

**27 April 2006** (Unofficial Translation of Selected Comments)

### Inaugurating Buddhist Temple in Serei Suosdei Pagoda



Samdech Hun Sen and Prime Minister Wen Jiabao at the Construction Site of the Office of the Council of Ministers in Phnom Penh

My wife and I are very happy to have been invited to participate, at the end of the Month of Chet of the Buddhist Calendar of 2550, in the inauguration of the Buddhist temple just a fortnight after the Khmer New Year of the Dog. It is in deed our honor that we have been invited for this event. As usual it is worth recalling a bit about history relating to this pagoda. According to our study, the pagoda is here for the past 400 years already. It was started at the time of Sdech Kan or Preah Srey Raja. The second phase of the pagoda development was in the period of King Jaya Jeddha in between 1618 and 1828 and the third stage of development was at the time when King Ang Duong, in between 1840 and 1859 made his effort in putting an end to foreign occupation of Cambodia.

The old royal palace or Venag Chas was then built in

1841 by Preah Baat Ang Duong and later there was a Buddhist pagoda named after the palace – Wat Veang Chas. The construction of the pagoda started in 1863, which was under six successive head monks already. The pagoda came to its stall of development at the time of war and the destruction caused by the regime of genocide. This is an indeed a tragedy that should not be overlooked and that was caused by politicians of the previous time, which war and destruction prevailed while creating poverty and separation of families all over the country. One should refrain from these political mistakes as it would cause problems not only of insecurity for the people but also destruction to all religions in Cambodia – Buddhism is one of the three existing religions in Cambodia, together with Christianity and Muslim.

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**26 April 2006** (Unofficial Translation of Selected Comments)

### Inaugurating a Portion of the National Road 2

I have a great pleasure to be able to join with all of our people, monks and national and foreign guests in putting into use the bitumen national road 2 of the length of 56 kilometers that was financed partly by the counterpart fund provided by the Government of Japan and another by the Royal Government of Cambodia. We have addressed today once again the need that has been long awaited by our people in the district of Doun Keo, Treang, Koh Andet, and

Kirivong who are main beneficiaries of the road. Perhaps I should talk a bit about the background in getting this part of the road constructed. Just now the Japanese Ambassador, HE Fumiaki Takahashi recalled of the late Prime Minister of Japan HE Keizo Obuchi, whose initial but critical contribution before his death for the achievement of this road must be appreciated fully.

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**29 April 2006**

### Remarks at the 5th Congress of the Solidarity Front

On behalf of presiding committee of the *National Council of Solidarity Front for Development of Cambodia* and myself, I would like to express my warmest welcome to all the participants of conference representing the society from all walks of life and different regions...

since then. At the same time, it should be noted that the solidarity front conference is organized at the time when the whole nation is enjoying full peace, strong stability and have attained encouraging results in socio-economic development.

After busy work during this day, I am pleased to note the positive results accomplished by the 5<sup>th</sup> Conference of the *Solidarity Front for Development of Cambodia*. Indeed, the participation of representatives from various groups of society in the conference is warmly welcoming and bravely cheering the creation of the *National Liberation Front* on 2<sup>nd</sup> December and the great victorious day on 7<sup>th</sup> of January, including other major achievements that our people have accomplished

In this auspicious event, I would like to sincerely praise the efforts of the conference's participants for unifying into the one front and gathering wisdoms and good experiences in order to benefit the solidarity front activities aiming to greatly contribute to the development of our homeland.

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In the period of Sdech Kan in between 1512 and 1524, we should also learn the political mistake that was caused at that time because of personality cult. It proved very unacceptable that because of his frightful dream, the King ordered the killing, which should be a lesson for the Cambodian people to remember. The country was because of that instance divided into different areas of controls. As of now I am giving my support to the compilation of the Sdech Kan historical records by Dr. Ros Chantrabot where some of the findings will be sent to printer soon. It would be a document that focuses its study on the period of Punnhea Yaot and the time when Cambodia was divided into three areas of controls – one area ruled by Preah Srey Raja, another ruled by Preah Dhammar Raja and the last one was ruled by Soriyotay. The publication of historical findings aims at giving the younger generations of Khmer to understand fully well their own history in those specified periods.

We should not be afraid to get exposed to history as some people should. We should not be afraid of the truth recorded by history and should not be afraid to confront them. One should ask question as to why there was this record keeping about Sdech Kan. Maybe in the past scholars were afraid to do any research on Sdech Kan because they might be afraid of being sentenced to death. As of now I am not and we should not be afraid of conducting the research into this matter to find out the root cause in Sdech Kan issue – was it Sdech Kan or Preah Srey Sokunbat who deliberately started the conflict. There was a leading fact that

prompted us question on why people under the Srey Sokunbat's rule supported Sdech Kan in dethroning him. And what Sdech Kan did in his control? I am startled by his achievements since he was at that time son of the Buddhist monks' laborers (people whose life is to serve the Buddhist pagoda for generation).

I noted that in this pagoda the statue of Sdech Kan has been built and it deserves a respect from all. The event proves to us all that we all are born to be equal and it was not true at all that some people are born to be respected people and some are not. Some days ago I did a little study on the Buddhist literature of Kabel Maha Brahma on the fact that why he beheaded himself after he failed in a bet with Dhammarbal Kumar (it is a Buddhist literature as to why there are seven Devodas for each seven year of the Khmer New Year).

Though many achievements have been scored in the whole country since January 7, 1979, but it is worth noting that developments in the Buddhist and the secular world are inseparable. If the people are facing famine, the monks would also be starving. On the contrary, if the parishioners are well off, so would be the monks. In time of speedy globalization, the Buddhist pagodas are the best places for preservation of our culture and it is a good example indeed when the people of Cambodia protected their cultural heritage, especially the Khmer characters when the French colony tried to Romanize the Khmer alphabets. The French could not do it in Cambodia as they did in Vietnam. Again it is the best place and a critical role for them to play in preserving the Khmer culture once again against the influ-

ence of globalization and influx of foreign cultures.

As far as good deed is concerned and I used to appreciate the efforts made by the Head monk Nay Chrek in providing relief to people affected by flood in 2000. But on TV programs of three different TV stations, my wife has sponsored a show of life in difficulties and some of the people in desperate conditions live not far from the pagoda. So I think this situation should have the attention of those who practice Buddhism and helping them is in a complete conformity with the Buddhist teaching – performing good deed.

When I declare my plan to develop northward of Phnom Penh city I provided already a road and HE Lim Kean Hor for Water Resources also led his team to build 162 water dams of 79,278 kilometers, among many other things. I have many of water pumps placing along the river – Hun Sen 10 and 43 in the commune of Kompong Oh and 20 in Koh Chen. According to the forecast of flood level, the Ministry of Water Resources and Meteorology predicts that there would be flood as high as the year 2000 but would not be destructive as the one in 2000. I would urge us all to be prepared though for the situation. We also had the Tamork water reservoir built with the financial assistance of the Republic of Korea and will finish asphaltting the dike with the Japanese assistance before long. I also take this opportunity to urge our monks not to bestow high feng shui for those with more than one wife. As far as school building is concerned, my wife and I have provided 2168 classrooms...■

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of a mine free world. We have an obligation to help friends in the world. Cambodia is a signatory country of the Ottawa Treaty on mines and Sudan is a country that is victimized by mines like Cambodia was. We send 135 de-miners today and 09 officers have been sent before in the framework of observation mission of the truce. We have reserved about 1000 soldiers more, who are taking part in serious training procedure. May I take this opportunity to give some advice to our soldiers as you are so honored to represent the country in this mission. You should also take up high discipline and morale in defense of your honors and that of the RCAF and the people of Cambodia. May I suggest that first you respect the independence and sovereignty of the host nation. You are not the occupation forces but the forces that work within the respect of Sudan's sovereignty. Cambodia experienced the bad and the good lessons from UNTAC as some units from some countries violated Cambodia's sovereignty and now our forces should at all not repeat their mistakes.

Second, the Cambodian forces should maintain good relations with the Sudanese, help them if you can everywhere you go and camp as you have done for the people of Cambodia. You should learn their difficulties because you are the best representing the 14 million Cambodians behind you here. Third, You should refrain from using inappropriately the UN privilege to import goods into the markets as this had been the worst actions under UNTAC time in Cambodia because their officers have the rights to purchase stuff free of tax. You should

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I may recall that in 1999, there was a proposal from a private company for building this road on a BOT term of agreement. One day in the same year, I received a letter from the company requesting for tax exemption for materials and fuels needed for the construction of the road. I rejected the request as I had declared an end to the culture of tax exemption on December 2, 1998 in the first cabinet line-up in the Royal Government's second term of office. It was at the same time that I put forward my policy of Triangular Strategy. I could indeed recall that the first term Royal Government had been a rough one as it was second to none in the world that an MP could import two tax free cars. It was a bad management. I was Prime Minister from 1979 to 1993, prior to the Paris Peace Agreement, no tax exemption was ever applied. But I was stung to see that two cars allowed to be imported for free of tax. It was a bad antecedent for members of the Royal Government, the army and police generals, which in the end the whole country has become a tax free one. It was in that respect that I have been firm in rejecting any investment that seeks tax exemption.

It was a road with rough condition indeed when I traveled through here to the Kirivong district after my visit to the Buddhist pagoda of Phnom Khleung. I was once approached by the former Ambassador of Japan in preparation for the official visit of the late Prime Minister HE Keizo Obuchi in January 2000. HE Ambassador informed me of the Japanese intention of providing non-project grant, which we called counterpart fund of about 20 million US dollar. I quickly responded

that I would ask HE Obuchi for permission to use the fund for the re-construction of the national road 2. It was unfortunate indeed after returning from his trip to Cambodia, in June 2000, HE the Prime Minister Keizo Obuchi passed away. I first met HE Obuchi when I visited Japan for a medical checkup in 1997. He was then the Minister of Foreign Affairs. After his death, HE Fuji Mauri took over the job and now it is HE Koizumi who is the Prime Minister of Japan.

In face of unexpected events in Japan, and in my intention to regenerate the wish to have the Japanese assistance in the form of non-project grant for the reconstruction of the national road 2, and in my 56 days mission to rescue and provide relief for our people during the time of abnormal flooding, I had HE the Ambassador of Japan Mr. Ogawa at my side on the national road 2, which he saw what the road could do to help the people, and for that instance, the Japanese side proposed the Cambodian side to start a feasibility study. On March 29, 2001, the Japanese approved the project and requested the Cambodian side to go in two stages – 1) to search for consultant and architecture and 2) to perform bidding. The Vietnamese company won the bidding. It was a little before the election campaign of 2003 that HE Ogawa and I flew here to preside over the groundbreaking ceremony for the road reconstruction. We have indeed many forms of the Japanese assistance – in form of grants we have the Kizuna Bridge, parts of the national road 6 and national road 7. We have another form of assistance – non-project grant – which we have used in rebuilding the national road 2 that we are

putting into official use today. The cost of rebuilding this part of the national road 2 has been 14.5 million US dollars – 12 million US dollars is the Japanese non-project grant, while the Royal Government of Cambodia covered the rest. We now have an enlarged road width from seven to eleven meters. Parts of the renovated road were raised at a level higher to flood in between one and four meters from the previous level. Still I do not approve transportation up to 70 ton load on it. The construction has been delayed because the project approval fell on the start of the rainy season when it was impossible to get hard soil for making the road basement. The project operated in full only from 2003 and 2004.

I would like to take this opportunity to express my sincere appreciation to the companies involved in implementing this project – CIENCO I. I also wish to express the Cambodian people's deep thanks to the late Prime Minister Keizo Obuchi of Japan and the Japanese people who have offered their money for the reconstruction of the road. Thanks also go to all the Japanese Prime Ministers involved. In the first four months of this year I have presided over the inauguration and groundbreaking of six worksites – 1) two bridges along the national road 1 2) the water reservoir of Tropeang Thmor in Banteay Mean Chey province, 3) a clean water system in Siemreap, 4) the School of Medical Technology, 5) the Office of JICA and 6) the National Road 2. As we now have a good road between the border with Vietnam and the provincial town of Takeo, we still have a part between Takeo and the Takhmao town of Kandal. This part has had a

minor improvement. We need therefore try to find money to make the road similar condition from Takeo to Takhmao. In addition to this the Royal Government is conducting a study to figure out how to improve the traffic on the road out of Phnom Penh through Takhmao to the national road 2. We also have a good road between the national road 4 and national road 3 – where the part between Veal Rinh and Tonle Ropeo was constructed by the World Bank fund and the part between Tonle Ropeo and Kompot is being constructed with the financial assistance of the Republic of Korea. We still have a part between Kompot and Chaom Chao of Phnom Penh of 124 kilometers that has yet to be improved. We have to speed up the feasibility study and project proposal as we will have the official visit of the Foreign Minister of the Republic of Korea in June this year and the official visit of the President of RoK also in November.

We have more works to be done and since we have HE the French Ambassador here I think France can do something to help. When the Prime Minister of China Wen Jiabao was here on an official visit, the PRC offered Cambodia a sum of 200 million US dollars for the construction of two bridges – and I demand immediate and fast study of the two bridges at Prek Kdam and Prek Takmeak. May be the Ambassador of France here, HE Roé d'Albert could discuss possible assistance with the Prime Minister of France and the President of France so that perhaps one road could be built aside from projects so far that France has done to help Cambodia – in the area of hydrology, medicine, legal

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reform, etc. I would recommend that all transport companies are requested to come for a meeting, those transporting soil and sand are included. I warn the Governors to take the matter seriously and do not remain idle and irrelevant at all. Once we have maintained a good road condition for long term use then we would generate more advantages as less money would go into reparation or reconstruction of the road. Our people have small means of transport so they are not the one who destroys the roads. Let's get the real culprits.

The latest development of the weather condition here is that we have early rain, which is good and bad. It is bad because our people here cultivate dry season rice and rain would make their harvest difficult. I would suggest that the local authority and those Ministries with large workforce such as

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preserve the dignity of Cambodia though our country is poor. You should change to local currency in respect of the country's norm of economics. You should refrain from using US dollars in any transactions in contrary to instruction of the Sudanese Government.

The fourth point perhaps you should maintain good relations with all other forces joining in the UN mission in Sudan. According to HE Chief of Staff Ke Kim Yan, our forces would be stationed with the Indian forces, so you should maintain good relations with them. We have previously allowed our forces to borrow 1600 US dollar for one person at the start, and deduction will be made when the UN pays us for what we have done to equip and prepare the forces.

National Defense, Interior, Police, etc. should provide their labor to those who really need such as women, widows, handicapped people, etc. I wish the Minister for Agriculture monitors Takeo's dry season rice harvest that is being damaged by rainwater. I am glad to see that here we have signs of development not only in term of roads but also of schools where human resources could be developed. We will continue to prioritize four areas of investment – roads, irrigation, electricity and human resources. In the course of re-directing resources for the sake of health and national education, reduction has been done in the budget shares of defense and security. I am not wrong when we have to set a date as token of respect for the gratitude of teachers. We all have teachers and not only their living conditions but their values and cultures...■

But as this is the first UN mission for Cambodia, the Royal Government of Cambodia decides that you do not have to pay back the loan money of 1600 US dollars per person or 216,000 US dollars for 135 soldiers. They also maintain their regimes and allowances provided by the Ministry of Defense and the General Staff for their families.

May I take this opportune moment to express my sincere thanks to Australia which through HE Ambassador of Australia here helps our forces in perfecting their de-mining experiences and I would urge more countries to provide us medical equipments for teams as such so that more can be done in helping countries in need of de-mining assistance in the future...■

28 April 2006

### Addressing the Seminar on Counter-Terrorism

... To prevent any form of terrorist act aiming at sustaining peace and political stability and social security for our people and to sustain a favorable business environment for the development of the economy toward reducing the poverty of the people, I believe that Counter-Terrorism is an important issue that we must all join together to prevent by having a close cooperation with the international communities in the region and the world. This represents the main reason for conducting this seminar which is due to come to a halt today.

... I would like to congratulate and to highly value the efforts made by all managements, government officials and all the staffs of the working group in organizing of this seminar who have devoted their time and efforts and which have closely cooperated with national and international partners in hosting this important seminar to achieve such a proud and positive outcome.

This outcome is clearly revealed in the summary report of the seminar that was successfully conducted over these two days with support from Great Britain and Australia. It is also worthwhile to note that the participation of civil servants, police officers and all militants in this seminar reflects the efforts and high responsibility of all concerned parties in preventing terrorism and to have national and international cooperation to seek peace, prosperity and security for the people living in the country, region as well as the world.

Taking this opportunity, I would like to extend my sincere appreciation to Your Ex-

cellencies, Ladies and Gentlemen for your participation and openly sharing your ideas and views in this seminar and in providing constructive recommendations aiming at addressing policy and structural challenges in order to identify strengths and weaknesses and to lay out new measures and strategies to increase efficiency in preventing acts of terrorisms to ensure security, peace, and stability for our people.

... I would like to compliment the organizers in raising awareness of the current situation regarding the terrorism. In this sense, the unity and cooperation between all concerned partners have been strengthened and expanded which provided an important contribution to support and enhance the establishment of a planning document and to protect objectives identified by the National Committee on Counter-Terrorism. I believe that the participants have listened to the case of the London Bombing and regarding the role and responsibility of different agencies, intelligence unit, police department, military, and emergency unit. At the same time, I would like to thank for the cooperation and support extended by the Great Britain and Australia to Cambodia to make this important seminar possible. I strongly believe that the outcome of this national seminar will lead to new changes on the quality of work and close cooperation among relevant agencies, including the National Committee on Country-Terrorism and its secretariat as a leading unit to facilitate this cooperation.

We remember that recently threats of terrorism and explo-

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Moreover, I would like also to extend my respect and gratitude to the front's members as well as to all compatriots that have fulfilled their responsibilities as a good citizen and for their utmost efforts, in partnership with the government, relevant institutions and patriotic circle, in developing the country. In this sense, I hope that all members of the national council of the solidarity front in this fifth term will thrive to implement its tasks and responsibility effectively in meeting the targets and objectives set by the conference.

All these achievements, attained over the period of more than 27 years, has helped strengthen the foundation for national social development and provided valuable experiences for our future activities. In the past three decades, our nation has been unified in the name of Solidarity Front to Save the Nation, previously called Solidarity Front for Construction and Protection of Cambodia and now is the Solidarity Front for Development of Cambodia, and has become the mainstream in national development which would not be defied by any hostile force.

Based on its ample cause and historic achievements, the Solidarity Front to Save the Nation was recognized by people, in the history of Cambodia in late 1970s, as the only organization who led the struggle to liberate the country and people from the devastation of the genocidal regime and rehabilitate and develop the country. The front's policies, including the ones on religion, intellectuals, Cambodian expatriates, and pardon policy for those misleading political choices, and other

polices, have been widely disseminated and implemented achieved the most fruitful outcome which creates the favorable conditions for the Front to gather the people from all walk of lives to participate in the national development.

We ought to recall that after the victorious national liberation, the Front has closely cooperated with the authority to garner the great national solidarity force to fight against the return of the genocidal regime and to rehabilitate the socio-economic base as well as the living standard of the people that was heavily destroyed. Base on this great national solidarity force, we have successfully defended national rebirth and to bring the society out of the most difficult phase to reach the gradual progress.

Indeed, these victories enhances the progress in all national sector force and creates a favorable environment in speeding up of the socio-economic development as well as implementing the peace and national reconciliation until the creation of the Kingdom of Cambodia with multi-parties democratic system policy. Moreover, we should not forget about the end of many decades of civil war and the creation peace and national unity for the first time all over the country.

The success of peace and national reconciliation provides the greatest opportunity for Cambodians to realize their own potentials to successfully accomplish new stage of development and living standard and to remove the trace of suffering from the past. The achievement in socio-economic development and the poverty reduction in these

latest years has strengthened confidence on the efforts aiming at reaching bright and stable future. Meanwhile, the progress in the process of creating the Khmer Rouge Tribunal under the laws of Kingdom of Cambodia to sentence the crimes committed in the Democratic Kampuchea is a positive step in search of justice for the Cambodian people and this process also responds to the position and the ideal of the Front.

With this great achievement, we still face many challenges on the development and poverty reduction path. At the same time, maintaining peace, stability, and national unification are still our main tasks that require us to further strengthen the great national solidarity.

The Front, which is a social organization with support from public at large, must maintain the patriotism culture and all achievements of the society as well as firmly holding its role in the recent development arena in order to fulfill its new tasks according to the changing environment of the nation.

In sum, going through a long road and real experiences shows that *Solidarity Front for Development of Cambodia*, which was created by the people resistance movement, always closely links with the people at any circumstances and fulfills its historical roles with high responsibilities and successes.

In the new context that is full of peace and pluralist democracy system, our Front still plays critical role in strengthening this system and to speed up national rehabilitation. Moreover, within this new context, the roles of the Front

were transformed in responding to the new proposal and situation of the country. I would like the conference to adhere some important roles as follows:

*First*, the Front is a solidarity organization for the Cambodian people from all classes, milieus, beliefs, religion, that have emerged from the heart of individual or collective volunteer who have strong patriotic willingness, peace, democracy and freedom loving and voluntarily participate in the causes of building up and protecting the nation. In this regard, I would like to emphasize that our Front does not involve in politics which means that objective of the Front is not power, but it is a giant social organization that educates public on politics such as democracy, state of laws, human rights and citizenship. It aims at raising patriotic consciousness, democracy and culture of participation from people in building the nation.

*Second*, the Front pays attention in driving up public movement in all milieus to actively participate in implementing the national directions and policies in order to protect all achievements of the society, maintain peace, stability, unity and propel the development of the nation in all fields. In this sense, the Front does not make decision on national policy, but it contributes in form of opinion to make national policies and serves as a mechanism to mobilize individual or collective efforts for implementing national policies to be successful. At the same time, the Front will play a role in building connection between state and the people.

*Third*, the Front serves as an

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apparatus that actively participates in building up, strengthening and expanding a good relationship between Cambodian people and people of other countries, particularly with neighboring people, in order to tighten amity, solidarity of people in the sake of peace, cooperation and prosperity in the region as well as attracting for support the development in Cambodia. In addition, based on principles of keeping its main roles and maintaining traditions and experiences of the Front, I would like to additionally point out some actual tasks that the Front's organization in all levels and members should pay attention in implementing to turn the decision of today conference into actions:

1. Strictly upholding the 11 points in the report on activities outcome of the Front that is the principals for directing the Front in the new context and make wide public awareness in the society aiming at expanding mass people movement for national solidarity and development.
2. Educating the public of all milieus to clearly understand about all sectoral progress and encourage the movement to actively participate in implementing national policies and rules of law.
3. Educating people of all generations, especially youth to understand and always keep in their mind meaning of establishing the Front on 2<sup>nd</sup> December, victorious day of 7<sup>th</sup> January that are historic days and the second date of birth of Cambodian people while join together to maintain and expand all achievements of the society.

4. Constantly keeping in mind the crime of genocidal regime, paying attention to maintain stupas of skull of victims that were brutally killed during the period of 3 years 8 months and 20 days to be a worship place according to tradition and religious and to refresh memorials and gratitude to patriots who died for rebirth of the nation.
5. Closely cooperating with societal organizations to train in democracy and human rights, to build culture of peace and nonviolence, to enhance value of social morality and law, respects and to enrich the participation of people in the movement of local development as well as national movement for ensuring the sprout up of social consciousness, orders, dignity and harmony and the spirit of building up the country.
6. Reconstructing and Re-strengthening organizational structure of the Front of all level as stated in statute of the Front as well as paying attention in strengthening and expanding members of Front from all classes for example farmers, workers, employees, civil servants, armies, polices, monks, Buddhists, Muslims, Christians, other religious followers, women, youth, intellectuals, minorities, craftsmen, artists, authors, businessmen, producers, investors, organizations and associations.
7. Exerting efforts to enhance good relationship between the Front and public organizations, amity organizations of friend countries to augment solidarity of people...■

12 April 2006 (Unofficial Translation of Selected Comments)

### Seeing the De-miners Off for the Sudan's UN Mission

Today I have a great honor and pleasure to join with Samdech, monks and our people in seeing off our soldiers from the RCAF for their first UN mission in Sudan. It is another page in history that never exists before. We may remember that dozens of years ago Cambodian soldiers had gone out to fight under the flag of the French colony. Some of them had gone all the way to Algeria. But this time we are sending our soldiers under the UN mission for a complete humanitarian framework. May I take this opportunity to express my appreciation to the Ministry of National Defense, General Staff, the military engineering team and other concerned for providing training and supplying materials needed for our soldiers to fulfill this very important UN missions.

It is indeed a big decision and I am responsible before the history, the nation and voters. I am in the military uniform for the second time today since I left my post as commander in chief of the armed forces in 1999. I first put it on at the time when I presided over the burning out of marijuana at the Cobra-100 area. I put it on again today in honor of our soldiers before they leave Cambodia for a humanitarian mission in Sudan. What are the reasons behind sending de-mining troops to Sudan, which puts my position before the history and the 2008 election at stake? I have decided to name this de-mining team the unit 135 on March 2005. The first reason is that it is in accordance with the Constitution of the Kingdom of Cambodia which stipulates that the Kingdom of Cambodia adheres to the policy of permanent neutrality and non-alignment,

while peacefully coexists with neighboring countries and in the world... Cambodia allows no foreign forces presence, while would not station its troops in foreign countries, except on the condition that doing so is in the framework of the United Nations...

Secondly the decision is in line with the policy of integration that is one part of the Triangular Strategy that I put out on December 1998, which is to integrate as soon as we can into the international community, while using internal and external favorable factors focusing in building economy, reducing poverty, etc. Cambodia's last accession to international organization has been WTO and now it is important that Cambodia actively participates in cooperative efforts in peacekeeping in the world. The third reason perhaps is because we have a request from the United Nations to go to a number of countries but I have decided that we must first of all send to Sudan. Questions arise that why we denied going to Haiti but choosing to go to Sudan. We have sent our troops to Sudan to observe the ceasefire agreement and now we send our de-miners there. Based on those experiences, the Government would decide where else should it send its forces to. The fourth reason because of internal development or internal peace positively allows for such a decision to be realized. If Cambodia were to have secession in parts I would not decide to join the UN mission as well.

Cambodia is a victim of mines and UXOs and there are more to be done. But we also have to share our efforts for the sake  
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24 April 2006 (Unofficial Translation of Selected Comments)

### Inaugurating Achievements in Angsdoc Pagoda

My wife and I are happy to join with all of our people here in the inauguration of achievements ten days after the inception of the Khmer New Year. The Devoda of the Year of Hen has taken a break for about ten days ago while the Devoda of the Year of Dog has taken over the task of figuring out what else need to be done for the people of Cambodia as a continuation of help given by the previous Devoda of Hen. Devoda of the Year of Monkey – in between 2004 and 2005 – had not been generous in term of rain, while the Devoda of the Year of Hen had been better. The seven Devoda – daughters of Kabel Moha Brahma – have taken turn traditionally in taking care of the world, but we have those Devoda of residence, air, forest and the Kingdom of Cambodia, as well as the symbol of the Cambodian People's Party. They keep themselves busy taking care of our people forever.

The Cambodian People's Party (CPP) has taken Devoda as a symbol and the Devoda is here to help our people and is not subjected to change yet. I may take this topic for a discussion here as before the general election in 2003, there were suggestions that the Devoda of the CPP should change as naturally Devoda takes turn every year. I remember they said this in the district of Koh Thom in the province of Kandal. To put it simply they wish to take CPP out of power, while leaving the place to be taken by other parties. I responded at that time from the city of Kep that though the Devoda changes from year to year in taking care of the world, the Devoda child – CPP will continue to be Devoda of the people and

no one could ever replace it. Having said that I do not infer we are Devoda.

Talking about the Party symbol, as UNTAC (United Nations Transitional Authority for Cambodia) and SNC (Supreme National Council for Cambodia) laws prohibit employing national symbol as that of the party, CPP has dropped its original symbol of Angkor Wat temple. We made a decision to have Devoda throwing flowers among many other choices. Samdech President and Honorary President of the Party accepted. No matter what some people are making jokes of the CPP symbol, CPP is still the Party for the people as the Devoda has been done and continued to do for endless time to come.

It is indeed the first time for my wife and me to come together after the celebration of the Khmer New Year to Kompot for this auspicious occasion of inauguration. As usual, my presence in any inauguration would go along with more construction. We have here today seven school buildings of 35 classrooms, and a director's office of three rooms, etc. May I take this opportunity to express my sincere appreciation and thanks to HE Pen Siman and other generous persons – from both inside and outside the country – for the contributions in scoring achievements in the commune of Angsdoc. According to some records, the college here was open in between 1969 and 1970 with 98 students. It was closed right after the war broke out in 1970 and the school was left in ruins coupled with negative effects of the Pol Pot's regime.

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sions have occurred at various locations which are not far from our region. For instance, only within the Asian Pacific region the terrorism threat still continues in some areas. In this sense, countries have put forward their measures in order to prevent terrorism activities. In fact, presence of some terrorism movements and their followers in Cambodia, threats on Canadian Embassy in Bangkok via email originated from Cambodia, threat fax message to British Embassy in Phnom Penh, all these are concern. This factor clearly shows that even though Cambodia is not a primary target of terrorism, but it does not mean that here we are free from terrorism related activities.

Looking from the other side, we have made much success, including disintegrating the Khmer Rouge that conducted a campaign of genocide; we brought back full peace to the people. We have made success in maintaining security and order domestically and to some extent internationally. Are these successes sufficient for us? The answer is not, we need to put more efforts and preventative measures to address the issue.

Based on the above, the law on counter-terrorism has been drafted and submitted for inter-ministerial discussion at the Council of Ministers. I would like to appeal to armed forces, authorities at all levels and relevant national and international agencies to effectively implement the following recommendations:

1. Continue to maintain social order by participatory approach and involvement of people in maintaining national security as a basis to

ensure successful implementation of the above law.

2. Continue to implement the policy of national unity by ongoing efforts in harmonization among different ethnic groups, religions within the country and preventing the disintegration of national and religion unity.
3. Timely put a stop to extremist movements which can lead to an unrest and social imbalance by preventing of all forms terrorism related activities in Cambodia.
4. Strengthening and expanding the cooperation among inter-agencies within the nation, regionally and globally base on the principle of respect, understanding, sharing information, good cooperation in stopping and cracking down the terrorisms.

On behalf of the Royal Government, I would like to ask the secretariat of the National Committee on Counter-Terrorism to exert their efforts in establishing the planning document on time and work hard on cooperation regarding the sharing of information and its analysis.

I would like to express my appreciation to those of you who participate and share your thoughts and opinions... aims at formulating strategy and necessary measures to prevent all forms of terrorism activities... I would support the organization of this seminar at least once a year to review and revisit, and to develop policy and measures on counter-terrorism well as experiences and information sharing between relevant agencies both nationally and internationally. ■

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After 1979, the efforts to reestablish the college had halted with there being only one building of seven classrooms, whereas other buildings were in shattered conditions with numerous holes in walls. Our people sealed them with coconut leaves and roofed it with palm leaves. In February 1993, I contributed for the first time some money for the college to build its director's office. As of now I think I have been to Angkor Chey three times already. As I remember in between 1984 and 87, there had been 666 students graduated from this college and only one third of the number had a chance to continue their education to the College of Samdech Chea Sim in the commune of Tani – 12 kilometers from here. Two third of the students abandoned their schoolings. In May 2000, I offered a school building of six classrooms and another on November 5, 2005 through HE Pen Siman, Director of the Custom House. I wish to express once again my deep and sincere appreciation of the efforts made by generous persons, HE Pen Siman and members of the CPP working group for the district of Angsdoc.

I am glad to have heard from the monks and our people that the celebration of the Khmer New Year has been calm and joyous. I am glad to hear the report of HE Governor Thach Khom about the progress achieved in the province of Kompot. I am also glad that I have come to the province in the previous year - to celebrate the symbolic groundbreaking for the construction of the hydroelectric stations from Phnom Penh when HE Prime Minister of China was here, and this year to celebrate these achievements. According to

the report we have this year a good yield of rice but there seems to be a problem in the efforts to produce salt. I asked HE Khoy Khun Huor about this situation as it was not mentioned in the report.

This time of the year the salt production season has come to an end because it is the start of the rainy season. This year we produced only 30% of the plan – 50,000 tons over the planned 150,000 tons. This lack could eventually be addressed by the fact that drought in 2004-2005 allowed us to produce a sum of 220,000 tons of salt, the surplus of which could help complete the need of this year. HE Thach Khom is not in the list of removal so you should continue to administer the province and I seek your cooperation with HE Khoy Khun Huor in fulfilling the salt production plan not only in quantity but also in quality and for healthcare purpose. What we should do is to make sure that next year's salt production should not be falling behind the plan or we will have a salt deficit problem to tackle seriously.

I celebrated the Khmer New Year at home unlike previous year that I drove out with my wife to see people. What is important for me is that no matter where I am. I am glad to see that our people are happy. One reason I did not go out in the Khmer New Year days is because my going out would involve my bodyguards to go with me and they could not join their families for that matter. I have two memories from the Khmer New Year – on 14 April 1970 I left my family to the marquis, and again on April 16, 1975, I had a wound in my eye. Another fact that I am glad is that this year's accident has gone

down, while death toll from accidents has decreased in numbers, whereas in Thailand, the number of accident is high.

Talking about the Khmer New Year, there has been a traditional belief that the Kabel Moha Brahma had seven daughters and he beheaded himself because he failed in a contest with Dhammabal Kumar. All of the Buddhist laymen have repeated the same thing vaguely. I have gone a little bit further and I found out that it was because of his envy that Kabel Moha Brahma challenged Dhammabal Kumar with a problem. When Dhammabal Kumar could solve the problem, Kabel Moha Brahma had to keep his promise of beheading himself. Moha Brahma went into contest because he envies Dhammabal Kumar, which is an ill will. But he kept his promise and beheaded himself. He could have cheated because he was the one who put the problem and the one who judged whether the solution is correct or not. Kabel Moha Brahma is an envious person but a promise-keeping or truth-bestowing one.

Talking about ill-will I happened to learn a story from an old man here in Kompot and I wish that if the authority could find him, please write to me. It was about greed. There were two men serving as Buddhist laymen. One of them possessed a corrupted manner stealing contributions from head monks, etc. I narrated this story twice before. When they both died, the ill-manner layman became a beggar and the good one became a Devoda. The Devoda one sees that his friend from the previous life was a beggar, and he went to see him. The beggar asked the Devoda to make him a normal person. The

Devoda satisfies his demand. Wanting to be a commune head, the beggar-turned-normal person asked the Devoda to make him a commune head. The demand was satisfied. He then keeps asking the Devoda to make him so and so higher and higher in the rank, until being a King but he was not satisfied and wanted to be the Devoda too. The Devoda sees that his friend could not change his past. The Devoda then turns him into a beggar the way he was. This is a good story and it should be a thought that every one of us should not be too greedy. One should learn to accept what one has and is being offered. I did not mean to infer this story to anyone but one should take it as a piece of advice...

It has been predicted by the Ministry of Water Resources and Meteorology that there would be more rain this year from the early part of the rainy season and less in the last part. Therefore it is wise if our farmer work to grow short-term and medium-term rice rather than long-term one.

*On that occasion Samdech Hun Sen offers financial contributions for the construction of fence, access dirt roads, temples and water reservoirs to four pagodas, one school building of six classrooms and electric accessories to the College of Hun Sen – Angsdoc, a school building of 5 classrooms to the College of Samlanh, a school building of five classrooms to the Primary School of Sre Chea, a school building of six classrooms to the College of Angchuok, a five-classroom building to the Primary School of Yuos Metrei and a laterite covered road from Sdoc Dam-bok Khpuos to the national road 31. ■*