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28 March 2005 (Unofficial Translation of Selected Comments)
New Academic Year at the Royal School of Administration



31 March 05 - Samdech Hun Sen welcomes HE Lee Hsien Loong, Prime Minister of the Republic of Singapore, at the Council of Ministers during a one-day visit to the Kingdom of Cambodia (Photo: Virakmuny)

In addition to the prepared text, Samdech Hun Sen made additional comments on the new developments in the Cambodian politics and clarified the Cambodian position on issue of Myanmar's chairmanship of ASEAN as of next year. Following are the selected comments.

... As usual when I am here I always talk about something that is not written in the prepared text and as I am an honorary professor to the Royal School of Administration, I may wish to take the last day of your study to give my advice. As is said in the prepared text works begin and finish by human beings, and I am sure you understand that our officials have clearly seen their roles for having their training in the school. No matter how good a plan you have, take for instance the rectangular plat-

form, it would not be successfully implemented if we were to have no real human being to get it implemented. It is in this regard that we have been talking about human resources to foresee efficiency for the achievement of real human resources.

... Could Angkor be built without real humans and they were nothing but unimaginably capable human resources. Let's imagine that there were no machines, no topographical instruments, and it was built to our knowledge on no structural foundation. In addition to this, pieces of stones were mounted on top of each other with assembly of sculptures, some of them one arm is in one piece of stone, while the whole body is in another. Some stones might have been, according to some studies,
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09 March 2005 (Unofficial Translation of Selected Comments)
Presentation of Diplomas to the ITM Graduates

In addition to the prepared text in Khmer, Samdech Hun Sen made the following comments on issue of suspension from duties of judges and prosecutors in relation of incidences of failure to prosecute and/or to give underrated sentencing of prison term of arrested thieves/robbers and/or convicted.

... I have in the past few days launched a campaign in relation to the quelling of robbers and thieves together with rogue legal officials. I am sure our people -- inside and outside the country -- are waiting

for the progress of what I have promised to do. First of all I am grateful to those who have sent me letters of support, the Institute of Technology and Management also included, which illustrate positive concern on the matters.

... Supports sounded out by people at large, government employees, students, monks, have been a great encouragement not only for the Royal Government but also a source of inspiration for well-disciplined officials in the court institutions who would
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03 March 2005 (Unofficial Translation of Selected Comments)
Taking Actions aimed at Speeding Up Judicial Reforms

Along with the prepared text, at the 26th Health Conference, Samdech Hun Sen made the following comments citing issues of new epidemics and recent increase of crimes in face of misconduct and illegal release of convicts by some rogue legal officials.

... I have a great pleasure to take this opportune moment to talk to the whole people of Cambodia on the health issue. We have to fight and fight hard with hidden viruses take for instance those bringing about HIV/AIDS, SARS and bird flu. Though I have talked in the beginning a lot about health problem per se, but I thought there was another virus or kind of health that our society has been prone to infections. It is robbery. That has a severe repercussion on the people's mental health

because the robbery and theft is on the increase.

... In just a few days, especially yesterday and the day before yesterday, I ordered an immediate arrest of a group of armed robbers who, after being caught, have been free from prosecuted by certain judges and/or prosecutors. This is very dangerous for our society and I am sure the level of its threat could be more serious than that of HIV/AIDS. The Royal Government of Cambodia, if I may inform you today, has been paying serious attention to providing peace and security for the people of Cambodia.
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pre-carved in Phnom Kulen and some in Svay Loeu. What could we conclude from this? This requires unimaginable human resources, as leaders and as implementers. They all have to work in a coherent manner which in the end brought about a huge temple – Angkor Wat.

... It is required also these days to have a coherent pace from one part to another, from one power to another and from one point to another. Take for instance we have reforms in the public administration, the armed forces, and the legal institutions. The three have to go together. It is inapplicable to conduct reforms in the public administration and the armed forces while leaving the legal institutions unattended. Actions, as you can see, start from human being. Therefore, it is important to be clear that one's action has to consider the people's interest on top of anything else. We all are in debt to the people, and are the servant of the people, not their owners.

... It is in this respect all reform efforts aimed at serving human beings or the people, or to get people as our target actions. In Khmer we have a saying that goes “the grains that bend down are fully cropped, while those stand straight are empty.” You may understand that when our actions are polite and friendly, you will have reciprocation actions in kind. As long as rebellious and unfriendly actions are taken, they would not be credited and appreciated by the people at all, like the empty grain. It is a need to understand that people respected you because of actions bound by duty rather than by anything else.

... In addition to all the above I may want to recommend that

you try and perform your duty as an official of two legs and not that of ten legs – four table legs, four chair legs and two human legs. The ten-legs officials normally complain that they do not have work to do because so and so do not grant them access to the works. They all work by reports, but they never probe for them. If we talk about efficiency these officials, if not because of political prices, should be put together in one place and send all to the Royal School of Administration for re-training. Sometimes they also create exaggerated information basing their reports on so and so papers. I also read the papers. They would not stand a chance to get close to me, and I would keep the money for building roads and bridges and water canals rather than paying them. But this is what we have to pay in the period of political reconciliation.

... What I have mentioned just now doesn't refer to any particular officials but in general, whereas some of the CPP officials, who are very old and cannot lead so and so ministries, have been appointed my advisors, and they became officials waiting for works to come home rather than going after them. I wish younger generation not to follow this example. The Royal School of Administration is by all means the top educational institution, and those who finish the school are senior officials. In summary, the two-legs and the ten-legs officials yield different level of efficiency, whereas the latter would be inefficient and problem-making, from whom you should be keeping away.

... From my experience as a political leader for 35 years, what I could say is that when you meet one person, there might be a chance that s/he

talks to you about someone, and you should know that you might be a subject of ill-talking by same person in his/her conversation with someone else as well. The best strategy for such a person is that you listen and not to talk to. And I notice that it is the Khmer nature as well to talk ill behind someone's back. When I finish my political mission, I would go back to writing an addendum on the Khmer nature, because I notice that Dr. Bun Chammol has not been complete on this matter.

... One other factor that you should pay attention to is that no works on earth that go as planned without being affected by unpredictable circumstances. Cambodia suffered flood in 2000 and 2001, and drought in 2002, while drought in 2004 has prolonged to this time of the year 2005. This matter requires competence of the officials at all levels being prepared to resolve unpredictable circumstances. In my teaching course as a lecturer on leadership methodology for 21 years starting in 1984, I advise that first of all a master plan is essential, and that is why we have maintained that the Ministry of Plan is to be part of the Royal Government. Without a plan, a good one, we could be strayed. With a good plan on the other hand we have scored about 30% of our achievements.

... As in recent development, on the radio's cultural program I heard people blamed Mr. Ruom Rit and some even said Ruom Rit has in past apologized Samdech Hun Sen for his writing style and promised that he would no longer write anything anymore because of his absent mindedness. In the wedding party of my daughter, Samdech Krom

Preah Norodom Ranaridh said a few times “why on earth does Ruom Rit attack me? I and Samdech Hun Sen collaborated with one another for HM the King Sihamoni to take the throne, but I was on the contrary blamed for wanting it for myself.”

... Let's come back to planning. The rectangular strategy is indeed a roadmap for our actions and from now on we will have to focus on organization and implementation taking into consideration various factors together – human resources, finance, creativity, etc. As long as the implementation stage starts we aimed for another 30%, where both the planning and implementing stages make 60% in the process of getting things done. What about the remaining 40%? I call that the ability to address inevitably unpredictable circumstances. This is similar to the ways in which one would deal to resolve family related matters – sickness, accident, etc. This is a period of testing of competence of our officials.

... I would reiterate what I used to say about the Khmer term for “responsibility,” which literally means take both “wrong” and “right” for one's own action. On top of that one should not take only the “right” while pushing the “wrong” to someone else. Officials who have not been responsible in their works always do two things – first, blame those under his leadership and second, report problem to senior level officials, and I think this sort of officials should not be allowed to continue to be in responsible position. As for good officials they always take matter as their own responsibility, while taking all the shortcomings as their own.

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... As for today we have an official visit of the General Secretary of the Communist Party of Vietnam in the Kingdom of Cambodia. After this visit, on April 1, Cambodia will host another official visit of the Prime Minister of Singapore, followed by the April-7 visit of the Prime Minister of Myanmar. From this podium I wish to declare to the public the position taken by the Kingdom of Cambodia on issue of Myanmar being or not being chair country of ASEAN in 2006. There have been rumors, and some press has taken it very far, that Cambodia would join the campaign to denied Myanmar's turn as chairmanship of ASEAN for the summit in 2006 after the summit in Kuala Lumpur. On the contrary, Cambodian respects Myanmar's rights to deal with its internal affairs and Myanmar's chairmanship will have to proceed according to the alphabetical turn. No one could strip Myanmar off its rights as a member with equal status and right of ASEAN. Cambodia does not and will not join in any actions which would bring about a split in ASEAN.

... In the ASEM forum, Cambodia also took a definite stand that if ten countries from Europe were to join ASEM, three countries of ASEAN – Cambodia, Laos and Myanmar, would have to be admitted as well. Cambodia then sacrifices its chance to sit and wait for Myanmar so as to show solidarity of countries in ASEAN. A wrong move would result in a wrong action. Cambodia was once not admitted as a new member of ASEAN in Hanoi. Some member countries reasoned that Cambodia did not have the Senate, which was indeed a pretext for keeping Cambodia out of the group, and interfering into the Cambodian inter-

nal affairs. I am sure all ASEAN heads of states and Governments, as well as the General Secretary of ASEAN remember that very well. It was in 1997, when Myanmar and Laos were admitted into ASEAN, leaving Cambodia outside the group. In 1998, I led a delegation of the then newly created Government to Hanoi in the hope that Cambodia would be admitted, but were only to be denied because of the non-existence of the Senate.

... As Cambodia now is of equal status and right with other member countries, Cambodia is standing firm on the above position with regard to Myanmar. Who could foresee, it was Cambodia yesterday, it is Myanmar today, who will it be next time? If an ASEAN member could not be allowed to chair ASEAN, what else appears relevant? This move would bring about outside interferences in the affairs of ASEAN. I will sound this out to the Vietnamese leaders today's afternoon since HE the General Secretary of the Communist Party of Vietnam is here for an official visit, and also will inform HE Prime Minister of Singapore upon his visit as well as to the Thai foreign Minister who will be here for a visit as well.

... The fact that I have taken this position does not mean that I am against any countries in particular. I present the Royal Government's policy on this matter because there have been rumors that Cambodia would stay on the side of countries who campaign for denial of the Myanmar's chairmanship of ASEAN. Let Myanmar deal with its internal affairs by itself, and let's not contradict that with the ASEAN summit that is going to take place in Yangon. If the

chairmanship of ASEAN is conditional on the release of so and so, same things would be applied with regards to other member countries.

... Talking about ending war, Cambodia is proud that it not only put an end to the war but also destroyed 12,000 rifles of all sorts. Fifteen of Cambodians will be sent to Sudan as observers, later another 135, and we are prepared to send 1000 de-miners to train and to clear mines, which is indeed the humanitarian mission. What I have said today is a message to the first Summit of East Asia in Kuala Lumpur. Cambodia would, if there will be a consensus, welcome the participation by India, Australia and New Zealand in a forum which turns from ASEAN + 3 to East Asia. Cambodia's position is flexible in this matter because it is a matter of principle. ■

The Prepared Text



Today I am most honored and pleased to join you all in this joint events, in the presenting of the degrees and diplomas to the new graduates of the "Rectangular Strategy" Senior Officials Class, the Middle and Senior Officials Trainees Class 2004 and in the opening of the new academic year for the Senior Officials and Civil Servants Class of the Royal School of Administration, as well as in the inaugurating of the new building which was renovated and equipped with IT with the support from the Republic of France...

Today, the Rectangular Strategy Senior Officials Class and the Senior and Middle Officials Class 2004-2005 have completed, while we are commencing the training for new Class of Senior Officials and Civil Servants. Thus, all you have witnessed today are the hard works that bring about

the success in life. The success of the alumnus should serve as the model for new students to follow. I would advise you all to remember that "knowledge is the long-lasting assets that nobody can steal from you!"

Another important thing that we cannot overlook is the support from our development partners in the education sector. The Republic of France has provided considerable assistance to our education particularly to the Royal School of Administration. In this auspicious occasion, on behalf of the Royal Government and the People of Cambodia, I wish to convey, through H.E. Ambassador Yvon Roé d'Albert, our profound gratitude to the government and people of France for the valuable contribution to the Civil Service Modernization Supporting Project in Cambodia, and especially for the assistance in renovating and equipping a new building of the Royal School of Administration with the information and communication technology, which serves the training of Cambodian civil servants at the School.

The Royal Government is aware and fully committed to the development and strengthening human resource through a long term development strategy of poverty reduction, which started from building the foundation for human resource development. As a result, this will ensure sustainable development and equitable distribution of the fruits from economic growth. Human resource development is our utmost priority as international experiences clearly show "development starts from and ends up with human resource".

In this sense, we have exerted our utmost efforts in developing our human resource and

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physical infrastructure, and are determined to reforming the public finance system, demobilization and legal and judicial system, increasing revenue for spending on rural development, agriculture and health, through cooperation with international community and implementation of liberalization policy whereas the private sector becomes a key development partner.

Thus, to improve the quality of education and effectiveness in human resource development, may I take this opportunity to share some views and visions, as follows:

1. Efficient education has to be linked to human resource development

In this sense, education at all level requires the development of human resources in terms of technical capacity and high professionalism including creativity which is the most important factor to ensure competitive advantage of the nation and to play a key role in guaranteeing the sustainability of the nation development. This factor is even more significant when our country is active in economic integration into the region and international community, in particular while becoming a member of WTO.

2. Education has to be linked to promoting progress in general technology and science and information technology

Indeed, technology, science and information technology (IT) are the foundation for technical knowledge and development. Human resources that we requires in this era of globalization are the resources which have the capacity in technology, science and IT that is a main prerequisite for the

development of our country overcoming the economic backwardness and poverty. In this regards, the most essential aspect is to focus our attention to education and training in technology, science and IT in order to promote productivity and technical knowledge.

3. Enhancement of capacity to be competitive in market economy

Presently, the academic curriculums that ensure the provision of competitive capacity for the market economy are the topic that needs to be taken with utmost attention. As I already highlighted, our country is preparing itself to compete in world market economy through a decision to integrate itself into regional economy, into international community and into WTO. Thus, if our human capitals have no capacity to effectively compete then we will face challenges. In order to be ready to face this problem, our schooling or education has to pay more vigorous attention to educate and train our human resources to have the capacity and quality, and awareness on market economy competition in terms of attracting job and productivity.

4. Nurturing culture in reading, researches and publications

All the academic books are the stock of knowledge. Books are the good teacher in this world. Without books there is no hope for development. Learning or researching from reading the books are the education outside schools under natural environment that require no financial resources and specific timing. Books that are valuable for development are those books that have knowledge in scien-

tific, technical, philosophical, economic, political and cultural research. In order to provide good resources and knowledge for development, all educational institutions have to promote the culture in reading, research and publications.

5. Lifelong learning cycle

Indeed, human life is a learning life. Always learning! Without education there would not be prosperity. Lifelong learning cycle is the most progressive culture for national development, because knowledge that we have received at this time is only appropriate for the presence, but it may not be so relevant in the future when the science and technology will constantly progress further. Hence, we have to consider that the research and education is a constant process and require polishing and regular knowledge training and know-how to catch up with science and technology development that is constantly progressing beyond our expectation.

6. Preserving cultural spirit and national language

I believe that the preservation of national spirit and culture is a necessity for us all. Our nation will not exist if the national spirit and identity disappeared. National spirit and identity are embedded in our culture, civilization, tradition, customs, history, literature, language, etc. If our students do not well understand all those, we cannot bring our country to the stage of a developed country. Taking this opportunity, I would like to appeal to all academic institutions to foster and promote the lectures on culture, civilization, morality, philosophy, history, Khmer Studies and

Khmer language in order to cement the foundation for our national spirit and identity for our students, along with scientific, technical and language knowledge.

7. Education of morality and psychological virtue

We all recognize that the impact of globalization and evolution of modern materialism might affect psychological virtue of our students, if we do not have appropriate measures or put effort to lift up the education on morality and psychological virtues. Therefore along with the training on general knowledge and scientific techniques or modern technology, we are required to promote classes on the morality and psychological virtue. Our nation is in full peace and stability, but the true peace and stability is the psychological peace and stability which is the product of education on peace and stability. The promotion of training on morality and virtue is to build peace, prosperity, fraternity, harmonization and happiness for our nation and people.

8. Imagination is more valued and important than advanced knowledge

My last proposal is “*promoting innovation and invention*”. Our country used to be a famed civilized country in the past. The civilization is the produce of education, promotion, invention, innovation and knowledge. Our ancestors were the great architects and developers. The temples, scriptures, books, philosophy, literature, languages, music, songs, poems, artistic decoration and other countless items are left up to now. These are the evidences proving the produce of intelligence, innovation and invention. If they do not have those

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The implementation of the win-win policy that I put out aimed at putting an end to Cambodia's protracted war has finally brought Cambodia peace and security.

... Actions have been taken to prevent our people's security from being jeopardized by robberies and thefts. We have brought about numerous successes. But the achievement today is being discredited by a certain number of individuals in the court of justice – judges and/or prosecutors – by whose irresponsible actions more of our people's blood and sufferings would continue, and property would be robbed. Many Cambodians are left with broken families, but justice for them was never provided. What I am talking about here is that when justice is yet to be done, the convicts have been released from custody and they get back to committing offenses again and again. This is why I said our society is facing another serious disease – which is as dangerous as HIV/AIDS or hidden mines.

... Our people may understand that we have three powers – the Senate and the National Assembly or the legislative, the Royal Government or the executive and the power of the court. In this situation, the Royal Government has taken necessary and strictest measures within its competence, after which all cases were sent

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properties, we would not see those civilization and cultural achievements. Please keep in mind that *"imagination bears higher value and more important than knowledge"*, because if have only knowledge without *invention* and *morality*, the knowledge is just the jewel that is for decoration without an essence. ■

to the court. When I say the court I do not mean every one but some individuals who infected the system. As of now HE Sok An is conducting an urgent meeting at the Council of Ministers to set out measures to deal with this matter. According to HE Deputy Prime Minister Sar Kheng and HRH Samdech Krom Khun Sereivudh, in 2004 and early 2005 alone, 300 convicted robbers have been set free, let alone in Phnom Penh, 274 cases of convicted armed robberies have been discharged.

... What have we done now? I have ordered the re-arrest of the convicts and five of them were arrested. They all confessed that they bribed the system so as to get out of the prison. This is the matter that we should pursue to the Municipal Court of Phnom Penh. How do they do it? For one, it is a failure to prosecute, and two, it is an inappropriate decision made on how serious the crime is to press charge. What we will do next is to arrest those criminals, whether they are judges or prosecutors, who have acted in collusion with those offenders. I have instructed an inquiry to be made with the Constitutional Council whether and how they could be arrested. I would clarify that we arrest individuals for the offense they have committed, and not the good judges.

... According to the Constitution, no one is above the law and every Cambodian is equal before the law. So punishment can also be carried out for everyone, the Prime Minister is also included, if he is caught guilty... [Samdech Prime Minister is citing articles related in the civil codes]. The conviction discharge must be sent to the plaintiff within seven days at the latest,

and on condition that the plaintiff disagrees, he/she could therefore appeal further, even to the Minister of Justice, starting from the time he/she receives the sentence. What I want to clarify here is that if a conviction discharge is to be applied, the prosecutor must be immediately informed while the offenders are still in detention. What we have found here is the fact that neither the prosecutor nor the plaintiff is informed of the move.

... Because of this the robbers were set free and returned to robbery and the case could be repeated several times. Because there has been some kind of collusion that the Article 90 of the Code of Civil Procedure was not appropriately applied, prosecution has never been decided. I find this unacceptable and we have to conduct serious investigation into all hundreds of them, 274 cases for Phnom Penh alone. I received a letter from the Minister of Justice with a commitment that a strict pursuance will be conducted into the 274 cases, and will decide on how many of them will have to be invoked. These are what we need to do in terms of prosecution avoidance move.

... Now I am ordering the re-investigation into seven cases, one of which has passed away. Five of them have been re-arrested, and one is under search and arrest warrant. Any action that will be taken will not be against the court as a whole but individual judge and/or prosecutor who have committed wrongdoings. This should not be taken as a violation of the court's independence. Actions will be taken on the basis of law and according to the Constitution. Those rogue legal officials must be reprimanded.

... Concerning the inappropriate decision made on how serious the crime is to press charge, [citing Article 6] ... sentence would be made to give a fifteen to twenty years of imprisonment or life imprisonment. It is stipulated in the law as such that a minimum of five year prison term should be the decision to start with, while the decision on the seriousness of the crime could not be less than this minimum. As far as the case is concerned, the term for imprisonment spans between fifteen and twenty years or life imprisonment.

... According to the report filed and sent to me by the Co-Ministers for Interior on the problem of convicted robbers, thieves that were set free by 08 Municipal and Provincial Courts, there are in all 369 cases, 203 were robbers and 166 were thieves. Among them, 108 served only one year term of imprisonment, and 261 served less than one year term of imprisonment. According to the law, the robbers must be sentenced to the minimum five year term of imprisonment. As cited above, these chaps have been sentenced to only one or less than one year imprisonment. Take for instance, the case of Keo Sophat, he was arrested on April 29, 2003 on robbery charge, and he was set free on August 28 of the same year. The case of Kim Chharn was arrested on February 01, 2003 also on robbery charge, and he was set free on August 09, 2003. What on earth could the crime of a minimum of five year imprisonment could be reduced to just four months.

... These are serious issues. The Ministry of Justice will review all trouble cases, and will decide on who will need to be re-arrested. We also have the UNTAC law to depend on, especially the Article 66 on

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not want themselves meddled with the shameful act by some rogue officials.

... Before I talk more about the issue, maybe some of you notice that I have not accepted the offer of flowers, which I am sure I might have astonished some of our people. Let me explain this matter. I recalled what I said on December 28, 2004 that I would not accept the flowers anymore when I arrive at a ceremonial site. It is indeed easy to place a flower wreath around my neck but in order to have that happened it was not an easy procedure at all. The price for the flower is not expensive, but we have to have my bodyguard unit to send in expert to inspect and check for poisonous element, etc. The offering of flowers in our tradition must have a few young women in traditional costumes which take quite an amount of time for having them on. So I think we should leave this part and proceed directly to the schedule, which I am sure will ease the work of MC. This is what I am recommending the protocol officials to consider applying for me personally and not for everyone.

... With the efforts made by the legal and judicial reform council, the Supreme Council of Magistracy, especially its Discipline Council of the Council of Magistracy, the Supreme Court has come up with a report which has at this moment been sent to me. As of March 07, 71 cases have been reviewed. The written report of the Discipline Council went clearly that among the 71 cases of releases, only five accused have been legally set free, while 66 others were released illegally. A judge, I do not have to mention his name here, released 14 accused without prosecutions in his capacity as

both investigating judge and the trial judge/court. I am sure this is an unacceptable standard.

... When someone is killed by a thief or robber, it is indeed a suffering but it is a greater suffering when the robber, illegally released by the court, returned to the victim's family with further threats. Some of the victims were motor taxi drivers and such crimes committed on them, who might have borrowed money from various sources for purchasing a motorcycle to operate as a motor taxi for their daily life support. When he got killed or maimed by crimes, who would work to pay debts, and feed their children, etc. This is a tragedy for our nation. Our people in the countryside who were robbed of their cows and other small properties, and yet they have to shut up when they see that the thieves are back.

... This is an issue that we have to fight back to give a rapid and positive response to our people. As support increases some people who demand reform of the legal and judicial system, have on the contrary blamed Hun Sen for embracing power in his own hands. Let me tell you that I have not taken any harsh measures like leaders in some countries whose legal and judicial system have not been called upon. All we do here is to re-arrest them for a proper trial. To measure this or that person is wrong or right, one could not just say it. One must apply the law.

... Before people in the city dare not travel to their birthplaces in the countryside because of the Khmer Rouge threats and impassable infrastructure, and as of now the two factors have been eventually removed in the most

places. But robbery and theft have now replaced the two factors and I think with collaborative efforts we will be able to quell the problem and provide our people with both physical and spiritual comforts. We also have to take into consideration of the sacrifice of the armed forces, especially the police and military police in charge of public order and security.

... We have taken actions for some days now and we will not have an "about turn" and I am glad to hear forthcoming measures to be taken further as proclaimed by the Supreme Council of Magistracy. We will punish those committed mistakes without reservations and if the cases are serious we will bring them to court. I mean if the judges/prosecutors misbehaved in their capacity, aside from being penalized, they would be sent for the court's decision on the seriousness of the crimes they have committed.

... I am not in the position to say now who they are, but since March 07, I have ordered for two things to be implemented immediately – first, find out the guilty persons and re-arrest them, and second, those judges and/or prosecutors to be penalized. According to the UNTAC (United Nations Transitional Authority) law in existence, those who collude will be charged equally as those who act.

... We will continue to march forward. The Royal Government has put out four pillars of reform as the backbone of its political platform – the fight against corruption, the reform of public administration, the legal and judicial reform, and the reform of the armed forces. The Royal Government could not take ac-

tions on some works if the Supreme Council of Magistracy (SCM) does not make a move, especially the discipline council because we are talking about penalizing rogue legal officials. Deciding on penalty is within the competent of the SCM and the General Prosecutor.

... The police commissar Heng Peo reported to me of a robbery of a gold shop. Thieves does not listen to the Prime Minister, they are enemies to the Royal Government, the people and the armed forces. But on the contrary, thieves and robbers may sometimes befriend human rights groups. What usually happens was that some human rights groups come in protection of the thieves/robbers. Now the water is clear and receding, while fishes are in sight and in catching range. If we find out that there has been a corrupted system which relates between judges, prosecutors, human rights and thieves/robbers, we will have to get all of them to justice.

... As in the case of establishing illegal armed forces in Cambodia, I warn they may not get away with this and now the case has been sent to the military court. From Koh Sotin district of Kompong Cham province, I instructed the Ministry of Interior to closely follow the matter and to take necessary measures to get the case done and sent to court. It is amazing to see that cases of some kinds have been left overdue without prosecutions, but cases of thieves have been processed in a remarkably rapid speed. Some people cited problems of lacking courtroom to proceed with those cases, and in the national conference on reforms I have suggested they hire a hotel or a part of a hotel and work it as a hearing

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 count of acting in collusion. I wish to declare from today to launch the campaign to fight against thefts and those acting in collusion with them. The Ministry of Justice has proposed to the Supreme Council of Magistracy to set up an investigation commission on count of irregular release on September 16, 2004. The Royal Government sees that it is important to place the prosecutor under the control of the Ministry of Justice and the General Prosecutor under the Court of Appeal. If we fail to do so, we would continue to face with same problem.

... If the prosecutor fails to take legal action, the Ministry of Justice will take the case for inspection. The prosecutor in this case will be summoned for immediate investigation. We would not have similar chance for the judge as only the Supreme Council of Judges is empowered to do so. But as long as we are committed to see this matter solved, we have to find a way to deal with both the rogue judges and prosecutors or they would take law into their own hands without giving a fraction of care and thought to the livelihood of the people. This would damage the whole image of the country, while efforts have been made by the legislation – the Senate, the National Assembly, and the executive power – the Royal Government of Cambodia for the sake of the country's development.

... I appeal to the Supreme Council of Magistracy to revive the image of the courts and to help the Royal Government in taking care of our people's lives, properties, and their peaceful lives. This would indeed a valuable contribution to the legal reforms. At the same time we have also noticed that for some people,

their cases have been left unattended because of what they termed as lacking of legal representatives/notaries. Why for the above cases have been processed so quickly. Thieves and attorneys may have connections as an organization and to take action against this case would require more than just the Royal Government's efforts.

... Because of inappropriate legal actions, the results have never been satisfied, the people have taken the death sentence to the street on almost every robbers or thefts caught. They do not have belief in the legal system as those who have been caught and sent to the court happened to come back again and again in robbery actions. This is what I called social health that is facing with serious danger. It is inapplicable if we resort to increasing number of police, soldiers, military police, judges or prosecutors. It is especially true that the Municipal Court of Phnom Penh has to undergo serious reform.

... If this is to continue without positive change, what the Royal Government has claimed to do would be unrealistic. On the revenue collection front, in the last few months we have noted increase in the revenue from the day when we had the national conference, where we are able to increase 15% of the salary for civil servants, and we could do more if the tax collection in the coming year continues in this trend. We have a triangular power in managing our country – but the power of the court seems to have failed.

... I hope that our people will allow some more time for the Royal Government and related institutions, the court also included to figure out

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 lock. Why did we approve the bridge in that situation? I approved in February 2004, and the groundbreaking ceremony held in March 2004. Though we had political deadlock situation, the country's development – especially bridge construction, could not afford to be hostage of the political situation.

... I have planned that the old Government would be running day-to-day affairs while in absence of a new one with four necessary works to be fulfilled:

- (1) *maintain political stability, security, social order in such a way that our people do not have to pay any more prices after they have exercised their rights for democracy through the July election in 2003;*
- (2) *maintain the macro-economic stability, while preventing inflation and promoting further economic growth;*
- (3) *maintain sustainability of administration of all levels, Government and the local authorities;*
- (4) *maintain relations with foreign countries, especially neighboring countries, in the region as well as in the world.*

... As of now the cultivation

continuing reform towards ending incidences of abduction, armed robberies for the sake of their peaceful livelihood after hard life under the Khmer Rouge genocide and wars. Their hardships have been far beyond description and for their safety and peaceful life, we could not spare our efforts in fighting rogue legal officials.■

situation throughout Cambodia, also countries in the region like Thailand and Vietnam, has been severely damaged by drought. As for the district of Koh Sotin, HE Khieu Kannharith is the head of the CPP working team who should be accountable for the people's need in the area. Cambodia has now turned all of its battlefields into development sites, while the Government is focusing attention in this term on hydraulic projects, along with the continued construction of the roads and bridges. As of now I learned that people start the Ramvong dance at night in preparation for the joyous Khmer New Year. I would recommend them to just dance and not to fight at dancing places.■

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 court.

... I have talked about barristers and I do not mean to accuse anyone of them because they would bar any person who may seek help from them, no matter good or bad the person may be. Take for instance Ta Mok also has a barrister, and so do Khieu Samphan and Nuon Chea. Poor people do not have money to hire a barrister, and in many cases I have instructed payment to the barrister to perform their duty on their behalf... In relation the commemoration of the International Women's Day I have instructed the Government and charitable fund to hire barristers to defend female defendants who do not have money to hire one on their own. I learned that some women never file complaints though they have been dishonored of any kind, for one reason because they do not have money. From now on female victims will have to be given legal help and the Ministry of Women's Affairs will have to perform its duty as justice police.■

26 March 2005 (Unofficial Translation of Selected Comments)
Inaugurating a Bailey Bridge in Kompong Cham's Kohsotin

... May I take this opportunity to declare the inauguration of the Chinese-Cambodian Friendship Doem Sdao Bridge, and the putting into use the Sen Tarsu road, linking the area to the national road 11, and on to the national road 7.

... I am very pleased to see that these achievements would contribute to the reduction of hardships of the people in the area with a great interaction in the region. A few years ago we have put into use no far from here the Pong Ro Bridge and a number of other bridges, but without the Doeum Sdao Bridge in place the traffic in this area would continue to be disconnected. Because of the financial situation we suffered, we sometimes took provisional measures, including the provision of ferry facilities for our people.

... I am glad that today we have the participation of all related institutions. Along a district of Kompong Cham and a district of Prey Veng province, we have set up along the area 18 bridges of the total length of 992 meters, four of which consisting of 295 meters were built for the district of Koh Sotin, 3 bridges of 111 meters for the district of Sithor Kandal of Prey Veng, and 11 bridges of 486 meters for the area along the district of Kompong Cham's Srey Santhor and Kandal's Khsach Kandal.

... May I take this auspicious occasion to express my sincere appreciation and thanks to the People's Republic of China, with the presence here of the PRC's Ambassador, for the provision of such a valuable assistance for the sake of contributing to the improvement of the country's infrastructure. In various meetings that I had with former and current leaders

of the People's Republic of China – Jiang Zemin, Zhu Rongji, Wu Yi, I always sounded out Cambodia's need for the improvement of the country's infrastructure, and the PRC's leaders have always been helpful in making available the Bailey Bridges segments made in China for Cambodia. We have at the seaport now the arrival of another 1500 meters of the Bailey bridge segments, which, after the assembly, would have a width of 7.2 meters.

... Among other projects, PRC has been involved in a huge construction of a long part of the national road 7 between the province of Kratie and the border with Laos – a total length of about 200 kilometers. HE Sun Chanthol, Minister for Transports and Public Works, after his second trip within a break of about two weeks after the first trip, wrote me a report that there has been a huge difference between the first and the second trip. This implies that the project implementation is in a fast pace than expected.

... Taking the two countries' relationship into consideration, Cambodia thanks HM former King of Cambodia Samdech Preah Norodom Sihanouk, who has a good relation with the PRC over the past 50 years, and which has been maintained to the presence. With new leaders in place, HE Hu Jintao and HE Wen Jiabao, and the HM the King Norodom Sihamoni and I as the current Prime Minister, Cambodia is committed to the one-China policy.

... The countries are eyeing for further progress, and the Chinese assistance to Cambodia would continue to increase

thereby... By end of this month, as I could remember, there is a direct flight from the capital of Beijing to Phnom Penh, in addition to the flights from Shanghai- and Guonchou-Phnom Penh.

... May I take this opportunity to express my sincere appreciation to the Ministry of Transports and Public Works and the Ministry of Rural Development, as well as the local authorities and our people as a whole, who have given out land along the bridge's ends for the sake of its construction, without which the construction would not be able to get off the ground. Also I thank the engineering team of HE General Kong Ieng as well as the medical team of HE General Kao Tri for their all out efforts in helping the project going smoothly and in providing treatment to the people in the areas. HE Dr. Saat Sami is also making grateful contribution in the provision of solar energized electricity for the Chinese-Cambodian friendship bridge Doeum Sdao, and other bridges with a standard length of 60 meters and over.

... The construction of the bridge fell on March 29, 2004, which was within the period of political deadlock situation. After ten days of the creation of the Royal Government, on July 16, we came here and provisionally put the bridge into use but vehicles of heavy load were not allowed to cross the bridge. I may recall that from this area on March 29, 30 years ago, I left this place to the battle at the Tonle Bet, from where I got a left-eye injury. I know of the area very well. In the flood season, ferry service is essential for traveling, while in the dry season there needs to have some small bridges. This place was studied and planned to have a

bridge built by administrations during the Sangkum Reastr Niyum led by HE Yu Hockry, then Governor of Koh Sotin, and later Governor of Kompong Cham's Preap Pichey, and the current administration.

... It is indeed a pleasure that we are able to have the bridge built. Before the bridge is built, our people are suffering a severe hardship caused by absence of the bridge. The Ministry of Education, Youth and Sports should conduct a study to find out the rate of school drop-out before and after the bridge is in service. As of the time the bridge is in service, the people no longer pay for the ferry service as the Government is making a subsidy for them.

... We score achievements today because we have obtained stability and peace fully and thanks to the participations of both major political parties – CPP and Funcinpec, in the coalition Government. Samdech Krom Preah and I have been the one who saved the situation from political deadlock. Through a Chinese delegation in Phnom Penh, I denied a proposal from Funcinpec to carry out a talk on possible formation of a tripartite of the coalition Government at a neutral place. If, however, we were to discuss the formation of the coalition Government of two – CPP and Funcinpec, there would need to have no neutral place to conduct such a talk as I would come over to his (Samdech Krom Preah's) place to call on him. An hour after the Chinese delegation left from a meeting with me, Samdech Krom Preah called me to confirm if I really told them that.

... This bridge was approved for construction at the time when we had political dead-
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