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A Visit to the Former Royal City of Sanlob Prey Nokor



26 February 06—Samdech Hun Sen and Madame during the visit to the former Royal City of Sanlob Prey Nokor in Kompong Cham.

Last Thursday I know there was a religious ceremony to ask permission from spirits of other world, especially the sole of the former King Sdech Kan or Preay Srey Jeddha, and others for a restoration aimed at conserving and developing the former city of Sanlob Prey Nokor. I have a memorable history with my wife in this area as well. Some of the senior CPP leaders had been passing or living in this area during the time of the struggle. Many songs with lyrics describing about life of a woman, my wife, in separation from her husband have been written. My story in those days was not less pitiful than that of King Sdech Kan.

Let me first talk about what we want to do to this historical site. First of all I would like to set up a commission to be in effect immediately with HE Lim Kien Hor as chairman and HE Nut Narang and HE Chuch Phoeun as deputy chairmen and some officials as members. What we are looking for as the first move is to provide irriga-

tion system which would bring water for cultivation activities within the inside area of the former city or palace which covers an area of 213 hectares and almost 2000 hectares in the vicinity. The first step to take is that we will rebuild the wall or fence of 519 meters over the total length of 9343 meters, at seven meters high. Second, we will restore the water reservoirs around the palace and as having looked at them from the helicopter I have seen that three of them have been shallow and needed restoration. People working on the land, which belongs to the state will be compensated so that the areas of the reservoirs would be redeemed for restoration. The local authority should try to find land for them to swap, and in case of need, cash will also be given.

Third, we need to dig a canal to let the water into the reservoirs at the total length of 2750 meters – 6.8 meters width on top and two meters width at the

(Continued on page 2)

14 February 2006 (Unofficial Translation of Selected Comments)

Graduating from the Hun Sen's Teachers Centre

My wife and I are deeply happy to be able to come today to your graduation ceremony, in which 639 teachers have graduated from three cycles of training – 13th, 14th and 15th – some of them could have been out teaching already. I am sure your parents and loved ones also feel it this way as you have done a great deal of efforts for your graduation and for becoming competent teachers who will go back to teaching in Kandal, Kompong Chhnang and Kompong Speu provinces.

Let me say something about how this School of Pedagogy developed. This place was in fact the farmland belonged to the Ministry of Foreign Affairs under the Khmer Rouge's regime, on which vegetables were grown as supply for diplomatic missions in Phnom Penh. Upon entry to Phnom Penh, I conducted a search for areas that belonged to the Ministry of Foreign Affairs from the previous regimes. And this place was brought to my

(Continued on page 3)

16 February 2006 (Unofficial Translation of Selected Comments)

Annual Review of Works on Environment

It is good to see that there is this program of discussion on TV in which they have on one side a pro-statement on something and another side of anti-thesis on the same topic. It is true that some time elder people do not have that level of knowledge, so some of us should also listen to them. I think it is indeed a good thing to continue to do with more serious topics ranging from planting forest, natural forest, etc. I wish to stress one issue – firewood. It is a serious matter because the extent to which it has impact on environment has been greater than we should expect.

We have only a small number of people in the city who use gas in their daily lives, and not many people are using coal from mines. Our people are still using burning matter for cooking food, to be more specific – firewood. Going for firewood normally is to chop small trees. Growing trees is another pains-

taking process especially this time of the year where forest fire is prone to be happening, and drought is prone to be a serious problem. More people mean more needs to be addressed by the forest, unless we have a more scientific way of resolving the problem.

In 1986, I frequently went to Kratie to identify the problem that resulted in slow reform. In the district of Sambo, one district official reported so and so solidarity group (farmer group) 1, so and so group 2 and 3. He said the district was preparing for promoting the two last groups into the solidarity group

(Continued on page 5)

In This Issue

- Former Royal City — p. 1
- Teacher's Center — p. 1
- Environment — p. 1
- Poverty — p. 4
- Land Management — p. 8
- Trade Performance — p. 6
- Angkor Children Hospital — p. 8

(Continued from page 1)

bottom. Fourth, we will need to make another canal for relieving water pressure and damp at the total length of 4 thousand meters. It could be considered not only water relieving channel but also an irrigation system. Fifth, we will have to put in two new water gates at the water works at the point of Bak Ai. Sixth, we will implant two water gates in existing water system aimed at increasing the level of water to flow into the reservoirs. Seventh, we will build a water system that extends water current from the canal and places two lines of .80 centimeter pipes of 650 meters. Having done this work, our people will continue to be able to till their rice field as pipes are covered deep in the land. This means an open canal is not necessary.

Our second move is to continue to restore and dig the 300 meters canal January-11 together with a number of water regulatory and control mechanism. We should also dig the canal of Kroham Kor together with a number of water capture systems that would collect water from the area of Oreang Ov toward addressing water need in the vicinity of the city area. I think we have a long-term involvement here. From now to 2008, when the general election is due to take place, and if I were to be re-elected, as CPP already approved my candidacy, I would stay as Prime Minister till 2012 and I would be only 60 years of old.

While implementing these projects, project leaders should be aware of historical data that this area had been a fierce battles in which all sides used canons. Care and consideration must be exercised when excavating any of them. Any weapons found must be taken care of and should not be brought to Phnom Penh but reserve them

here in Prey Nokor. According to historical records kept by the French, the Cambodian, etc. HM the former King Preah Srey Jeddha ruled the Kingdom, at least in his part of kingdom, in prosperity and peace. It was Sdech Kan who introduced for the first time the Sloeng – or coin as currency in the country - made of gold with one side molded with dragon. Sdech Kan was born in the year of dragon.

After the Ponnhea Yat reign, Cambodia was ruled as a Kingdom that was divided into three separate areas – one part covering Kompong Chhnang through to Battambang was ruled by Preah Srey Raja, another part covering the area of Chadomuk to Samraong Tonrg was ruled by Preah Srey Borom Raja who was younger brother to Preah Srey Raja and the last part was ruled by Soriyotey covering the area of Srey Santhor. The war later broke out. It is interesting to study its cause for the sake of preventing mistakes in the present. King Preah Srey Sokunbot had a concubine whose brother was named Kan. One day the King dreamed of a fire spraying dragon and then fortune spread rumors of instability believed to be originated from Kan whom everyone was unhappy of his promotion from an outcast.

A plot to kill Kan was planned but Kan was saved by a secret letter from his sister and fled to gather forces which later fought and won over the forces of the King Srey Sokunbot. He became King himself and was named Preah Srey Jeddha. It is worth noting that Sdech Kan or Preah Srey Jeddha did a wonderful work in what should be termed a democratic revolution because he liberated all outcasts under his area of control. Because of this he became the strongest commander and King in his own right. Sdech Kan gathered an army of 190,000

soldiers to fight Preah Chan Raja...

I just had an audience with HM the King Preah Boromneath Sihamoni as there were some rumors in the last few days concerning the recent political development. The first remark has it that, the reconciliation approach taken by the Cambodian People's Party (CPP) and the Sam Rainsy Party (SRP) would eventually lead to the downfall of Cambodia's monarchy. It is the most severe remark of all. The message has been sent to foreign countries and has widely been disseminated throughout the country. Some foreign embassies sent us the message they received. Some parties declare to be royalist, what about CPP whose control the majority of seats in the National Assembly? Should not it be called the supporter of the monarchy if not the monarchist? I must make clear today that anyone wishes to abolish the monarchy has to first get me out.

The second remark has been that once the Constitutional amendment from the two-third majority to 50 + 1, the faction of Chea Sim and Sar Kheng would force me out. There is no such tendency in the CPP. Those making those remarks do not want to see changes to the Constitution and keep me a hostage of the process. One other remark is that as soon as Sam Rainsy is taken to the fold things will get destroyed. As is seen by all Sam Rainsy has campaigned and committed his activities against me for a long time and he finally requested for cooperation. I told him I am happy to hear that. Now anyone is welcomed into the Government if only they should refrain from launching demonstration and have to heed the Government's obligation.

I humbly informed HM the King that the Constitutional

amendment aimed indeed for an avoidance of the political deadlock. The two most difficult conditions are the decease or retirement of HM the King, for which within a week time an election of the new King is obliged, and the PM's decease or incapacitation where a new PM is to be chosen in the event that the whole cabinet must be dissolved and the hard part is to form a new cabinet.

From the city of Samlob Prey Nokor of the former King Sdech Kan, I wish the police, the military police and body-guard unit to review their body-guard service if they have provided protection to concubines of senior officials. They should not be allowed to be fed by the Royal Government's allowance and protect those concubines. I once ordered the crackdown of youngsters who performed negative gangster activities in society. Today I order for similar action on "oldsters," some of whom purchased villas in foreign countries for concubines. I request France, Canada, the USA, Australia, etc. to investigate seriously from where they got the money to purchase the house. Is not this a corruption?

Anyone who is through lobby of high-class lady would be readjusted as I cannot afford to make further mistakes. I demanded a list of officials proposed and appointed with the help of the high-class lobby lady prepared and sent to me. I would not hesitate to demote them from their ranks. We should draft a bill and propose it to the National Assembly, with my signature along with 14 others of the CPP women, for those officials with more than one wife, as it is against the Constitution. The Royal Government is embracing the rectangular strategy of growth, employment, equity and efficiency, while doing whatever it can to meet the objectives...■

(Continued from page 1)
 knowledge. I then advised them to put the farm back in cultivation for providing vegetables for those working in the foreign affair service. The situation had gone on until 1986, at which time I was Prime Minister and Foreign Minister for Foreign Affairs. Having then seen the School of Pedagogy next door was in search of possibility for enlargement, I then decided to transfer the land to the School.

When the Vietnamese forces withdrew from Cambodia, almost every province kept a house for me, let alone five kept for me in Kandal province. I did not accept the offer and I do not allow personal interest to mix with that of the nation. The situation evolved until today as we have a regional center for teachers training for the provinces of Kandal, Kompong Chhnang and Kompong Speu. I wish to take this opportunity to express my sincere thanks to the Ministry of Education, Youth and Sports from previous regime through to the present day for their efforts in overcoming numerous difficulties helping increase the number of teachers. Let me have your attention here at this point that never forget to give your respect to teachers, as it was thanks to them that you have come this far. And we have a Teachers' Day to celebrate as well in this sense.

According to our discussion on the National Development Strategy for the period between 2006 and 2010, we have come to a total number of primary schools that increased from 2468 in 2000 to 6180 in 2005. In the whole country we have 1621 communes, but we have 6180 primary schools. Taking distance from home to school into consideration, before students were at two kilometers from school at the farthest, but by 2005 the distance has reduced to 1.5 at the farthest –

thanks to the fact that we have more schools built in rural areas. The secondary school has also increased in the period between 2000 and 2005, during which either new building is added or more teachers are provided aimed at increasing learning and teaching quality for our students after the primary education. It is worth noticing that in some places, there was more than one college in the commune. Primary school facility for this instance has been transformed into college education. This will further help reduce distance between home and college for local students, especially for female ones according to gender concept.

We are paying heed to the possibility of decentralizing school access – in term of building more school facilities in the local areas - to females students in rural areas so that they can benefit from schooling like male ones owing to the fact that they do not have to go too far away from home for school. We also need to change parental traditional concepts of keeping daughters from far-away schools by providing equal access for education for children of both sexes. We have this situation where elder daughter in the family has to work hard without schooling helping younger ones who – thanks to her effort and sacrifice – benefit from completing education, after which, because of lacking of education, she cannot make a better life. It is in this remark that I therefore advise us all to give your respect and consideration to elder sisters. We must try our best to increase participation from women in all political decision. I am longing for participation by women in all decision making levels, from commune to the Royal Government, the National Assembly as well as the Senate.

I wish to say a few things today before the International Women's Day. My intention is to have women participate in politics, while demanding that a small group of women should refrain from interfering into the state's affairs or their husband's works. We have two situations involving women making decision or influencing the decision making of their husbands. First, they control the system of running affairs, for which reason some of them have urged their husband for signatures, and this cannot be forgiven. Second, they also are the ones who decide who could be or could not be promoted. While demanding participation by women in the decision making process, we also are cautious of women in small number who happened to interfere in the state's affairs. I will refrain from approving those requests for promotion, because they would be no ones but corrupted officials as they bribed for their positions.

Along with this I may ask HE Pok Than who actually has proposed for the sharing of leadership from the primary school level upward? Who has actually proposed the request to Samdech Krom Preah Norodom Ranaridh? I sent the letter back with my response that this is going to be untold and unimaginable destruction. I said in the letter we should base on qualification and not the party's quotas in this matter. I instructed HE Im Setthi and HE Kol Pheng to take this matter up for discussion, where quality and qualification are the decisive factors. I wish to state clearly that I do not accept any request for the school leadership to be shared by political parties, and we will maintain it according to professional career development. I will nullify any approvals in violation of the principles I mentioned.

This is one of the reasons why

the Cambodian People's Party supports a proposed amendment of the Constitution on issues of forming government and other important decisions from a two third majority to a simple majority or 50 + 1. I think it is time to take this matter up for discussion or we will face a failure in good governance in particular and the rectangular strategy as a whole. I could give you an example where in some place someone who used to be a butcher has been proposed to a position of Governor or Deputy Governor of a province. My intention in making this an issue is for both CPP and FUNCINPEC to continue to unite and make efforts in implementing their works effectively.

In the past weeks, political development has been fast but we have found a problem solving approach which is purely Cambodian among parties involved. The political mission of 71 hours has become a great pride for Cambodians. The Cambodian medicine is good for the Cambodian sickness. Once the accused have acknowledged their wrongdoings and expressed their regrets over what they had done in the past, and that also includes the letter from HE Say Bory, I think it is enough. My intention is to harm no one and to destroy no one, better still to keep no one out of the election. Our victory is real when we all can unite for the country's development. We should see our victory in the achievement of coordination and concession-making by all political parties of different tendencies. In my meeting, more than three hours, with HE Sam Rainsy, President of the Sam Rainsy Party, we have discussed a wide range of topics.

I wish all to see that I have been surrounded by tricks all around initiated by some bad peoples.

(Continued on page 4)

(Continued from page 3)

Their tactics are to keep me to fight in all directions, to fight in many battles at the same time so to speak, aimed at bleeding me to death. I have uprooted the tricks now. As far as the amendment of the Constitution is concerned, we think of a wider strategy whereby no one party could block a chance of forming a Government. If CPP wins the elections, CPP will continue to invite FUNCINPEC and other parties to join in the Government and CPP also expects other parties to do the same if the win the election. In so far as things go, the two-third majority voting system had been good for a country like Cambodia, but its side effects have been also greater than bearable. A vote for removing senior Government official has been very difficult. Take for instance, according to the system as stipulated in new article 125 and old article 106 of the Constitution, when there is a definite absence of the Prime Minister for death or for physical handicap leaving the post of Prime Minister vacant, a new cabinet must be organized according to the Constitution. We have to seek a two-third majority to get its approval.

In my telephone conversation with Samdech Krom Preah he said the higher democracy the lesser votes there will be. Some in FUNCINPEC suggests Samdech Krom Preah to ask me what if FUNCINPEC does not join in the process. I am sure they have to do some calculation. What we are taking now is to allow no one political party to be a hostage of the other party, and I am sick of having to confront with bargaining deals for so and so ministries to be established. The amendment of the Constitution is now. We all have to make efforts from now to the election and see who will get the votes to establish the Gov-

ernment. If they could not get a 50 + 1 votes, they may invite another party to join them. I warn those who oppose to Samdech Krom Preah in the amendment of the Constitution to reconsider their positions, while CPP would not hesitate in doing so. CPP calls for an amendment made in all relevant articles in the Constitution, except the law on stripping off immunities of the parliamentarians has to stay as it is now – a two-third majority requirement.

CPP once again reiterates that it in no way abandons FUNCINPEC because we have been partners for a long time already. But I warn them that as a true partner, we should not deal with our works by placing conditions. SO I wish to mention once again what I have said that 1) we are now at the time where the Constitution should be amended from two-third majority system to 50 + 1. In doing so CPP does not leave FUNCINPEC alone. As I said to HE Nhek Bun Chhay at the wedding ceremony of the son of HE Kun Kim that CPP is a blood donor to FUNCINPEC and if CPP dried out and FUNCINPEC does not know how to make use of the blood, both parties will fall. I reiterate that CPP support the proposal placed by Sam Rainsy Party for the amendment of the Constitution on decision making vote system from two-third to 50 + 1, but also all relevant six articles. Taking this opportune moment, in relation to freedom of expression, I wish that HE Minister of Justice, Ang Vong Vaddhana, to listen to the calls for changing defamation lawsuit from being addressed in the criminal code to that of the civil procedural code. Many countries still have defamation as criminal charges. However I think we should place it in the civil procedural code in Cambodia...■

16 February 2006 (Unofficial Translation of Selected Comments)

Comments on Poverty Evaluation for Cambodia

The report reading has been fast. Though my listening has not been comprehensive, overall the meaning has been conveyed very clearly. A gap in equality is a matter of consideration, which means the equitable distribution of the economic growth for the benefit of the poor, and that is what we have clearly mentioned in the rectangular strategy policy, which we aim to first maintain peace, stability, security and social order, second to promote economic growth within the range of 6% and 7%, third to equitably distribute the economic growth and fourth to achieve a sustainable natural resources management.

Let's talk about the third angle which is to promote economic growth between 6% and 7% that we have striven to attain with tremendous difficulties. In this meaning if we are to maintain equitable share on lands which means no further land grabbing is done while more land is provided to our people for cultivation, it is a great help for the Royal Government to provide them on the basis of a social concession to the people. The Royal Government urges that no land grabbing is allowed while seeking land for our people should be another area of action.

In the annual review at the Ministry of Interior yesterday, each province reported overall achievements in the province and in Kompong Thom province, we still have about 50 thousand hectares as arable and free land in the area around Tonle Sap, and the Ministry of Water Resources has a plan to build up a flood recession dam. Last time I talked about some free land in an area between Purath and Battambang. Frankly speaking, there are more arable land available in areas around the lake of Tonle

Sap. The area has mostly been changed from floating rice to dry-season rice cultivation area.

Consideration should also be given to development of infrastructure – ranging from schools to hospitals, pagodas, roads, irrigation canals, etc. so that their concerns on their children education, healthcare and social activities are resolved. So in addition to land on concession addressed to our people, we also have to put in resources to address this situation, including also issue of land clearance. The two issues should be addressed in a cohesive manner.

In the 1960s, we all knew about the efforts led by then HM the King in sending people from the central plain to the plateau of Ratanakiri and Mondulakiri provinces, and also my unsuccessful plan to send 100 teachers to the province of Ratanakiri, as in the end there are only six teachers left. But I think we could realize this objective in the present day because more facilities have been made possible.

I am sure we will be able to sustain or increase our growth percentage. Care should be exercised on expenses. We should exercise restraint over what should be spent and what should not. Take for instance, some of my advisors have not been at work regularly and each one of them is paid about 1.2 million Riel a month. I have to review who are good to keep and who are to be excluded and the money from which should be used in digging canals for our people. We have allocated more money to help improve rural infrastructure such as roads, canals, etc. We have built many roads therefore they have a great interaction in eco-

(Continued on page 6)

(Continued from page 1)

I – the completely collective way of cultivation. It was working on the contrary to my policy in those years that I pushed for privatization with transfer of ownership.

Another remark that I wish to make in this moment is the fact that we all must refrain from making Cambodia a dumping site for other countries' wastes. In 1990, there was this proposal to generate electricity in one of our island and in return they would give us a sum of 20 million US dollars. I asked about the process of generating electricity as to how much would be the pollutant matter and they said there would be a small bottle within 10 thousand tons of burned materials. I said it was enough for polluting our coast and I remembered that the World Health Organization agreed with my idea. It was just an attempt to bring into Cambodia the wastes from other countries which were looking for dumping ground.

In 1992 similar incident happened, only this time they promised to make fertilizers out of it. We placed a question why don't they burn in their country and give us the fertilizers, why do they have to ship them here? In 1995-96, when HE Pu Sothearak was Minister for Industry, electricity through wastes burning was again brought to my attention. In 1997, a group of delegation came to see me in Takhmao, where they tried to explain to me how good is the process of burning wastes to generate electricity like it was now and never practiced in any country at all. They promised a low price. I told to make use of them in their countries. The same is true when I said to people in telecommunication sector that they should not think that Cambodia is their dumping site of outdated technology.

With regard to environmental violations I have said to HE Mok Mareth, Minister for Environment that I have given him what he needs as power to deal with those violate the environment. I agreed when he suggested the Ministry would sue them for doing so and I would urge a cooperation of relevant Ministries to work together as plaintiff making the case heard in the court. I could be of your assistance if you want me to remove Governors and if the case proves that the Governors are concerned. The case must be brought to court irrespective of who the person could be.

If CPP were to keep a person – whose record has been tainted by land grabbing, it has to pay a loss of ten thousand votes. CPP should see that it is not going to be a loss of a person who has connection with the Party but the Party loses real connection – the people. We are for the whole people and not for one person and are not afraid of being hated by one person at all. I have given all power requested now and I would not hesitate to use my own sword in case of need. In one of my meetings with HE Prime Minister of Japan Koizumi, I could remember he said after the war, he was so happy to see the country was making real progress. Only when he grew old to know that it was not a good way of development for the fact that there had been severe pollution. In Cambodia, in 1988, there was a proposal for building a factory in the north of Phnom Penh and I disagreed because dust would then be blown into the city in the time that wind blows from north. We should try to minimize issue of development today, with serious consequence on people's wellbeing and health in the future. We continue to drain the river bed in front of the Royal Palace as leaving it the way they are would make

06 February 2006 (Unofficial Translation of Selected Comments)

Land Management, Urban Planning & Construction Conf.

I have a few things to add to what I have just read from my prepared text. I wish to declare the Royal Government's commitment to move forward on issue of combating illegal land encroachment. I think we do not have any further time for understanding on this matter. I hope the city and provincial authorities will help the Royal Government in claiming back lands that belong to the state, which have been illegally occupied by some people. You may have known already that the Governor of Ratanakiri together with the provincial military and police heads had all been stripped off their positions allowing for the charges being placed upon them as to the investigation that proves they have been involved in illegal logging. It is an example but definitely not the last one. This action applies to anyone – whoever s/he may be – for the illegal seizure of land.

As far as land registration is concerned, judging by the fact that the Ministry has been planning the timing of registration and issuance of land tenure, I wish to have your attention that we have to respect the reality that some of the people have occupied some of the lands for a specified period of time with-

the river shallow leading to erosion of shores on either side of the river. All Ministries concerned should see this as an urgent matter. All I would warn in regard to dealing with all the above matters is that there should not be this tendency of small fish feeding the bigger ones. The charges should be proceeding if we have all information needed and in that sense people in the matter should consider withdrawing or they will subject to facing legal charges and publicity in the press...■

out any registration or proof of possession. They should not be affected from this process. I have few cases of land conflict almost everyday to solve and in fact this matter should not be forwarded me as lower authority could settle these cases. But our people feel it confident to bring the matter to Hun Sen's attention. Land issues in Cambodia have been complicated especially after the abolition of private possession regime for a period of time.

In my political life up to now, I can say that there have been objective mistakes which I have mentioned this many times already. First, the land reform front was not conducted in a timely manner. In fact land reform should be conducted in the early part of 1980s. The problem is that there was difficulty as how to determine ownership in face of previous ownership that was abolished by the Khmer Rouge and those re-established as a result of people's displacement in the Khmer Rouge regime. It was impossible to implement reform on the basis of insufficient information on de-facto land title and ownership. For example, people had been displaced from their original province of Prey Veng to settle in Pursath, while lands that were once belonged to them were occupied by other people. They indeed also occupied lands that belonged to others who had been displaced elsewhere as well.

Second, I left the matter of illegal logging unattended for the period between 1993 and 1998. It was a serious issue and I am responsible for that. In time of the State of Cambodia we allowed for logging between 150,000 and 165,000 cubic meters per annum, and

(Continued on page 8)

08 February 2006 (Unofficial Translation of Selected Comments)

Trade Performance in 2005 and Target for 2006

As usual, together with my prepared text, most of the time I have some comments to make and today perhaps I have nothing else to tell you about our political situation. In what has evolved in a flash of Cambodia's politics, the situation has turned out to be a detente, though of course there have been various comments made from different parts of the world in ways that they see the matter. What is the most important for us all though is to make real peace, national reconciliation and democracy with the respect for human rights happens.

Well the hall we are in today was once used as a hall for the CPP (Cambodian People's Party) congress. At the conclusion of congress, I spent about half an hour giving my advice to the CPP officials. I noted for them that change of attitude is very important. I begged the CPP officials in the congress on many issues regarding land, log, fish, etc. I noted also that many officials jotted down during the time that I made my comments. I warn them to perform according to what they have been advised to.

HE Cham Prasidh just said in his remark that the conference on trade today is fully aware of the fact that our country's economic potential, challenge and competition are encountered with those of other countries – rich and poor. In this context, how could Cambodia ensure its chance of winning? The answers are that we have to **perform deeper reform in trade matters and to adjust structure of the Ministry of Commerce**. This is what the conference on trade in 2006 has to bear in mind, for now and for coming years. Decision made on paper is one thing but once it is out there, the resolution has to be translated in to reality. We

have to take a serious effort in studying what have been the difficulties concerning imports versus exports and vice versa.

We should now change our attitude from boss to servant as the old attitude of being boss is indeed a big mistake in management. Yesterday on TV I saw the new Prime Minister of Canada getting on a bus to assume his position. This is definitely an attempt to show a difference between him and his predecessor. Before we sit and wait for traders to come look for us. From now on we have to reach them out. Take for instance industry should encourage people who have already invested in food processing or any things for that matter. On top of that we should try to help them access microfinance services aimed at helping them strengthen and improve their production. From the trade point of view, these developments should be encouraged further by securing market access for them, because trade without marketing is no trade.

It is in this remark that we have to change attitude from boss to service provider. We also have a concept of export on the spot, together with foreign exports in efforts of reducing poverty for our people. Take one development to sight. We currently have 82 hotels in Siemreap, and we have anticipated the number to reach about 102 by 2007. We should see those hotels as marketplace to where our farmers' production could export. The issue in point is how to make our products standardized so that those markets could accept them. In addition to this we also have many restaurants that are markets for local imports as well.

The Royal Government continues to build more infrastructure so that tourism will get benefit

(Continued from page 4)

conomic activities in general.

I like what has been done by the new Prime Minister of Canada who, upon assuming his position through a comparative majority – which means about 37%, had taken on a bus. It was a contrast to those before him. I think it is a good thing if the Cambodian officials are taking this as example. It is now time to mobilize all workforces – from whatever party they may be – to work for the national interest. Yesterday HE Sam Rainsy sent a fax to me informing of a dismantling of a market in Kompong Thom, and there was this issue that has not been resolved yet about the annual fee for each stand in the market. I sent HE Om Yenteng, my advisor, to check this matter up with HE Sam Rainsy.

I would say that it is time for parties in and outside the Royal Government should unite to resolve national issue. I think this is more constructive for the country and the people's interest. It should be a Cambodian

from more tourist sites/ accesses. Last year we have a record of about over 10,000 cars going to Pailin. How many people you might think there were in each car? People in Pailin definitely found this a chance for their products – ranging from fruits to animals. What do you expect? Trade starts from small things like this. In Phnom Penh, a green belt deserve our attention because some places could be production sites for supply to Phnom Penh, and the same could be applied to Sihanoukville, Siemreap, etc. Maybe we should think of introducing and making foreigner getting a taste of the Cambodian dishes.

I think Laos has been very good in this matter because

culture that we all work together while leaving no one aside. If I were to win the forthcoming elections I would invite more parties to come in to the Government as a result of the implementation of the 50 + 1 formula in the formation of the Royal Government. In the West, they say it is democratic only when there is opposition party. In Cambodia, even if all parties are in the Government, we would have constructive ideas from NGOs.

I have agreed and I think HE Minister for Justice has already prepared to allow the defamation charges removed from the criminal code but to place it in the civil procedural code instead. The most serious charge would result in compensation. Many countries have not made this charge a civil case yet, but I think Cambodia should go ahead. Though it was prepared by the French (the criminal code), I think it is still up to us to see how it should be done. The Japanese help us in area of civil procedural code, which the defamation should be covered...■

their dish of sticky rice and salad are the delicious dish for many foreigners.

We have introduced and implemented legal reforms in an effort to make our court system accountable and effective. While reforming public service, we have to change also our attitudes, from Prime Minister to every official. I said already that what is the most frightened thing for us is not the opposition party or civil society but the people's poverty. Our victory is not to be won from killing others, but from gathering them to work together. They may not be people of one mind but we have Constitution as a guide. A victory over the poverty cannot be won only on paper...■

(Continued from page 8)

5:30 pm on Sunday — free from so-called international pressure. The political confrontation has been resolved at the participation from a journalist, Mr. Soy Sopheap, and Oknha Mr. Kith Meng, Chairman of the Chamber of Commerce of Cambodia, even without involvement of senior Government officials. All of this started from the request of HM the King through Samdech Kong Sam Ol — Minister for the Royal Palace — on January 15. HM the King put it in short whether there is a way to put out tension. In response to the request I have arranged for a number of scenarios and one of them was proceeding on January 17, the day that the United States of America inaugurated its new Embassy building in Phnom Penh, and some people said I was making concession because of international pressure. Mr. Kem Sokha asked Mr. Soy Sopheap, to probe my position. I told him I am ready to reconcile and I would take no one to be my enemy.

Talking on phone with Mr. Kem Sokha and HE Cheam Channy — who happened to be in the prison together — I told HE Cheam Channy to be hopeful and I have prepared a letter for the reduction of four years from his prison term. I told him that his wife and his lawyer had written good letters to me, which shows no sign of international pressure in there. I told him he was the victim of his colleagues' remarks. Later Kem Sokha asked through him again if he could continue his plan of Dharma march. I said yes that is his work and he has to do it otherwise he and I would be under attack for closing the Public Forum. In the course of solving the problem, I made reports to HM the King and all the people concerned.

The case of Sam Rainsy is closely related with Mr. Soy

Sopheap, but also it involves someone higher — and it was Oknha Kit Meng — after whose assurances, a letter was sent to me and I responded immediately without delay for I am sure any delay would worry them. I had a bad time in trying to get through to Samdech Krom Preah Norodom Ranaridh or Samdech Krom Khun Sereivudh, so it left me no other choice but to go ahead. I sent a letter urging him to resolve the remaining problem with Samdech Krom Preah, a copy of which I sent to Samdech Krom Preah as well. After talking with Samdech Krom Khun Sereivudh, I had confidence that Samdech Krom Preah would not disagree with the content of the letter I wrote to Sam Rainsy, I then called HE Sam Rainsy that according to the news I had from Samdech Krom Khun Sereivudh, HE Sam Rainsy should book a flight back. The case of Chea Poch is to be brought to Samdech Krom Preah for his attention as HE Chea Poch still has the rights to attend the parliamentary session.

The issue was not ending by the amnesty provided to HE Sam Rainsy and HE Cheam Channy but to re-instate their parliamentary immunities. The conflict started when HE Sam Rainsy accused me to be behind the grenade attacks and the plan to assassinate opposition activists. Now that he accepted that it was his mistake in making those false accusations, and his letter is indeed a self-sentencing. This is his courage.

He also acknowledges doing similar mistake in accusing Samdech Krom Preah to have been bribed by me. Why on earth should we be finding his faults? Some people in the opposition have been unhappy with what their leader do and some are putting their concerns whether Sam Rainsy will attract votes. I would say it is a

cowardly remark for being afraid of someone who might get more votes. That is not Hun Sen's style.

Some countries put the opposition under house arrests or detentions and preventing them from establishing their own political parties. I want a strong competitor like a good boat to compete with. Aside from this I told Kem Sokha and Sam Rainsy that I also listen to their opinions and from other NGOs which could be considered a reflection of what the Royal Government is doing. Only refrain from defaming anyone. I am glad to see that Cambodians have proven to be able to resolve their differences by themselves. Every Cambodian people could not be overlooked for his/her role in political involvement for the sake of peaceful settlement of conflicts. We have proven that we have done this already in the case of the Khmer Rouge.

I urged HE Sam Rainsy to come back soon as we are now in the season of catching big fish and he told me what he heard about a new rice variety — Sen Pidor that HE Chan Sarun put a great effort to produce when he was the director of the University of Agriculture — which is giving a great deal of yield. Cambodia now has moved from conflict to reconciliation, and from confrontation to negotiation. It is now a win-win situation, in which everyone wins and our young generation will benefit.

Cambodia has been ruled by many factions in its history and after the implementation of the win-win policy Cambodia has become a united country and ruled by only one administration. We should benefit from the creation of more political parties, NGOs, free press — all of which should be in replacement of arms...■

(Continued from page 8)

mother used to say before scolding the children they should be fully fed first. Once the stomach is empty nothing could be absorbed. On issue of **clothing and other materials** — in 1979 our people did not have cloth to put on, but now we have to think of better quality cloth for them. Some of our people have some cloths but lack mosquito nets, etc.

Shelters and housing — more houses have been built in concrete in replacement of thatched houses. Anyone needs to have shelter and own home. To allow our people to go for this we have to help our people in their income generation. Their shelters could also be their protection against natural calamities as well.

Education service — access should be provided to the whole people of Cambodia and male and female children, which means we need more school buildings and teachers.

Health service — we are working to improve the people's wellbeing because in absence of good health, we could not have a healthy physical and intellectual human resource.

Transportation — we should continue to provide new roads for people to transport their products, and also to make our people accessible to transport means. They could not afford to have one but not the other.

As you can see the first point of imbalance to be addressed covered a wide area of issues as have been listed in the above six urgent problems to be tackled. I have dispatched a unit of Hun Sen engineering team to Siemreap area equipped with Bitumen machine. I have approved that the APSARA authority requested for two million worth project for building roads in Angkor area...■

20 February 2006 (Unofficial Translation of Selected Comments)

Building Information Center at Angkor Children Hospital

It is indeed my pleasure to have returned once again after the visit on February 26, 2004 at this time to participate in the construction of the Angkor Children Hospital. I think we will continue to receive more assistance from the Friends without Borders whose charitable persons have been artistic photographers. It has now been seven years from the time when Mr. Kenro Izu came to Cambodia in 1998.

In 1996 the Royal Government offered this site for building a hospital and in 1997 the construction began. From October 1997 to 1998, the hospital is finished and it was inaugurated on February 22, 1999. What is impressive here is that in between 1999 and 2005, nearly half a million children, exactly 424,661, have been examined and treated at the cost of about 6.3 million US dollars within a period of six years. To have a hospital building is one thing but to have a functioning service including cost of treatment is another important matter. In 2000, the hospital sent 48 children for surgical operations in Malaysia and in 2001 a victim from mine was sent to Hawaii. Again in 2005, the hospital sent 17 children with heart problems to Singapore for operation and five patients to Japan and Singapore. Having seen all these developments I wish to reaffirm that the Hospital could go on for another 50 years.

My presence today is also to preside over the groundbreaking for the construction of information center which is to cost about 30 million US dollars. I wish to stress that there will not be any suggestion for relocation of site to anywhere at all. Maybe we all still remember about the 10-January College, which, under the 2004 political stalemate, was requested for relocation to a sub-

urban area. The same is true also for the hospital that was assisted by Belgium. I told the visiting Minister from Belgium that they should no longer worry about those efforts to swap land of the hospitals for construction of hotels. I warn everyone that they should be careful in authorizing a swap of public property for the fact that more schools and hospitals are needed in our country.

Siemreap is a tourist attraction province and I have come here frequently to inspect the overall development and construction of various infrastructures. We have provided more works for our people and we have to make efforts in making what does not exist before happen. I am glad to note on development achieved by the Royal Government – in which CPP and Funcinpec have joined in for the sake of the country's development.

Development is an issue that cannot be resolved in a short period of time. The millennium development goal by 2015 would reduce by half the poverty and in Cambodia I used to address the ten points of imbalance, between demand and supply, national income and expense, need for monetary and goods, the purchasing power of Riel currency, balance between salary and living standards, growth of labor force and jobs creation, national development and human resource, infrastructure and institutional capacity, and integration of economics into regional economics. Take for instance on the first imbalance – between demand and supply, I have suggested a number of issues to be addressed:

Demand and supply of food – it is an important issue. My

(Continued on page 7)

(Continued from page 5)

actual implementation never reached the plan. After 1993, we had this problem of anarchic logging and Cambodia benefited a cheap price from it. As of now I have ordered that logging be stopped and one should not worry about income from logging. We have taken back an area of about two million hectares of land under forest concession for an indefinite period of time. Some companies pointed out that while stopping logging activities Cambodia's jobs has been reduced to a smaller number. I said it is acceptable because sooner or later we will have the number of jobs reduced because of the fact that the forest will become extinct as well. Attention should be paid on logging for domestic needs while the logs for export should be slashed.

Third, it is also a mistake to begin re-size the fishing lots rather late. The fact is that the fishing lots were defined in 1927, which have become silted and shallow over a period between then and the year 2000. The area now has become a shallow field, and the number of fish has reduced significantly. Thanks to many studies, we have been able to re-size the fishing lots to allow about 56% of the previously defined areas for our people's accesses. Now that this has been fulfilled we have also observed the number of fish has again taken an increase. Another development that is noteworthy is that we have observed infrequent conflicts compared to before between fishermen and dry-season rice cultivators. The two have been in discontent of one another because fishing needs to dry water out while cultivating rice needs to keep water for irrigation. Indeed, today is the 8th day by lunar calendar and it is time for our people to catch fish.

These are the three basic shortcomings that I have taken notice of in my leadership. It is a good thing now that we have involved communal leadership in speeding up the process of reform and our foreign friends to donate more financial assistance and means. It is also worth start thinking now of relocating our people – which is on the increase – to areas where rice could be cultivated and they should be accessible to land. We have these areas in between Battambang and Pursath where floating and dry-season rice could be grown. Officials assigned to look into those land accessibility should not act on their own interests or they will be reprimanded seriously. Some people possessed land almost in every province. I wonder what they are going to do when the law against corruption is put into practice as they would be required to declare their possessions. Everything should be placed under the people's interest.

As far as issue of construction is concerned, we can put a question why sometimes the building is already completed and the architectural plan has yet to get approval. Now we have to exercise the module of considering-as approval if there are no responses in so and so days. I am sure if this option is to be approved quickly we will have more investment. I have requested for an inspection for issue of the special economic zone, for which I will chair a meeting on February 15. I think we should try to decide only the master plan while leaving factory plan for investors. Special economic zone needs competing potentials, and I think we have to smooth the way for such an investment to happen.

Well maybe I should disclose from my side the political story of what happened in the last 71 hours – 5:30 pm on Friday and

(Continued on page 7)