

# Cambodia New Vision

Monthly Bulletin, Issue 17

April-May, 1999

Addresses of Prime Minister Hun Sen to the National Seminar on Food Security and Nutrition in Cambodia at The Royal University of Agriculture, Chamkar Daung

**Samdech HUN SEN on  
Cambodia's Full Member of  
ASEAN (May 05, 1999)**



*Prime Minister Hun Sen: "... in order to increase and diversify the agricultural production, investments by the state are needed to develop the infrastructure and the irrigation systems..."*

## **Opening Address April 20, 1999**

Today is an auspicious day. It is a great honor and pleasure for me to be here to open the National Seminar on Food Security and Nutrition in Cambodia, which is organized by the Council for Rural and Agricultural Rehabilitation and Development (CARD) in collaboration with the concerned ministries, international and national organizations.

First of all, I would like to express my admiration and great appreciation for the arrangement made for this seminar at the national level on an important topic in line with the Economic Government's policy on food security and nutri-

tion in Cambodia. One of the principal human rights is "the right to eat food in order to eliminate the hunger". For this reason, the world established international organizations in charge of food, the World Food Programme and the World Health Organization. However, according to the recent reports, about 840 million people in the developing countries subsist on diets that are deficient in calorie, and about 170 million children under 5 years of age are underweight. It is noticed that 250 million children are deficient in vitamin A., over 800 million people suffer from iodine deficiency, and up to 2000 million people are affected by iron defi-

*(Continued on page 6)*

Let me first express my heartfelt thanks to H.E. Mushahid Ali, Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary of the Republic of Singapore for his very kind and reassuring words, on behalf of the Chairman of the ASEAN standing committee and the Ambassadors of ASEAN countries, in welcoming Cambodia into the great ASEAN Family. I am very touched and overwhelmed by your expression of friendship and solidarity. So, may I take this opportunity to express my profound gratitude to all Ambassadors from ASEAN countries, and through you, to all your respective governments for your unanimous decision to welcome Cambodia in the ASEAN Family.

Permit me also to take this opportunity to express my heartfelt and deep thanks to all my friends in the Diplomatic Corps, distinguished representatives of the UN Secretary General, of the UN agencies, of the international organizations and many more in the NGO communities, who have spared no efforts in providing us with friendly guidance, who chose to stay with us in times of triumph and travail in order to help us get over some difficulties and obstacles. With their valuable assistance and support, we have attained considerable achievements, and this time Cambodia feel safe within the ASEAN fam-

*(Continued on page 2)*

*(Continued from page 1)*

ily members. ASEAN Membership has opened further to Cambodia a new horizon for long-term development.

Cambodia's membership in ASEAN is one of the top priorities of the Royal Government of Cambodia's (RGC) policy. Cambodia's joining ASEAN is the necessity of the geo-politics and geo-economics. Therefore, for the RGC and the Cambodian people, ASEAN membership is an event of historical importance and will have far-reaching ramifications for the country's future. I am sure that you all share with us the legitimate feelings that this is an auspicious occasion for a big celebration. Indeed this event seemed to have displeased a number of destructive politicians. While Cambodians from all walks of life have worked very hard to be able to join ASEAN, these politicians have resorted to all kinds of obstructions and appealed to ASEAN to reject Cambodia. Even now when Cambodia is already a full-fledged member of ASEAN our critics tried to scare us that Cambodia will not reap any benefit from ASEAN and that Cambodia will be a burden and even dynamite for this regional grouping. What do they want? Maybe they wish that Cambodia remains bogged down in conflicts, underdevelopment, instability, insecurity and isolation Or they want South East Asia to continue to be a region stricken by the lack of stability and security. Or maybe they are the fifth column working for an outside power, which is scared to see the vision of ASEAN-10 crystallized, a factor that strengthens and enhances the political and economic potentials of South East Asia on the international arena.

I am confident that Cambodia will become a source of energy for this regional grouping and will contribute to strengthening ASEAN's endeavor for stronger

peace, stability, friendship, cooperation and solidarity in the region... I am sure that you share with me that Cambodia's admission into ASEAN is the great success for all of us, for the Cambodian people, for all South East Asian nations, for all friends of Cambodia. This is the success for those who love peace, stability, friendship, cooperation and prosperity for humankind. As a Cambodian leader, I can consider myself as a person who had put forth an initiative for Cambodia to become a member of the ASEAN Family and I had not spared both my physical and mental energy to make this happen. What is ASEAN's attractiveness for Cambodia. In my view, ASEAN has four important points:

First, ASEAN created a regional environment of security, peace and stability, allowing this region to prosper. This is ASEAN's strongest strength. Indeed, the regional peace and stability within the region cannot be obtained without favorable external environment. However, ASEAN itself is the major-determining factor in this endeavor. Peace and stability has been achieved through a framework of efficient cooperation and consultation based on the main principles of the 1967 Bangkok Declaration, especially the principle of non-interference in each other's internal affairs. Cambodia considers this principle as a golden rule in the strengthening of relationships and the settlement of intra-ASEAN problems. This principle should be strengthened further and maintained for the sake of regional peace and stability of the region.

Second, ASEAN is a region for cooperation, thus plays a crucial role in fostering the community spirit among members. The consensus-building principle in making decisions within ASEAN is a strong foundation for the community spirit and cooperative culture. Even if there are differences

in views, ASEAN leaders are trying to agree and would not allow the differences to undermine ASEAN's spirits of cooperation. Indeed, with the club members on the increase, it would be more difficult to implement this principle, which is of paramount importance in educating and fostering the spirit of community and cooperation within ASEAN. Therefore, the immediate challenge for ASEAN is to try to maintain this principle.

Third, ASEAN is the region known for its strong economic growth. For more than two decades ASEAN has become a main economic growth center, which spawn newly industrialized economies or Asian tigers. It is true that the regional economies have recently been undergoing financial crisis. Nevertheless, I am very optimistic that the regional financial blaze will be extinct in the near future. After the wounds are being healed, the tigers will not only get back on their own feet again, but will grow stronger and stronger. Positive signs of economic recovery are very clear, with positive economic growth rates experienced by the majority of countries plagued with the crisis and the influx into the region of foreign investment in 1999.

Fourth, ASEAN is the arena for diplomacy and a major international gateway. For more than 30 years of its existence, ASEAN has established an entrenched mechanism for cooperation and consultation, by maintaining close bonds of friendship with its external partners, especially through the ASEAN Regional Forum (ARF), the Asia-Pacific Economic Cooperation Council (APEC), the Asia-Europe Meeting (ASEM) and the ASEAN dialogue partners. This mechanism created an efficient network for cooperation and foreign relations

*(Continued on page 3)*

*(Continued from page 2)*

between ASEAN members and their main economic and political partners worldwide. This has been instrumental for maintaining security, peace and stability in the region. It also helps strengthen economic and trade relations and promotes crossed border investments.

The four factors mentioned earlier are of fundamentally important in ensuring the past ASEAN's achievements and success as a regional association. Therefore, the immediate task of ASEAN-10 is to mobilize its energy to enhance these strengths with a view to build a more developed and prosperous South East Asia. In this endeavor, Cambodia wants to be an equal and efficient partner in dealing with ASEAN's affairs. Cambodia is well prepared to contribute to this process. Cambodia did not join ASEAN with bare hands.

The commitment to democracy, the respect for human rights, the prevalence of peace and national reconciliation in the country, the dismantling of the political and military organization of the Khmer Rouge - a major source of long-term instability in the country and the region - all are of importance to ASEAN. Moreover, the RGC has displayed its strong political will by implementing its political platform and embarking on reforms in order to build a solid foundation for long-term growth and sustainable development. The important areas of the reform programs include:

- The reform of the arm forces, public services which include the reforms of the civil service and the judiciary system, aimed at strengthening democracy, promoting the respect of human rights, improving and increasing the efficiency of the public services and enhancing the rule of law;
- Economic reform, focusing on

ensuring macroeconomic stability, strengthening the banking and financial system, implementing fiscal reform measures, ensuring a sound management of public property, increasing public investment in the area of physical and social infrastructure and fostering human resource development;

- The Royal Government gave the priority to the rural development, alleviate poverty, and natural resource management and environmental protection, especially the forest sector reform.

These reform programs will ultimately bring progress and prosperity to the Cambodian people, strengthen security, national reconciliation, peace and stability in Cambodia and the in region. This in turn will promote and foster economic and trade activities, investment and cultural exchange, and especially ameliorate the relationships within the great ASEAN Family. As ASEAN's full member, Cambodia will actively participate in various regional economic initiatives and try our best to implement ASEAN agreements, in particular the ASEAN Free Trade Area (AFTA) as the given stage, ASEAN Industrial Cooperation Scheme (AICO), the ASEAN Investment Area (AIA), the Agreement on the Cooperation in the Services Sector and the Agreement on the Cooperation in Tourism etc. In this sense, Cambodia's joining ASEAN is not only an event, but a process which demands us to work constantly.

Through these endeavors, Cambodia will make concrete contribution to the common peace, stability, progress and prosperity within ASEAN. It is true that Cambodia will need assistance from its partners, especially ASEAN members. The RGC is conscious of the challenges and difficulties that Cambodia will have to overcome in order to fulfil

its obligations as a new member of this regional grouping. However, we remain strongly committed to fulfilling our obligations as a full and equal member and as a country, which is always proud for herself.

It took 32 years for ASEAN to materialize its Founding Fathers' vision of ASEAN-10. Now ASEAN-10 has only 20 years to make its second vision crystallized, i.e. the vision 2020, which entails the building of a sharing and caring society in South East Asia in 2020. Indeed, this is an ambitious vision, if one takes into consideration the differences of the political systems, social, cultural, religious and psychological settings, especially the levels of development among its 10 members. However, we believe in this vision and we are optimistic that together we will be able to make this ambitious vision crystallized.

As I mentioned earlier, Cambodia is well prepared to take its due part in this endeavor. In this context, I wish to take this solemn opportunity to pay tribute to the ASEAN Founding Fathers who had this vision when the cold and hot wars dominated our region, when outside powers and foreign ideologies pit us one against the other and divided us into opposing blocs. We should pay our due respect to this courageous and wise vision. We should also express our admiration to the leaders and governments of ASEAN-10 for making ASEAN-10 happen before the beginning of the next century. More importantly, we were liberated from a South East Asia stricken by conflicts, confrontation, wars and enmities to live in a South East Asia under the umbrella of ASEAN-10 of friendship and cooperation. On behalf of the RGC and the Cambodian people, I wish to express

*(Continued on page 6)*

**Samdech Prime Minister Hun Sen At the Ceremony to Demolish Weapons and Ammunition  
of the Phnom Penh Capital At the National Olympic Stadium (May 05, 1999)**

This is the second time, we celebrate a ceremony to destroy weapons, while the first one was held before the general election in 1998. This second time is being held five months after the formation of the new Royal Government and only five days after the Kingdom of Cambodia was admitted as full member of the Association of Southeast Asian Nations (ASEAN).

On behalf of the Royal Government of Cambodia, I would like to avail myself of this opportunity to report to Venerable monks and dear compatriots, and international communities the issues relating to peace, security, and social order, as well as weapons and ammunition which we are now destroying.

On August 18, 1997, at Sihanouville under the topic of creating a neutral political atmosphere and security for the holding the election, I myself issued an 8-point security measures, which resulted in the confiscation of illegal weapons and arms from the local militia. At that time, although war still existed in some parts of the countries, created by the Khmer Rouge, we still had the courage to destroy thousands of weapons.

After the establishment of the new Royal Government and the collapse of military and political organizations of the Khmer Rouge, the war has ended, the territory being united, and peace being strengthened. However, the insecurity created by criminals, such as armed robbery, kidnapping for ransom along with the anarchic use of weapons at home, on the streets, at public and entertainment places, etc,... have compelled the Royal Government to apply more measures in order to strengthen peace and social order aiming at assuring the state legality, security and safety of the people in general.

The war has been ended, but it doesn't mean that there is complete peace if the robbery and stealing have not been abolished, the public order has not yet been strengthened and the people are still living in fear. Based on the above mentioned reasons combined with concrete situation, the Royal Government has issued many new measures during the last few months.

The cancellation of licenses and their validity to hold all kinds of arms is one of the new measures in the first step to ban both legal and illegal weapons being carried on the streets, and in the public and entertainment places. Since then, except the competent forces, any individual who carried weapon outside his/her residence will be confiscated. The competent forces also have to leave their weapons at their units when they are not on duties, so they do not have weapons with them anymore.

To carry out these new measures, Excellency Deputy Prime Minister Sar Kheng has been assigned to personally lead this operation. In the municipalities and provinces, the joint provincial and municipal committees are led by the provincial and municipal governors, except the capital of Phnom Penh, Excellency Chea Sophara leads a mechanism with the participation of the government institutions.

What has been the pleasure and success of these new measures was the celebration of the new year without any firing to welcome new Devoda like past years. Previously, the new Devodas were welcomed by gunfire at residences and units, in the streets as well as at the public places caused lots of casualties, creating public disorder, and disturbing the joy and happiness of the people on every New Year's days. On the other hand, after applying

these new measures, we have not noted any shooting on the streets, at restaurants, at public places caused by minor quarrels such as stepping on each other's feet while dancing, disputing for girls, or minor traffic accidents. Groups of teenagers who have arms also fired or threatened each other at schools, which are serious threats on their studies.

Another point of pride of the Royal Government is the people's movement to voluntarily submit their weapons to the competent authorities. In particular, in the capital of Phnom Penh alone, thousands of arms have been submitted. This reflected a strong movement of the people to contribute to maintaining social security and their confidence in the Royal Government in carrying out the measures to strengthen public security.

In the name of the Royal Government, I would like to express my profound gratitude to all the people, all families who have voluntarily submitted their weapons to the Royal Government. I also would like to take this opportunity to praise to Excellency Deputy Prime Minister Sar Kheng and other leaders who have overcome all difficulties and achieved success in these tasks. I also would like to compliment Excellency Chea Sophara and members of the Explosives and Weapons Confiscation Commission of Phnom Penh and all forces taking part in the operation, who have efficiently carried out their tasks. This efficiency is not only of importance as an administrative measure, but also the creation of a large mass movement which con-

tributes to the strengthening of the security and public order...

*(Continued on page 5)*

*(Continued from page 4)*

Although successes have been achieved, it is only the first step. Social security is still a priority for the Royal Government to solve. The illegal carrying and keeping of weapons, illegal trade of weapons, violence, armed robbery, and kidnapping for ransom will occur again if we do not continue to carry out the existing measures. That is why, the meeting of the Council of Ministers held on the April 30, 1999 have issued a new sub-decree aiming at continued strengthening the management and control of weapons and ammunition. In the name of the Royal Government, I would like to appeal as follows:

- 1) Strictly carry out the spirit and contents of the sub-decree 38 ankr.pk dated April 30, 1999 concerning the management and the control of import, production, sales, distribution and use of all kinds of explosives and weapons.
- 2) Appeal all government officials, armed forces and the people who have kept and carried weapons illegally to submit those weapons to the competent institutions. Our compatriots should not be worried but to submit weapons to the competent authorities as soon as possible. Those government officials, military officers, police officers, military police officers, who have been permitted by the new sub-decree to carry weapons for self-defense must keep their weapons properly. Avoid letting weapons to be used by their children, relatives or friends for whatever goals. Past experiences have shown that children and relatives of some leaders have used their weapons against the weaker and the people. These cases should be ended.
- 3) All units of the armed forces should have their own warehouses or places to keep their weapons after fulfilling their

missions.

- 4) The competent forces that have the tasks to control and confiscate weapons and ammunition should carry out their duties in accordance with their mandates. They must not transform their duties into extorting money from passengers or obstructing their movement without reason. Around the capital of Phnom Penh and other towns where weapons have been prohibited to bring in, there should be places to keep weapons left by those authorized to carry arms and return to them when they leave the cities or towns. The competent authorities should be polite to all people who have been checked and especially respect the immunities of members of the Senate and parliament, and other politicians, whom I hope that Excellencies and Lok Chum Teav will not allow any illegal weapons to be covered under your immunities.
- 5) While gathering all illegal weapons and ammunition along with the movement of the people to submit their weapons and ammunitions to the state, competent authorities at all levels should increase their cooperation to safeguard the security for the people at any places from the urban to the rural areas, strictly cracking down stealing, armed robbery, and kidnapping for ransom. Try all efforts for the people to live without fear created by criminals. The strengthening of the local police posts, the discipline and morality of the police forces who carry out their duties along the roads and bridges are necessary measures to maintain the security for the people.
- 6) Firmly control the confiscated weapons and ammunition, prohibit the exchange of old weapons for new ones, and bringing them out for use. The aim of the Royal Government is to destroy those illegal weapons.

Any confiscated illegal weapon can be held only if there is a proposal from the Ministry of Defense or Ministry of Interior in accordance with the requirement of national defense and security only.

- 7) The Ministry of Defense, Ministry of Interior, the Commander-in-Chief of the Royal Cambodian Armed Forces, the Director General of National Police, the Commander of the Military Police must issue orders for checking within the units and submitting anti-personnel mines to the Cambodian Mines Action Center (MAC) to be destroyed, so that all Cambodian Armed Forces will have no more to keep or use. This is the implementation of Ottawa Treaty on Mines, and the new law which was just adopted by the National Assembly on the non-use of anti-personnel mines. In the meantime, we must strengthen the management of explosives, which are allowed for production and public services, and try to avoid using these explosives as bombs to kill the people or to destroy buildings, bridges, railways, or fishes in water, etc...

The strengthening of security, social order, the abolition of keeping weapons and carrying of illegal weapons, and the destruction of weapons are not only part of the security issue, but also part of the political reform, and the reforms of public administration, justice and also the armed forces. This is to carry out a long-term vision for the nation which has great influence to the souci-economic development and the enhancing of social morality and the respect of human rights. The destruction of weapons is in fact a loss of budget, but it has contributed to the reduction of crimes and violence caused by lethal weapons... Weapons will only be used by competent armed forces

*(Continued on page 6)*

*(Continued from page 5)*

and will be kept at the units, and not be allowed to be taken out as in the past...

We have decided to reduce the number of army and police, but we have not thought about the modernization of weaponry for our armed forces, but instead we are destroying weapons.

We believe in our policy and the policies of our neighbors that there will be no use of force to solve the conflicts between states, and we have even more trust on this policy when we become official member of ASEAN.

The experience of developed countries, which still have violence such as bomb explosions in London, England and the shootings which killed scores of school- children in the United States recently have clearly shown that the keeping of many weapons in an anarchic way are not good at all.

Especially for our country which is

*(Continued from page 3)*

my profound gratitude to Their Majesties, Preah Bath Samdech Preah Norodom Sihanouk, King of Cambodia, and the Queen for their august support for the government's efforts to join ASEAN as a full member.

In concluding, let me address a few words to my compatriots, to my colleagues in the Royal Government and to all civil servants working in various government ministries and agencies as follows... We must show our friends in ASEAN and beyond that you are not disappointing them, that we have adequate ability and will to fulfil our obligations... I know and trust that we can do it." ■

*(Continued from page 1)*

ciency and anemia.

For Cambodia, the Constitution clearly stipulates the attention paid to protect the children's rights, which are stated in the Convention on Children, in particular, the right to live, the right to education... The state and the society are paying attention to assist women, in particular, women without support in the rural area, so that they can find jobs, have access to health care, send children to school and enjoy an appropriate living standard. However, more than two decades of war which is just ceased ( and I believe that this kind of civil war is ended for ever) has left behind many tragic legacies, such as handicaps, widows and orphans who are lacking nutrition... During the first mandate, the Royal Government actively participated and supported every program related to food security and nutrition both on national and international arena by sending senior technical officers to attend the International Conference on Nutrition and the World Food Summit etc.

Later on, there were researches and studies in the countries, such as the National Plan of Actions on Nutrition (NPAN), Cambodia's Nutrition Investment Plan (CNIP), the Sub-Decree on the establishment of the National Council for Nutrition, report on the basic survey in Cambodia in 1998.

In the second mandate, the Royal Economic Government has continued the policy to ensure the food security and nutrition, to alleviate the poverty with the priority given to the organization and rehabilitation of infrastructure, to promote the domestic products, especially, to upgrade and expand the irrigation system and the cultivated area, to reform the land title

and to establish an effective system of micro-finance for providing credit to farmers etc. The Royal Government has established the Ministry of Water Resource and has sought for a large amount of credit for the rehabilitation and development of the irrigation system.

In the last several years, we are proud that we can improve the rice production from being insufficient for the nation to having a surplus for export (between 1995 and 1998 the surplus of rice amounted to about 420,000 tons).

In this respect, we should arrange for the purchase of food surplus from the people, thus providing incentive to producers, or we should ask other organizations to help buy the domestic products, which can be used to support the work-for-food program. On the other hand, we should pay attention to the natural disaster, which can destroy the plantation. For the nutrition, based on the report of UNICEF, Cambodian children suffering from lack of nutrition accounted for about 50 percent, which caused the children's weight and height inconsistent with their age. Furthermore, women in the rural area are lacking nutrition, which should also be taken into consideration. Lack of iodine, vitamin A and iron is also a particular concern.

... I am very interested in and fully support for the goals which will be raised during the seminar, such as:

- define the food security and nutrition and the relationship of the two with the people in order to review the current status of the food security and lack of nutrition,
- discuss the management and key strategies for improvement

*(Continued on page 7)*

(Continued from page 6)

in the food security and for alleviation of women's and children's lack of nutrition,

- discuss the coordination, participation and responsibilities of the concerned parties,

Later on in this seminar, Excellencies, representatives from four big ministries: Ministry of Rural Development, Ministry of Planning, Ministry of Agriculture, Forestry and Fishery and Ministry of Water Resource will give detailed presentations on food security and nutrition according to their respective expertise.

The seminar will also arrange group discussion in three groups to exchange views on food security and nutrition at the national, community and family level.

Now let me ask the seminar as a whole please pay attention to this important discussion:

- 1 the data, which are used for this study and analysis, should be from credible sources in order to avoid discrepancies in the interpretation.
- 2 all recommended key strategies should take into account the possibility and means of implementation, including both material and human resources.
- 3 high appreciation should be given to education (education through pagodas, various organizations or through various systems of media, video and newspapers etc.)

I am pleased to wait for the outcome of this seminar, the solutions and proposals, to be submitted to the Royal Government for approval.

Finally, I would like to extend to all of you, Excellencies, Honorable Ambassadors, representatives of international organiza-

tions, distinguished national and international guests and all student representatives, my best wishes for the seminar to be fruitful and the five gems of Buddhist wishes, and my own wishes for development and happiness.

#### **Closing Remarks 21 April, 1999**

"... I would like to take this opportunity at the end of this important two days' workshop to thank my colleagues in CARD, the Technical Ministries concerned and the Provincial Governors for the organization of this meeting, which was closely co-organized with a number of UN Agencies.

In this respect I would like to give my tribute to the World Food Programme, UNICEF, WHO, UNDP and FAO for their contributions. We know clearly that all of you are concerned with the welfare and progress of Cambodia, towards a better future.

The workshop has addressed very crucial issues for the Government of Cambodia: Food Security and Malnutrition. Food security has been defined as a situation "when all people, at all times, have physical and economic access to sufficient, safe., and nutritious food, and to meet their dietary needs and food preferences for an active and healthy life."

Despite a surplus in rice production over the last years, a majority of the Cambodian people still faces food insecurity and malnutrition. Recent studies revealed that nearly four out of ten Cambodians are living below the poverty line and malnutrition under children and women is still high.

Main nutrition problems are low weight and stunting for children, lack of vitamin A, iron and iodine. The causes of Food Insecurity and Malnutrition are mani-

fold. At the end of this seminar I will only mention the most important which are: poverty and lack of purchasing power, rapid population growth, transport and market constraints, insecure land titles, low basic education, lack of adequate health services and proper sanitation.

During my opening, speech of this seminar I addressed some important issues which are related to food insecurity on which I would like to come back at the end of this seminar.

The first aspect I discussed was the issue of land policy and land titling. We can not discuss the issues of food security without addressing the issue of land security. Without a secure land title people will not pay for investments to improve the quality of their land like fertilizers and thus increase production.

Therefore, progress in land reform and land policy is needed to give the people secure access to land. Recently a lot of people lost their land because they sold it or they were forced to give it to people with more power.

One of our tasks is to give the land back to the people, to clear land from mines, to provide basic infrastructures and to assist the people in land disputes. Another issue I addressed during the opening speech is the intensification of the agricultural production.

The increase in the population will lead to a shortage of land to cultivate and a shortage in food production. Therefore we have to change from an extensive type of cultivation towards a more intensive type in order to increase the feeding capacity on the same land area. This has to

(Continued on page 8)

(Continued from page 7)

go hand in hand with a diversification of the agriculture. In places where there is no water available, we have to look for other crops than rice which need less water and give higher yields. Besides the production of vegetables and other food crops we have to be stimulated to improve the household nutritional status and raise the income of the farmers. Our King Norodom Sihanouk has many times expressed his concerns about the poor living conditions of the rural people. His main concerns are the problem of insecure land titles and the poverty of the people.

Regarding this last concern, he has recently made an annotation which I would like to repeat here as an important observations: (translated from French) *The biggest problem to solve is that extreme poverty of a big number of our farmers who don't have enough rice to survive. We have to supply their areas with water wells, water reservoirs and small-scale irrigation.*

Indeed, water is the lifeblood of agriculture, so essential for the prosperity of the majority of the population in the countryside. Therefore, in order to increase and diversify the agricultural production investments by the state are needed to develop the infrastructure and the irrigation systems. However assistance from the international community and private investments are also needed. As we recently discussed in the CG-meeting in Tokyo, our main objective is to achieve development with equity and social justice through sustainable economic growth, human resources development and sustainable use of the country's natural resources. Priority is given to reduce poverty and improve the welfare of the people through programs to increase agricultural production

and rural development. In the policy platform of our coalition government we give high priority to the development of the agricultural, as well as health and education sectors. The Development of the agricultural sector will ensure food security and achieve growth in other sectors. The supply of raw materials to industries will increase the possibilities for exportation and create jobs for people. The projected investment for the coming 3 years in the agricultural sector is about US\$ 150 million (Public Investment Programme, 1999-2001). The role of the private sector will be enhanced now that the conditions for investments have been improved.

... Finally, I would like to express to all of you, Excellencies, Honorable Ambassadors representatives of international organizations, distinguished national and international guests and student representatives, my words of thanks for the participation in this seminar and for the solutions and proposals you have generated to overcome the problems of food insecurity and malnutrition in Cambodia. The Royal Government of Cambodia will take these recommendations into account for the development of policies related to food security and malnutrition. I would like to take this opportunity to thank to the Deputy Executive Director General of the World Food Programme for the yesterday meeting with me who decided to continue providing, assistance to Cambodia and accept my proposal by purchasing rice from the surplus rice production areas in order to assist to the deficit areas and this is the great contribution to the development of Cambodia. I wish to all of you,... in this Khmer New Year to enjoy a good health and prosperity for yourselves and for the development of Cambodia. ■

Letter of Samdech Prime Minister Hun Sen to the Secretary General of the United Nations Kofi Annan on April 28, 1999

His Excellency Kofi A. Annan  
Secretary General of the United Nations, New York, UN Plaza

Excellency,

Further to our previous communication on the issue of bringing the Khmer Rouge leaders to justice, I have the honor to bring to your kind attention the present position of the Royal Government of Cambodia on issue as follows:

1. The trial of Ta Mok, the notorious Khmer Rouge leader, is to be conducted by the existing national court of law of the Kingdom of Cambodia with the assistance from foreign countries, in which foreign judges and prosecutors would be allowed to take part fully, thereby, ensuring that trial meet international standards of due process.
2. The possibility of further indictment and prosecution of other Khmer Rouge leaders is rested in the sole competence of the court to decide.
3. To make it possible for the foreign judges and prosecutors to take part in the judicial proceeding against the Khmer Rouge leaders, a draft law is going to be submitted to the National Assembly of Cambodia for enactment. After then, both national and foreign judges and prosecutors will conduct together an investigation and prosecution against the offenders in accordance with an independent prerogative of the judicial branch. The Royal Government of Cambodia will not influence or interfere into the legal proceeding of the court.

Please accept, Excellency, the renewed assurances of my highest consideration. ■