engine oil bought from local market, and the request for approval from the Cambodia Development Council (CDC), for reason of insufficient materials, investors asked to bring them from outside. I told them if they bought spent engine oil locally, I would agree to it but to bring from other countries for this matter, I do not consent with it. They said if they could not bring spent engine oil from outside market, they could not do it. I have no reason to let our country to be dumping site for other countries' wastes.

Let me warn you that if this is allowed to go on and on, your family members too could be affected from consequences of your action. There was a time between 1975 and 1979 that we had to eat anything. Under Pol Pot's regime we would eat just about anything caught alive. After Pol Pot's time, we would eat any food that we may found.

Degree of quality was not a concern. As of the present, we have to talk about food safety standard. Under Pol Pot's regime people died of hunger and nowadays Cambodia people fell ill or died of overconsumption. So food safety is our concern and we must do more to keep a high standard on this.

Zones Defined for Conservation and/or Development

I have mentioned this issue also in the plenum of the Cambodian People's Party Central Committee. We have to first prevent and put an end to encroachment for land in the Tonle Sap area and coastal zones that are defined to be area 1 and 2. We need to have a clear definition as to what are the zones used for and work out a boundary. So far some measures have been taken to define the zone around Tonle Sap, but some actions have caused discontent because boundary setting has been done on land that people are cultivating. I demand that a consensus worked out among concerned authorities.

From the helicopter, I used to see floating rice area and I am sure we have not made use fully all the land there yet. This sort of land can be given out to people in form of social concession land. In 1986 I went to visit our troops in Tonle Sap area and also again at Prey Kabas of Takeo, I instructed that floating rice cultivation area and floating rice practice must be changed into dry season (or short-term) rice area and practice. Land that was used before war could be reviewed and given it out to people, except if it were land that was claimed illegally. So I urge concerned authorities to pay attention to this matter and work out a viable solution for the people.

Aquaculture and Fisheries' Department Regular Control

As far as fish culture is concerned, it is indeed my pleasure to see that it has made a remarkable progress year after year. I

used to visit some of the aquaculture sites like one belongs to Oknha Di Po where he breeds and raises lobsters. Cambodia can no longer depend solely on the Mekong River, Tonle Sap Lake, etc., where the water is deep, to provide protein for our people. Aquaculture is now our alternative in addition to wild catch.

I would urge the Fisheries Department to continue to take action and attention in sending out their staff to take permanent patrol duty at their fishing zones. I would urge that these controllers must refrain from misusing power for own benefit and/or acting in collusion with traders who would not abide by the laws and regulations. You are not allowed either to extort anyone for anything or to be shareholders with them. Fishing tackles of all sorts must be properly defined and instructed them to fishermen when fishing is to be allowed for each catching period.

People who operate the fishing lots, if they wish to continue with the business they have to exercise high sense of responsibility or they would not be allowed to go on but also to face with punishment. Setting a timeframe for our people to catch fish only one time throughout the year for instance could be a harmful policy as fishermen would catch anything and everything from baby to grandparent fishes. Seeing this effect, a reform has been put into practice where fishermen and/or people with rights to operate the fishing lots would have to have a plan to conserve and develop their lots. Controllers must take actions before the fishing season closes so as to check if mother fishes have been well preserved or have they been caught and taken for commercial purpose which would deplete fish population next year and years to come.

Actions Taken on Companies Fail to Fulfill Investment Cri-

teria

Let me first talk about companies that enjoy the rights of economic land concession but fail to start their projects. I would urge again to take those lands back from them. Yesterday I have signed two documents to take back land provided for concession from 12 companies. Some companies have asked for land but do not have capital to develop it while others have capital but fail to secure land for development. I would also urge concerned authorities to increase the amount of deposit for each concession. After they start a certain percentage of their approved project, we can then transfer the amount of deposit back to them. We must try and prevent a situation where people ask for license but never do anything with it. We must see that our deposit requirement is sizable and our disciplinary measure is to be stronger. Confiscated land will be filed and given out as land for social concession to poor people who need land for cultivation.

I would also urge the court and competent authorities to expedite cases of forestry offenses, which involve those who operate business illegally but also (government) officials in forestry department and environment. The two will have to be reprimanded. Effort to look after forestry resources and take actions against forestry-related offenses will have to be conducted on a regular basis. As far as logs caught and presented on TVs, I doubt it is new crime as those logs seem to be old.

I see that this issue requires cooperation also with neighboring countries, especially Vietnam. I am sure on their side Vietnam would be willing to cooperate with us on this matter. As far as log transporting is concerned inside Cambodia, Snuol district of Kratie is where the operation is often carried out. That is why I issued a letter from the Prime Minister to remove two officials

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