

# Cambodia New Vision

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## Address to the United Nations General Assembly



*Honorable Co-Chairs,  
Majesties, Excellencies,  
Heads of State and Govern-  
ment, Mr. Secretary-General,  
Distinguished Delegates,*

On behalf of the delegation of the Kingdom of Cambodia and my own, I would like to extend our congratulations to Honorable Co-Chairs of the High Level Plenary Meeting of the UN General Assembly. Allow me to express also, my appreciation to H.E. Mr. JEAN PING, President of the 59th UN General Assembly, for his able leadership and guidance.

The excellent report, *"In Larger Freedom"*, of H.E. Mr. Kofi Annan, UN Secretary General, and his colleagues provides a global vision and proposals for us to build together human solidarity through a more just and civilized world. Our actions today will determine the destiny of humanity and our planet.

Cambodia has turned a new page in its history, putting firmly behind the darkness and tragedies of recent past and has emerged into the new dawn of its future. Democracy has taken strong roots, public order and rule of law have

made steady and tangible progress, human rights are fully protected and spectacular economic growth is manifestly evident.

We have also made significant advances towards reaching Cambodia's Millennium Development Goals, especially in the education sector and in combating HIV / AIDS. We however know that in socio-economic development, the road ahead is longer and more arduous than we have so far covered.

At present, the Royal Government of Cambodia is actively preparing the "National Strategic Development Plan" for 2006-2010, which will determine Cambodia's milestones towards achieving the MDGs in 2015. Allow me to raise some issues related to the future of our fragile world in the twenty first century.

### Freedom from want

We fully share the Secretary-General's analysis of the interlinkages between human rights, the rule of law, democracy, security and development. We should therefore work on all the fronts at the same time. Unless all the interdependent causes advance, none can succeed.

Development issues should remain at the heart of the attention of the international community. Strong political will is a prerequisite to achieve  
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**September 2005** (With Unofficial Translation of Selected Responses)

## Interview Granted to Radio France Internationale



During his working visit to the Republic of France, Samdech Hun Sen called on HE Jacques Chirac, President of the Republic of France (Photo: Reuters)

*During his working visit to the Republic of France in second week of September 2005, Samdech Hun Sen granted an exclusive interview to Radio France International on issues of Cambodian-French relations, the trial of the Khmer Rouge leaders, land grabbing issues, the country's border and use of French language. Following are the translations of extracts by the Kampuchea Thmei newspaper.*

### On the Cambodian-French relations

... Samdech Hun Sen reaffirmed that what is special in the relationships between the two countries lies in the fact that France had taken up a role and fulfilled its tasks in seeking a political settlement to the Cambodian conflicts in the past, which brought about the Paris Peace Agreement in 1991. During his courtesy call on HE Jacques Chirac, President of the Republic of France, Samdech Hun Sen

told him that France has been helping Cambodia in two stages. First, in between 1997 and 1998, when Phnom Penh was in difficult situation, France offered help in public order and support to the organization of the general elections. France did not cease or freeze its assistance to Cambodia but continue to provide it. In the 1998 elections, France was leading the EU countries in providing financial and technical assistance. Second, when Cambodia was in its political deadlock after the 2003 general elections, France clearly affirmed that it would continue to provide assistance to Cambodia until a new Government came into being. Every time I met the French  
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delegations, Samdech said, I always heard they said “the French knows full well with whom they should work in Cambodia.” This has been a strong political message which clearly illustrates the French support to Cambodia. Samdech Hun Sen also thanks the French consideration and efforts in helping Cambodia to take care of its culture and heritage, while stressing that he is very proud and grateful to see that all the French leaders have always been deeply interested in the issue.

... In response to the question on how one could compare the relations that Cambodia has with France to that with the People’s Republic of China (PRC), Samdech Hun Sen gave his argument that the Cambodian foreign policy is based upon independence, neutrality and non-alignment. Cambodia makes friends with every country irrespective of its religion and/or political tendency. “Some people accused me of making too close relations with a communist country – they mean the PRC indeed. Let us look at the relations between France and PRC, they have a far wider and productive relations with one another, and in a greater size than Cambodia does. Some people play on words that Hun Sen is playing the card of PRC, but let me remind you one thing that PRC is not that fooled to let anyone use it as a card... If I were to compare the two relations – Cambodia-France versus Cambodia-PRC, I would say they are well balanced.”

#### **On Preparation for Trial of the Khmer Rouge Leaders**

... Answering the question about whether or not Samdech Hun Sen is cautious to PRC

position in the forthcoming trial of the former leaders of the Khmer Rouge, Samdech Hun Sen clearly stated, “I have been to PRC for the first time in 1996, again in 1997, 1999, twice in 2004 and three times in 2005, but the PRC leaders and I never discussed the Khmer Rouge issue. PRC never denies in its own right the Khmer Rouge leaders’ trial as it is not trying PRC in that sense. Trying the Khmer Rouge leaders (for the crime they had committed) is purely Cambodia’s internal affairs.” Talking about this Samdech suggested it was the United Nations that granted its support to the Khmer Rouge, why not they do something about this now?

#### **On Self-Exile of Mr. Sam Rainsy**

... Responding to the question about the self-exiled Sam Rainsy abroad, Samdech Prime Minister gave his remark that Samdech never sees any political party leader like him as Sam Rainsy always abandons his followers. “I do not think this is a good thing to do as a leader. If I were to be one of Sam Rainsy party member I would have mobilized others to relieve him off his command already.” Samdech gave his analogy to a military commander, who in such a case would never be able to command his troops. A good leader would stay, in time of happiness and sadness, with his supporters.

#### **On Land Reform Issue**

... As far as land reform issue is concerned, Samdech Prime Minister said that it has become a complicated problem that requires an appropriate solution as failing to do so would bring us to another “peasant revolution” as that in Samlot in the 1960s. Having

witnessed this troublesome issue, the Royal Government in the second term decided to establish a new Ministry to oversee issues of urban planning, land management and construction. The Ministry is bestowed upon with such tasks of seeking the most suitable solution to land problems and issuing our people their land titles. In relations to the fulfillment of the court’s decision in the district of Poi Pet, where fatal conflict occurred, Samdech expressed his gruesome feelings and stated that it was in this incident that Samdech ordered arrest of those who actually caused casualties on the spot. It was taking the court’s decision to extreme, Samdech said. In relation to investment, a study has to be conducted to make sure that the land is actually free from our people’s individual ownership. If things happen with the involvement of the military in grabbing lands that belong to our farmers/people, the one and only solution is to take land and give it back to the people. In practice that does not sound easy, and though Hun Sen is said to be a strongman, but in case like that, with negligence, ten more would not do.

#### **On Border Issues**

... Some people, Samdech argued, appointed themselves so and so committee for the border issues, and I would judge from their actions so far, that they are just intellectuals losing guidance or a sky-losing moon. Samdech warned that whatever Samdech does has to base on law. It is ridiculous to come up with an argument that Hun Sen sold Cambodia’s land to other countries. On October 10, I will conduct a visit to (the Socialist Republic of) Vietnam to claim back parts of the lands that we lost because

of seven points of irregularities, six of which have been resolved already with the last point to be discussed. The irregularities lie in the fact that there are asymmetries in actual mapping – printed in between 1933 and 1953, and later was recognized internationally in between 1963 and 1969 – by the Indochina Geographic Team that does not reflect the decision made by the French Governor General. If the argument of losing land is true, Samdech said it would not be the Cambodian in France or in Phnom Penh to produce reactions but those living along the borders. But as you can see those people living along the Cambodian-Lao, Cambodian-Thai and the Cambodian-Vietnamese borders voted for the Cambodian People’s Party.

#### **On French Language Issue**

... Samdech has in that interview clarified his own efforts since 1980s to strengthen the use of French language in Cambodia as is testified by the re-establishment of the Pasteur Institute, the operation of the Calmette Hospital and the School of Medicine. As a member of ASEAN though, Samdech said, Cambodia has to use English as more and more French speaking senior citizens passed away one after another. The younger generation of Cambodia uses a different language for their study, still French is still useful in Cambodia as many of its institutions are obliged to use it. Samdech stated clearly to the senior French officials that the Prime Ministers of Cambodia, Vietnam and Laos, are the three francophone Prime Ministers in Asia who do not speak French, but this is not in fact obstacles to the relationship between Cambodia and France at all. ■

06 September 2005

**Being Presented with the U Thant Peace Award**

*Your Honorable Sri Chinmoy,  
The Delegates from Sri Chinmoy Centres International,  
Your Excellencies, Ladies and Gentlemen,*

First of all, I would like to express my deepest gratitude to all of you for being here today, and sharing in this wonderful honor.

The honor that *Sri Chinmoy Centres International* so kindly bestows today brings sharply into my memory, the most meaningful events of my career and the development of my country, which has now spanned so many years. Therefore, please allow me to express my deepest gratitude to the **Sri Chinmoy Centres International** for the great honor the Centres confers upon me as the recipient of U Thant Award and it is really a great privilege for me and Cambodia as a whole to accept it.

This prideful honor has indeed highlighted our nation's past efforts and future works and sacrifice for the cause of strengthened peace, stability, democracy, respect for human rights and human dignity, as well as sustainable and equitable development in Cambodia. In implementing far-reaching reforms in all the sectors, Cambodia has stepped forward with strong hope for future and confidence on the path of reform and development, progress and prosperity for our people.

Indeed, Cambodia is now at the cross-road in its arduous journey toward sustainable development and poverty reduction. In the last decade, Cambodia has become a country with full peace, security, social orders, prosperity, cooperation and progress, which has been possible

through our own sacrifices and strong determination. Moreover, macroeconomic stability has been maintained, promoting economic liberalization rooted deep into economic fabrics of Cambodia and generating robust economic growth. Furthermore, the Royal Government's institutions have been strengthened while democracy, respect for human right and human dignity as well as the progress of civil society and the role of free press have been adhered and being rooted well-firmly into social fabrics. Along the process, we restored national dignity and proud to be a country with full independence, real freedom and self-

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the MDGs.

A global partnership between rich and poor countries should, be based on mutual respect and trust, shared responsibilities and transparency.

Aid-providing nations and institutions must move rapidly to make into reality the rhetoric of Paris and Rome Declarations by strictly and stoutly supporting full ownership of the receiving nations of both the process and priorities of socio-economic progress.

Politically driven hidden agendas and shifting ideologies to bring coercive influence on the recipients must end. They serve only to "punish the poor". In fact, while the trend is declining, there is an increase in conditions linked to the aid.

Most of aid were not delivered to the real poor, as a large amount of aid has been paid

for the technical assistance and studies and also go to some sectors which are not consistent with development priorities of recipient countries.

Aid has been given to meet the requirements of the donors, and at the end most of the aid money has been ploughed back to benefit the economy of the donor countries or to benefit consultants from other countries even though they are incompetent or do not know the recipient countries.

At the same time, developing countries should take steps to carry out reforms, especially in the areas of domestic revenue mobilization, strengthened governance and the fight against corruption.

We welcome the decision of the G-8 nations to write off debts of 18 highly indebted poor countries to the amount of 40 billion dollars. However, this is merely a rescue rather than a solution. Successful development requires more net transfer of resources for real investments in poor countries in the form of grants, which are on the decrease from year to year.

Moreover, the modalities should be flexible to enable poor countries to use loans to implement some projects that are of great benefit to their national economy, that have the capacity to generate high domestic revenue, while they do not affect their repayment capacity and macro-economic developments.

We also need to move rapidly away from producing volumes of paper reports to providing relief or development assistance to the poor. The great spirit of the Monterey Consensus to increase ODA

up to 0.7% of GDP must be translated into reality in real implementation. A fair trade system between developed and poor countries must become reality, so that the poor countries can fully use their own potentials and maximize their comparative advantages for growth.

We welcome the goals of the International Conference on Population and Development of achieving globally the reproductive health services before 2015. In the context of ensuring sound environmental governance, Cambodia welcomes the promulgation of the Kyoto Protocol aimed at stabilizing the emission of green house gases.

**Freedom from fear**

Terrorism constitutes a serious threat to any progress. It not only destroys the gains and puts the clock back, but diversion of scarce resources to combat it also robs resources for investment to meet development challenges to move towards a better tomorrow for all.

As we take strong measures to combat and curtail it, we should at the same time address its root causes. We should put an end to the conditions that terrorists have exploited.

We should remove the frustrations of the poor and excluded people living on our planet; restore dignity to those who feel they have lost it; and ensure that dialogue and cooperation prevail between civilizations, cultures and religions. It, in essence, is to lead a balanced and tolerant life, in adjustment and harmony with oneself, with one's neighbors, with other beings, with nature and with the cosmos...■

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determined state as well as to be a real and equal partner in regional and world communities.

As I often say, good governance is the scaffolding of development. Improving governance within our country is essential to sustain the course of our actions and to reduce poverty among our people. Indeed, the quest for good governance is not new to Cambodia. In the last ten years, our pace has steadily accelerated and the very significant achievements have been made, such as the followings:

- The Administration was unified, core management systems established and innovative tools of reforms had been developed;
  - Following the successful elections of commune councils in July 2002, work is underway to further decentralized and deconcentrated public functions to bring government closer to the people;
  - Building on work done to deepen public financial reform particularly focusing on four phases of development to build a trusted budgeting system which is accountability, efficiency, and budget that based on policy agenda and strategies of government;
  - The country's legal framework is gradually being completed with the Civil Code and the Penal Code and their respective procedures being finalized for implementation. The capacity of the legal and judicial sector is being developed and mechanisms to ensure the independence, effectiveness and discipline in the Judiciary are being strengthened;
  - The legal framework and enforcement mechanism to bring about the rule of law for investment, commerce and business is a top priority for Cambodia in order to take advantage of Cambodia's accession to the WTO;
  - With the implementation of initiatives in the Governance Action Plan, root causes of corruption are being mitigated. The Royal Government has now declared war against corruption. The legal framework and enforcement mechanisms are being readied for implementation later this year.
  - The armed forces are undergoing fundamental change to support development better and important resources are reallocated to human development in health and education, in particular;
  - With the successful implementation of the early steps of a strategy to improve gender equity and reduce violence, attention has turned to strengthening related institutions and improving awareness;
  - A land law was promulgated, widespread programs to register land titles are underway but more needs to be done to optimize the use of land for the sustainable development of the country; and
  - Community base mechanisms for fisheries and forestry management are being reinforced and tools were deployed to facilitate the sustained used of natural resources.
- In general, we are now push-

**04 September 2005**

### Talking to People in Kompong Speu's Kong Pisey

*Samdech Hun Sen took the Sunday of September 4 to visit and observe the transplanting of rice in the district of Kong Pisey, Kompong Speu province. Samdech discussed a wide range of issues in relation to local and national development, parts of which have been selected for translation as follows:*

... Indeed joining our people in transplanting rice helps me increase my way of observing the situation in relation to rice cultivation while trying to grasp our people's hardships. We are actually sitting on a three districts' joining boundary – the district of Kong Pisey of Kompong Speu, the district of Kandal Stoeugn of Kandal province, and the district of Baati of Takeo province. This place could be named a triangular development zone (TDZ) because we have here a large water canal of Roleang Chrey khang Tbong which should cover areas of Kong Pisey, Samraong Tong, Chbar Mon of Kompong Speu province and Kandal Stoeung of Kandal province and Baati of Takeo province. We built this water canal in late 2003 and early 2004, part of which is still being completed this year. This indeed is what I called the project to develop areas west and north of Phnom Penh city.

... My initial purpose is to bring water up to Roleang Chrey Khang Choeng, O Kraing Ambel, and Roleang Chrey Khang Tbong. In 2003 we brought water from O Kraing Ambel through Samraong Tong district of Kom-

ing ahead with the broadening and deepening of the reforms in every area of the Rectangular Strategy...■

pong Speu province and Angsnuol district of Kandal province to Dangako district of Phnom Penh. We organized boat race in the Khmer New Year of 2004 in Mlech of Roleang Ken, but we could not do so in 2005 for lack of water in the stream of Prek Thnaot. It is a rare natural calamity that we have ever encountered. Still I admire the people's creativity and efforts in overcoming the difficulties caused from this and grew water melons three times. Having seen that women are going out of their villages to work in the factories, while men are keeping themselves busy with other things for their daily needs, I wish to restate my understanding that food security does not necessarily mean consumption of rice only.

... I am glad to see that the Ministry of Water Resources and the Ministry of Agriculture have been playing their roles of regulators to urge our people through provincial and district authorities to move ahead with planting of subsidiary crops such as cassava, and all sort of potatoes, in face of rice damage. I know from one of my visits in Africa in 1984, in Sao Tome & Principe, they consume banana in replacement of rice. In Benin they consume corn. This recalls me of a story when Samdech Kong Sam Ol (Deputy Prime Minister and Minister in charge of the Royal Palace) was the Minister for Agriculture in 1983. Samdech Kong Sam Ol brought an Indian agricultural specialist working for IRRI (International Rice Research Institute) to see me. He told me that Cambodia is not insecure in food, but had a surplus of food. In fact his analysis and research at that

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**01 September 2005** (Unofficial Translation of Selected Comments)  
**Inaugurating the Svay Rieng Tree Nursery Centre**

*In addition to the prepared text at the inauguration of the tree nursery centre at Svay Rieng, Samdech Prime Minister Hun Sen thanked contributors for the establishment of such kind of tree nursery centre, and gave his remarks on natural calamity and the Cambodian efforts in dealing with insufficient rain.*

... Today I have a great pleasure to come back to Svay Rieng to inaugurate a tree nursery centre, named after me – Hun Sen Tree Nursery Centre (HSTNC), which is a contribution from various persons and institutions concerned. What we have actually implemented here today is indeed for the sake of the country to become a forest recovered one while ceasing to deforest it. We wish to make our country green in all seasons. This is the fourth centre of its kind that I have inaugurated so far as gift from the British-American-Cambodian Tobacco (BACT). The first one is in the commune of Krola, Kompong Siem district, Kompong Cham province, the second one is in the commune of Chub, Tbong Khmum district also Kompong Cham province, and the third one is in the province of Pusath.

... What impresses me also is the fact that the company has chosen the right place to do so. Svay Rieng is a province with the least coverage of forest. I wish to thank the BACT for its generous donation. BACT comes to the place with its assistance and the beneficiaries of this project is the people in the area. I would be grateful if foreign partners and other private companies who wish to provide aids would see this as a good example of giving

out their aid or gift. According to the reports of the Forest Administration as well as the Ministry of Agriculture, in addition to what Mr. Arin Ung has just said, over the past years, the three HSTNC since 1998 have provided some 5.8 million trees for planting along the national road 6, national road 7, small roads in the provinces of Kompong Cham, Kratie, Kompong Thom, Pursath, Kandal and Prey Veng. I really am grateful to such valuable contributions.

... Prior to the establishment of the fourth HSTNC, the previous three centres could provide some 1.8 million trees per year, with this one coming into existence, the centers could go for 2.4 million trees in its recent capacity of breeding some 0.6 million trees per year. If it were to increase its production to one million trees per year, the centers have the capacity to offer some 2.8 million trees per year. As a partner to the Royal Government of Cambodia, BACT proves a great effort in recovering our country with forest, which is indeed for the benefit of the people of Cambodia...

... After assuming the post of Prime Minister, most of my trips since January 1985 had been to Takeo province, where I did a study relating to land reforms, and to the province of Svay Rieng to over see household tree planting and fish culture.

... In Svay Rieng, it is hard to get firewoods and people talked about dipping rice straw in cow dung and drying it for use as firewood later. That is why I am saying that BACT comes to Svay Rieng to provide people here with trees to plant on their own is a correct example and they have proven

to have conducted an appropriate study of places where this kind of initiative is needed the most. I would also like to have your attention on the monk's participation which plays a very crucial role in tree planting. Take for instance, we have so many trees planted on the pagoda's fields which are used for building race boats. Unfortunately most of them are destroyed under the Pol Pot's regime. After the fall of Pol Pot, the monks once again are taking lead in growing trees of all kinds.

... Our success factors here lie in the fact that we have to locate tree nursery centers where our people could get them free of charge. I have a TNC-1 in Krang Yov (Kandal province), a TNC-2 Phnom Chiso (Takeo province), a TNC-3 in Roleang Ken (Kandal province) and TNC-4 in Kompong Thom. This indeed is not the only factor. Whether our people participate in this activities or not is the most important issue. If the people do not like to grow them, these trees would stay here in the center. The matter is how we can create trust among the people. We have from medium to perennial trees, from fruit trees like jackfruits, mango to trees used in construction. As far as long-grown trees for construction is concerned, people would not want to plant them in their household plot of land. We should mobilize them to plant these sorts of trees in pagoda's field.

... In Krang Yov I initiated a garden of marriage, the idea of which is that all communes should prepare a piece of land for the newly married couple to grow two trees, and they could then tell their children later that these are the trees that they have grown while getting married. Still planting

trees in the people's households is more important factor of success.

... Let me once again reaffirm my appreciation and thanks to BACT and would approve should the company wish to expand the station to number 5, 6, 7... I will be very happy to come inaugurate them and the station will continue to give out their trees to people to plant on their own. According to a report by HE Agricultural Minister Chan Sarun, over the past years, we have given out about 30 million trees from tree nursery centers throughout the countries, including those administered by the monks. One important point in this regard is that we have grown 30 million trees but we may have lost the same number or even more. There is now this conflict between Global Witness and SGS, over a report by this private Swiss company.

... I remembered that on October 22, 1998, prior to the birth of the elected Government for the second term, then Cambodia was under the co-premiership of HE Ung Huot and me, I launched anti illegal-logging campaign recovering a sum of 3.5 million hectares, while issuing thereafter policies aimed at preventing the illegal logging. Why then there is still problem of logging? I would clarify that logging in term of clearing land for farming is undeniable. On top of that it has so many predators from bush fire to human beings who log them for construction purpose such as building pagodas, housing, etc. Another source of concern is that about 90% of our people use firewood for cooking and they chopped off small and long-burning trees for that purpose. About ten percent of the population dwelling in the

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city cooks with gas. As far as I know in Svay Rieng people like to plant eucalyptus trees because they grow fast. Once they are chopped off, there are few more shootings growing up.

... I would urge on the other hand BACT to conduct a study on smoking, as we all notice the success story of tobacco planting in Cambodia. We observe the no-smoking campaign but see that there is a reduction of smoking in one group of population, while there still is in another. It is worth mentioning from my remark that in some countries, smoking has ceased to exist among older people only to increase among younger generation. No-smoking campaign has yet to yield a resounding success. Tobacco planting is on the increase in some countries. As for Cambodia, growing tobacco in area along the Mekong River from Kratie down to the border with Vietnam will surely continue.

... Why should we give our consideration on the amount of firewood used in steaming tobacco leaves? We should try to figure out how to replace firewood in the steaming process – electricity or coal. I have once introduced for experiment the burning of coal imported from Vietnam to boil sugar palm juice into sugar in the commune of Roleang Ken. It was not a success story then. Aside from this we have firewood-burning brick ovens which definitely consume immeasurable amount of wood. That is why the Government allows for imports of bricks and tiles from neighboring countries, where they use coal to drill the bricks. The Government was criticized for doing so but those who criticized the Government did not make a calculation for economic cost

over the product to be produced in the country from those to be imported... We have to increase our research to find other means to replace burning using firewood which create tremendous pressure on our forest, and overpass the replanting capacity.

... Aside from this I wish to share my sadness with the people of Svay Rieng, which is one of the most severely affected provinces in term of shortage of rainfall. According to the report I have here up to now it has put only about 14% of total area of 120,000 hectares under cultivation. Svay Rieng is one of the five worst rainfall shortage provinces besides Kompong Speu, Prey Veng, Kandal and Takeo. As far as natural calamity is concerned I think it is difficult for any one leader in the world to deal with. First, natural disaster, take for instance Tsunami was beyond reaching and assisting capability. The best that leaders can do is to put in place warning systems. When disaster strikes, no matter how rich and advanced the country may be, it is always hard to deal with.

... The price of oil is hiking. Is this a separate incident for Cambodia or is it a general trend in the world? As of now the best way of curbing the price of oil is to decrease traveling needs. I wish to take this opportune moment to inform you that by the end of 2005, all state institutions will have to trim down their fuel consumption by ten percent, the saving from which will be used to assist people in pumping water for the people's rice field...

... Having said so I have ordered to send in tractor team and water pumps to come to Svay Rieng, and I would recommend HE Cheang Am to lead them. I wish to reiterate

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victims of hurricane Katrina. There have been lootings everywhere. Some American people expressed disappointment over the rescue and relief efforts. We could draw up a lesson here that no matter how rich and capable the country is in the world, it cannot prevent itself from destruction caused by natural disaster at all.

... In Cambodia, whether the natural disaster has been small or big, we have always been keeping vigilance and working to prevent, and provide relief. HM the King yesterday went to the district of Lovea Em where our people are facing rising flood problem. Krom Samdech Ov also brought assistance given by their former King and Queen to the people in need in various places. Samdech Chea Sim, chairman of the Senate, Samdech Krom Preah Norodom Ranaridh have also been actively helping our people through various possible means and efforts in various places.

... The two parties in coalition – CPP and Funcinpec, are in good partnership working together for the sake of the people and country. Some people may have made some ill remarks on this. But I wish to call our people to have patience with those remarks.

the Royal Government and the Cambodian People's Party's policy of imposing no tax on farmers. I declared this point in September 1991 at the CPP's congress prior to the signing of the Paris Peace Agreement. I wish to also take this chance to express my gratefulness to thank Samdech Krom Preah Norodom Ranaridh in his capacity as President of Funcinpec for his support of the tax policy. ■

They are just a few persons getting together as a non-Governmental organization that is born out of no general elections, but of financial assistance from some foreign countries. I would say it is a "foreign puppet." They would not survive at all if their foreign supporters cut off financial assistance.

... They disgrace the Royal Government of making the country poorer but the fact is totally contrary from what they said. People in the commune of Riel said there were no vehicles but a few motorbikes before 1975. Now they have hundreds of motorbikes and about fifty trucks or so. Samdech Krom Preah said to me before his departure to the United Nations that he observed that there are many houses under construction. I told him I saw trucks carrying cow dung and rice seedling because we have better road condition. What I would urge our people to do is that once we have water we have to make use of it and we should choose short-term and medium-term rice seeds rather than long-term rice seeds. They give us good yield and need less water... As far as population growth issue is concerned, a commune head told me that in some villages there seem to have few children. It is a problem. China and Japan are facing the problem of "generation gap" where there are more older people, and less number of laborers. They have conducted the study once again on population growth. Because I have some experiences in raising children, I know full well how hard it is to have triplets. Any family with three children getting birth at the same time, irrespective of political tendency, I offered them three million Riel, 200 kg of rice and other consumption stuff. ■

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York, the attacks on underground transport systems in Spain and in the United Kingdom, in Indonesia, etc. that scared away a lot of tourists leading to economic growth downturn. The other twos are oil crisis and natural disaster. Cambodia is affected mostly by oil crisis... Well today I have re-approved the canal projection that needs some re-adjustments, and informed you that we have extended the length to over 25 kilometers, and also approved the request that I mentioned above. As far as statistical interpretation is concerned, I would urge Okhna Por Tri to discuss with HE Minister (of Agriculture) Chan Sarun on problem of actual cultivation areas and registered cultivated areas in planning. We have to avoid inconsistency between actual implementation and planning.

... This evening I will lead a governmental delegation to see His Majesty the King, and I would report to HM the achievements made from the visits to the United States of America and the Republic of France. I saw on TV that HM has been out helping people in the remote areas, mainly those living along the river that is affected by flood. Samdech Ov and Samdech Me, who reside in in Beijing for medical treatment, as well as HM the King have expressed affectionate feelings and concerns to the people in the country. The same is also seen to have been done by Samdech Krom Preah Norodom Ranaridh, the President of the National Assembly, Samdech Chea Sim, the President of the Senate, Samdech Heng Samrin, the first Vice President of the National Assembly, and various other leaders in reaching out to our people in need... There are some people making their statements that there are so and so number

of people died of hunger, but I have their names here they died because of illness. There have been plots to falsify information. I have told VOA and Free Asia sometimes in 1999 that I would agree to give an interview only when it is live broadcast, because I doubt censorship will be made. I told Mr. Voha Chuon of the VOA sometime ago that "VOA should not broadcast uncivilized language, but I thank you very much for insulting me to make me the winner." I would urge politicians to stop speaking without truth because the people are not blind and uninformed like before. They know who dig this canal, take for instance.

... They sued me on charge of masterminding the grenade attacks in front of the National Assembly, but their charges were rejected by the Court, the Appeal Judge and the Supreme Court. I have signed yesterday to sue them back and I demand a compensation of 25 million US dollars for insulting me. Whoever want to organize demonstration, I would not say no, because there has always been a pro and con. In the United States, I did not know that there was demonstration. When I left the US, they wrote a letter to the US court to arrest me. There, the bodyguards of the President George W Bush protected me, and HE George Bush posed for a photo with me and promised to have a round of golf together.

... I heard there was a demonstration in Paris, though I do not know where it was. They requested to the French Court to arrest me and question me, at the time that I had a meeting with HE Jacques Chirac, the President of the Republic of France. If there is a counter-demonstration inside the country, Hun Sen would not inter-

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time counted in everything ranging from rice, maize, to potatoes. I told him that if we forced our people to consume maize, potato, banana, etc. our people would compare us to Pol Pot.

... If we now count them as food sources, we would have a huge surplus. Take for instance in the districts of Mealay, Sam Peo Loune, Phnom Preok and Kamreang we would have hundreds of thousands of tons of foodstuff, but we do not count them in, while in other countries they do. However we should not belittle its importance. A loaf of potato would take some space in our stomach as well. It definitely reduces some space for rice in it. So rice is not the sole product that we depend on and we have to think of alternating crops in some parts of the country. I used to fly with Ambassador of Japan over this area, who asked if I have asked any one

vene for it is their rights. People can demonstrate against me and in support of me. I have sued back. The Court will request their presence once, and twice, and if it appears that the person does not show up, the police will escort them. And that I would act according to the Court order. One person is jailed for seven years already on count of trying to set up an illegal military system, and Samdech Krom Preah and I once thought of responding positively to the appeal of his spouse, but I back away when they say said "that the release will take place at the international pressure." If I accept to propose to HM for the release, it is apparent that I bow to the international pressure, and that is not Hun Sen's way. ■

to do a study for me. I told him I did not because we have necessary human resources for this level of project study, what we do not have is capital, fuel, heavy machines, etc.

... Concerning works to be done for Kong Pisey district, HE Hem Khan, Deputy Governor of Kompong Speu discussed with me just now that we have to bring water to area with loam (red) soil because so far the water has come to one side but not to another. We have to conduct a study and we will build this canal to take water there no matter what cost it may be. No one would imagine that we build canal over to Bak Thmenh – cutting through lying rocks down beneath the earth surface. Our development plan for areas west and north of Phnom Penh has yet to be completed.

... As of this place we have a juncture of three tributaries – two go to Takeo's Baati district and one to the district of Kandal Stoeung of Kandal province. We have two specific requests to be responded. First we have to bring water up to the red soil communes in the district of Kong Pisey. Second, there is a request for building water gates. I would urge that the work be completed for the red soil area before or by May 2006 because if Stoeung Prek Thnaot were to have plenty of water, we could let the water through for our people to start their early rice cultivation. However this will depend greatly on how favorable the nature will be for us.

... Take for instance in the United States of America, they claimed the state of emergency yesterday. I sent a letter of condolence to President George W. Bush on behalf of the Cambodian people to the

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**23 September 2005** (Unofficial Translation of Selected Comments)  
**Visiting the Canal Construction in Samraong Tong**

*A day after returning from attending the world leaders summit in New York organized at the 60<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the foundation of the United Nations and his working visit to the Republic of France, Samdech Hun Sen went to visit the canal construction site in the village of Rongeaeng, Skus commune, Samraong Tong district, Kompong Speu province, where he shared with local people achievements scored during the visit to New York and to France, while clarifying some political issues, with selection and translation made as follows:*

... I am glad to return once again to the site in about twenty days following my trip here to the commune of Veal where I made a decision to dig a canal to meet our people's need for water in the district of Kong Pisey. According to the study, the point at Bak Thmenh, though it would incur a very high price, would also grant us a greater benefit as well. It was in this judgment that together with HE Sam Sarith and HE Lim Kean Hor, we have decided to start our project in the Ach Kaek Lake at the point of Bak Thmenh because the canal would pass through several communes. Take for instance in the district of Samraong Tong, there would be the communes of Skus, Roleang Chak, Roleang Kroeul, etc., while in the district of Kong Pisey, there would be the communes of Kong Pisey Khang Tbong, Pich Muni, Toek Laak and Chrey Veang.

... Yesterday, returned from my trip to New York to give my address at the United Nations headquarter following which I went for a working visit to the Republic of France.

Aside from attending the UN general assembly, I was invited as guest of HE George W Bush and the First Lady for a party, in which I had a chance to meet him in person for a short time. I conveyed to him the Cambodian people's condolences to the American people who have suffered from the recent trail of destruction of the hurricane Katrina. I also challenged him for a round of golf one day because I learned that he is a great golf player. He accepted. I also had a chance to meet with numerous leaders in the world.

... Still, though I was busy in New York and then in Paris, my thought has always been with works in Cambodia, especially the weather. I called to HE Lim Kean Hor, Minister for Water Resources and Meteorology to find out how work is being done here. I also had a dubious feeling about rain condition in Svay Rieng province, and also the province of Kompong Speu. I have said that no matter how much it would cost, we will have to build this canal. That was an order and it will be implemented resolutely similar to what we said no matter what might cost us we would curb the return of the genocide. As of today, you can see that we have ruled out the possibility of the Khmer Rouge's return as we have already disorganized them politically and militarily.

... This canal project will be beneficial not only to the people in the Kong Pisey and Samraong Tong district, as it will run through parts of Takeo province, Kandal province and Phnom Penh. We have shown from this experience that Kompong Speu that

used to be a dry place has become a water reservoir in the making. With the 25 kilometer canal, some water could be provided to Skus, Roleang Chak, Roleang Kroeul, Sen Dei, Pich Muni, Toek Laak, Prey Nhean. As of today, in the cultivation area of 1712 hectares we have just cultivated about 300 hectares. Once we have resolved the water shortage issue, we would have no problem to put the 1712 hectares under double cropping cultivation, or even up to 2000 hectares.

... This is perhaps the first time that in just one kilometer we have used ten heavy excavators comparing to ten excavators for five kilometers before. Our plan has been urgent. But as a Prime Minister one could do whatever one may wish to and I see this place deserves this kind of assistance. Some people say this is a diamond opportunity. Just now there is another request for digging a canal from O Veng to Skus and I said if it is technically feasible I would accept the proposal. As I see it, only we do not want to do it, otherwise technically it is possible if we enlarge the canal width a bit wider in order to allow deep digging. These excavators are from the People's Republic of China that I visited last April, and one day I would invite HE Ambassador for a visit to the place.

... I would order that anywhere along the canal line that negotiation with our people in relation to land affected from the project being settled finally, excavators will have to be sent in to start digging, though we may not be able to abridge one canal to another yet, because the dug parts could be used as water reserves for our people to use in the dry season. I would suggest a consideration to be paid

as prices of land with our people according to the standard we set for people in Roleang Chrey, O Krang Ambel, etc. Take for instance if the canal runs into the people's rice field, how much should we pay the rice field owner? In addition to that, some rice field might also have rice in them, so we should negotiate the price reciprocation for the loss of rice. I suggest that we should work on the rate of two million Riel (about five hundred dollars) for one hectare of rice. Owner could choose to get payment in husked rice or cash.

... As you can see the area around us here does not have rice yet. I would assure that next year at this time, we will have fully grown rice because we have the canal in place. So what remains to be done is that parliamentarians Say Chhum, Hem Khan, especially the local authorities at all levels to work with the people to get the matter resolved. I would say any commune that decides quickly would benefit the most as canals could not be excavated on property indecisive land. I would not order the work to be done if only one out of a hundred families disagrees. So the 99 families will have to bring the matter for discussion among themselves.

... It is indeed unimaginable to see how hurricane Katrina caused destruction to the United States of America. While battling the Katrina's aftermath, there comes this hurricane Rita. In the world there are three kinds of catastrophes. Some countries suffered one, some two and some all three. First, it is the destruction caused by terrorism, take for instance the collapse of the World Trade Center in New

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