

CPP Underlines Stance on South China Sea

(28 June 2016 — Unofficial Selection and Translation)



Samdech Techo Hun Sen posed for selfie with members of the 65th founding anniversary meeting at the CPP Headquarters, Phnom Penh.

At the celebration of the 65th founding anniversary of the Cambodian People's Party, Samdech Techo Hun Sen underlined the CPP's stance on the South China Sea issues that CNV excerpted as followed:

"... On this occasion, the Cambodian People's Party underlines its stance as followed on South China Sea issue:

- The Cambodian People's Party supports the stance taken by the Royal Government, declared by Samdech Akka Moha Sena Padei Techo Hun Sen on 20 June 2016, and the declaration of the Cambodian People's Party on 22 June 2016 on the South China Sea issue.
- The Cambodian People's Party does not support, and more so is against, any declaration by ASEAN to support decision of the Permanent Court of Arbitration in relation to the South China Sea disputes, which some countries outside the region have wire-pulled and pressured ASEAN members even before the court reaches a decision.

The Cambodian People's Party foresees this issue, and views it the worst political collusion in

the framework of international politics, the result of which would lead to division among ASEAN members themselves and between ASEAN and China. Efforts of some countries outside the region to mobilize forces against China would bring negative impacts on ASEAN and peace in the region.

- The Cambodian People's Party regards the South China Sea issues are matters between countries concerned on sovereignty, and not ones between ASEAN and China.

In this meaning, the Cambodian People's Party appeals to every concerned countries to resolve their issues peacefully together.

Only countries concerned will be able to resolve this problem. ASEAN is not able to work on behalf of those countries concerned.

- There is this ASEAN-China mechanism to resolve issues through the Declaration on the Conduct of Parties in the South China Sea (DOC) signed in Phnom Penh in 2002.

The Cambodian People's Party
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Meeting Leaders of Christian Followers

(24 June 2016 — Unofficial Selection and Translation)

Christian Followers and Prime Minister Meet Once a Year

My wife and I are so happy today to start what is the first meeting but not the last one of course. I have conducted meetings with Buddhist followers through various Buddhist rites and with Muslim in their fast-breaking ceremony. As we are now meeting for the first time, I hope that if there is a request, we can work out our meeting to be on a regular basis like once a year. Thank you (for agreeing to that). From today on, the Ministry of Cults and Religion will have to coordinate with Prime Minister's schedules and the community of Christian follow-

ers to set up a meeting time ... Last night there were 13 Christian followers making comments in my Facebook. They asked if they could have selfie with me. They are from Pailin. I told them "definitely they can."

Everyone Abides by Law, No Exception

Today, our meeting started with the report of Senior Minister and Minister of Cults and Religion Affairs. However, I have one personal matter to share with you. The police had fined me for abusing traffic law. This means that everyone, Prime Minister included, must abide by law. I hope that our Christian

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Royal School of Administration Graduation

(20 June 2016 — Unofficial Selection and Translation)

Scholarships for 40 Health Specialist Students

Along with the apology that I made about wearing no helmet (while riding a motorbike the other day for a short distance with a local in Koh Kong), let me bring you to the day that 39 years ago I rose against Pol Pot. It was a very dangerous time. Should I make a wrong decision, my soldiers and I could have been killed. If I were to command my army to fight and occupy Mehmot, Snuol, etc., we would be able to hold on for a week or so. Then no one could tell about our fate. We then decided to change our tactic from provoking them openly to conducting a calm withdrawal. In the age of 25 years old, I had so much suffering to see how people had gone through killing by the regime of Pol Pot.

on with undisclosed struggle as we did since 1975 anymore. We must resort to armed struggle. It was a fortunate thing that we unite with other forces from Northeast region, Koh Kong, and Eastern region, to establish a people's national liberation front. I wrote a letter for my messenger to send to my wife. Tears came into my eyes. Thanks to that day of tears that Hun Sen is here present with the people.

Please allow me to inform you that I have decided to set up scholarships for health specialist students. Tomorrow I will meet 40 students who passed their

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(Continued from page 1 - A) calls on all concerned parties to implement justly the spirit of DOC, while ASEAN and China work together to achieve a Code of Conduct in the South China Sea (COC).

- The Cambodian People's Party calls on countries outside the region to cease their interferences on issues of South China Sea.

The Cambodian People's Party also appeals to concerned countries and those with attention given to South China Sea issues to stop using South China Sea as bargaining tool or hostage in regional and international meetings for the results in recent years have been divisive.

Cambodia had again, and again, become victim of South China Sea issue because of unjust accusations, and hopes that countries unconcerned will not suffer injustice as Cambodia did.

Cambodia hopes that in the coming time, if the South China Sea issue is not going to be brought up for disturbance or as obstacle to regional and international meetings of senior officials through to heads of state and government, results of those meetings and solidarity spirit will improve.

More so, there will be no declaration of attack or placing false on one another.

The Cambodian People's Party believes that some disagreements among ASEAN members on South China Sea issue symbolize no division of ASEAN.

ASEAN has so much more works to do than only the South China Sea issue.

A matter like this does not happen only in the framework of ASEAN.

In European Community, they also experience issues like Greek's debt crisis, embargo on Russia, refugees, anti-terrorism, whether to stay or not to say as member, which, in a few days now, Britain decided to leave European Union in a referendum. ■

(Continued from page 1 - B) leaders will instruct their Christian followers to respect law. As a country, no matter what religion they hold, people must abide by law without exception. Every religion is equal before laws. Even Prime Minister must also pay fines for offense over law. Immunity defends you only when you are right. It does not defend anyone when s/he is doing wrong. When the person failed to show up in court in response to summons issued once and twice, (police would) have to bring him/her in. Please do not blame it as a political issue.

Harmonization of Religions and Ethnicity

HE Him Chhem made a point in his report that our meeting today is to discuss about harmonization of Christianity in Cambodia. Even though I am covering religion as a whole, I also have to advice harmony within Christianity itself. Why do we have to talk about this? In Cambodia, seeing in general, we have to work on two tiers. The first tier would be at a macro level, where harmonization of religion and ethnicity in the country is necessary because Cambodia has people who follow Buddhism, Christianity, and Islam. Secondly, we must seek harmony within each religion, Christianity also included.

Each religion composes of more than one sects of its own. Buddhism has two sects – Dhammayuttika Nikaya and Maha Nikaya, Islamism has numerous sects, while in Christianity there are Catholics and Protestants. According to the report I have here, in each sect, either Catholics or Protestants, there consists many other smaller sects. It is because of this that we must not overlook the Royal Government's political agenda in defending ethnical and religious harmony in Cambodia. Negligence on these matters would cause disaster, though in our history, there was never ethnic and religious conflict.

These days, you may have seen what happened in Europe, which used to be in unity as European Union. The UK Prime

Minister David Cameron declared he would step down after over 51% of the British people voted to leave the European Union. You can see that overall in Europe, differences exist between British and other nationals in the European Community. As we are experiencing harmonized religion and ethnicity, some countries in the region also have so many difficulties to go through.

Harmonization of Religions and Ethnicity – CPP Political Platform

After the liberation of 7 January 2016, the Cambodian People's Party views harmonization of ethnicity and religion its political agenda, especially in my 31 years leadership as Prime Minister and 37 years as member of the Royal Government. I have given special attention on this matter. Let me have your attention that every individual is different and subjected to political direction and/or will of person responsible in leadership. Different people in position of Prime Minister might see things differently. Sometimes, change is not sure to be better. Some people have called for changes, but they ran away from law and some have made other people their enemy in the future. For example, they have accused better off people such as traders, industrialists, and investors as exploiters. It is a dangerous mindset judging by what has happened in the present world.

We have seen that there is grave danger when religious conflict arises. I have always been very careful on this matter. I dare not interfere in conflict of even a Buddhist pagoda. It was because of such conflict that we have noticed that in Cambodia there are sometimes two Buddhist pagodas in between with 100 or 200 meters. It often stemmed from conflict between Buddhist monk head in the pagoda and those under him – left-hand and right-hand junior monks. When conflict arises, Buddhist parishioners support one side or the other and those who had to move out of the Buddhist pagoda in conflict, would have to build a new one

not far from there.

In Christianity, you also do not forget about this fact. CPP members are followers of Buddhism, Christianity, and Islam. I am a Buddhist follower and I just had a Ramadan-Iftar dinner with people who follow Islam on 14 June. Ten days later today I meet with Christian people. I bowed and chanted pray of Buddhism, I also got the blessing of Allah, and today of Christ, Amen. Attended various meetings conducted abroad on culture and religion, we have come to learn and be proud of the CPP and Prime Minister Hun Sen's leadership, under which there was no religious and ethnic conflict. We must be vigilant though. We must encourage equal rights and footing. Though we belong to one religion, we must not forbid others from believing in others.

Refraining from Religious Insults

It is a true matter in the whole world. Looking at places in the world where there are religious and ethnic conflicts. In Nigeria, a group of guerrilla called themselves Islamists held young Catholic or protestant people hostages and killed many. We must not see this as act by Islamists. It would be wrong to say it is act of the State of Islam. I have posed this question about what happened in Europe many times in various forums. I also had ASEAN leaders' attention to the fact that the cartoon feature published (by a magazine) was the cause of it all. Can Europe avoid that? Can cartoonist avoid making Mohammad or Allah their subject of cartooning? Some would say doing so is a hinder on rights of expression.

In Cambodia, among religions, we must do everything to avoid one religion infringing upon the other. Publishing cartoons of Allah and/or Mohammad would trigger so complicated problem to leadership in Muslim nations. Should there be a fight again, they could be in very difficult position whether to condemn it as terrorist attack,

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exams on top of the class in the University of Health Sciences and will continue their specialist training for another four years – one batch will study from 2015 through to 2018, and the second batch will go from 2016 through to 2019. The scholarships will be 120,000 USD per annum. It will be scholarships provided by my family. I am taking the occasion that I have become a leader in the national resistance movement to liberate the country to set up this scholarships offer. We will select only the one who made their exams on top of the class.

The ones made it to the second place will not be accepted and/or allow to take over the place of top-class students, who fail to take the scholarships. My daughter in law, who graduated from the University of Health Sciences, and had her Ph D in Public Health, will be in charge of this scholarships provision project. We may call it “Samdech Techo’s Scholarships for Top-Class Students for Health Specialists.” My objective is to strengthen career of health specialists for the future of our country [...]

Works, Organized Implementation, and Dealing with Force Majeure

... Now I come back to talking about civil servant officials. They are ones to serve the people. They are not ones to boss people around. I do not demand much. I just demand officials to work according to law ... organic law, roles and responsibilities stipulated by sub-decrees, which describe what the ministers’ jobs are. I have noticed that some ministers have come up with initiatives but need to have approval stamps from me. They should take the responsibility. I will soon write my instruction to those ministers that they are in their competencies.

People took to the streets with pictures of me and of my wife. If commune heads, district heads, and provincial governors work to serve people well, there would not be any problems. I wish they learned the Khmer

terms for “responsibility,” which means admitted both wrong and right. Some officials would take everything that is right and would leave everything that is wrong to others. This sort of official is not fit for senior responsibility. They need to go for re-training. We also have to be careful with officials who would reprimand junior level and report to senior level for bad thing that happened.

I used to write lessons and teach senior officials about working and leading methodology. I had divided it into three stages. Stage 1, in order to get work done, in an institution or organization, whether it is civil society or political party, there needs to have a plan. Planning would show us the way forward. Without plan, no one would know where to go. Planning requires consideration on every aspect. One could not take a model from other country or from a book. One needs to know the difference of situation and culture. In Japan, they have this model of “one village, one product.” In Korea, there is this movement of new village. The two are not similar. They both are different from what we are doing in Cambodia.

Having a plan is like securing 30% of what needs to do. It is indeed one important factor as it is a roadmap for us. The Royal Government could secure success depends on how well they could organize their political platform and strategy. Every year we have designed it in the framework of state budget, and there is a five-year rolling plan, on which we examine every year.

Another 30% would be to organize implementation. If we have a good plan, and we leave it only in the drawers, without implementation, the plan is meaningless. We may spend five years to do planning. Without actual implementation, it is nothing. It is important to organize planning. We must make it a serious step to implement the plan. It is like in war. Troops would go out for an operation. We must have an operational plan, which com-

mander would take care of which direction. How do we go about preparing our troops, ammunitions, and logistics? In work, it is the same. Building a bridge, one would have to start from foundation, UXOs clearance, etc. Taking actual implementation of the plan achieves another 30% on the way. Both make it 60%.

What are the remaining 40%? In every implementation of the plan, there always arises force majeure. This will show us the kind of officials one would be. There is no plan that is 100% perfect. In my life, I have spent most of my time conducting negotiations, for which I always had many different scenarios. I always foresaw what others wanted or had in mind. I did it with Samdech Preah Norodom Sihanouk, with Son San, and Khmer Rouge. I may remind you that there are two kinds of battle – a diplomatic battle, in which leaders go up front, and military battle, in which commanders would stay behind. In reality, Cambodia has just gone through protracted drought and people suffered from it. They almost had no water to drink. That is a force majeure and no one would have learnt about it before hand. We need to come up with solution to help people deal with water shortage condition.

Whether a country or a small unit, one must reckon that force majeure could have happened anytime. In family or as individual, one must expect something that might happen without advanced warning. This has clearly illustrated competency of officials, because they should not blame those in junior level and only report about it to senior ones. Good officials must probe a solution on the spot. It is true though reporting to senior level is important but one must not expect the senior level to act on his/her behalf. I wrote this lesson since 1983 when I taught on this subject of leading and working methodology to senior officials in those days.

Do not Be Ten-Leg or Pumpkin Seeds Officials

I wish our officials to follow what I called two-leg working manner, not a ten-leg manner. When I say ten-leg manner, I mean officials who would only stay in their offices – their two legs, plus four legs of their tables and another four legs of their chairs. I wanted you to work as two-leg official, which means you got to go out to do your job. However, some have also made it too far to go out and make affairs everywhere they go. Some even went to creating land conflict problem. When I say two-leg officials, I am expecting them to go out see how their work can best serve the people, and not to make more problems.

I also do not wish to see officials who make themselves “pumpkin seed ones.” I used to tell this story about a King who gave out boiled pumpkin seeds to officials to grow. He was doing that without letting them know for the sake of following their instincts. As time comes, the King asked them about the pumpkin. A group of officials said they had grown them in abundance but while transporting them for the King, the guards would not allow in. The King knew right away that this group of officials lied not to him but also had a bad intention of causing death to the royal guards. This is the first kind of pumpkin seed officials. This sort of official is indeed dangerous.

The second group said they did not grow them because kids took them away and lost them. Some even said rats had them. The King could not judge whether they knew of boiled seeds but dare not say it out. The King thought they could have a re-correction. As for the third group who sat in the corner, they said they did not grow from the seed because the seeds are dead from boiling. They spoke the truth. Finally, the King found the best officials.

Working as a Team

I wish to see that our officials are working as a team. We work in solidarity, with equita-

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which would certainly have negative impact from Islam followers, or not? I am calling on all religions and religious sects not to molest or insult one another. I would suggest no threat from Catholics to Protestants and vice versa. I am putting out a principle upon which religions are making solidarity.

Secular & Religious Worlds

Different belief in, either sect or religion as a whole, should not be obstacles to hinder process of national defense and construction. We have similar need – independence, peace, political stability, and socio-economic development. As of this moment, we are making what we can to achieve higher growth. I am sure that every religion is teaching men to do merit things. While people are following their teachings, the state will benefit. I hope that priests, teachers, and leaders of Christianity will continue to join in this process with the Royal Government and other religions for national progress. In general, I used to mention about secular and Buddhist world. Now I am making it more global. It is secular world and religious world. If the people's wellbeing is not good and the country is in war or insecurity, religion would not have a strong stance too.

We may loom at what happened in Middle East. Color revolution championed by some countries started from Tunisia, Libya, Egypt, Syria, the removal of Saddam Hussein in Iraq also included, have led to what? It is speechless. Removal of Saddam, how many people had died? Removal of Muammar Gaddafi, how many people had died, as in Tunisia, in the case of Ben Ali, and in Egypt, in the case of Hosni Mubarak? Now to remove Assad in Syria, how many people died? Immigration floods into Europe. These are results of the color revolution or abrupt and informal change. Look what happened in the case of Ukraine. Color revolution in Ukraine leads to what – loss of Crimea. People who made their speeches about famous color revolu-

tion seemed to have kept silent.

I am a real Prime Minister. I am not a Prime Minister in example. People may judge whether they want real things or things that they have in hands or something others promised [...] what I am asking from you is not much. Firstly, I am asking you to continue what we have been doing together. Each religion will strengthen their control and people – be s/he a priest, a teacher, etc. must be competent in what responsibility s/he has. I am calling for solidarity and conflict free in every mosques, churches, and pagodas. Where problem arises, I am urging your consultation, discussion, and resolve.

One way of avoiding conflict is not to bargain among people to become a religious follower. If you were to lure them for money, they would become members for money and not for faith. I am suggesting that it is a better way not to put pressure on people or lure them with money to follow one's religion or sect. It happened in some countries already [...] People will follow the three religions – Buddhism, Islam and Christianity until when they no longer have faith in them. Pol Pot uprooted religions in Cambodia. The regime ended, every religion came back to life.

I just received a letter from Prime Minister of the Netherlands a few days ago. He recalled about our two countries' trade relation in the 16th century. It was under the reign of Sdech Kan in Cambodia, when there was this coin called "Sloeng." Most of Cambodia's trade then was with Holland. "Sloeng" was made in Holland in 1514. On 28 June, there will be an election to choose members of the Security Council of the United Nations. Sweden, Italy, and Holland compete for support. I admire him and/or those prepared documents for him to have recalled trade relations between our two countries. It was a form of trading support on issue of membership of Security Council of the United Nations.

Defend Peace, Political Stabil-

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bility and understanding of one another. We do not wish to see a democracy based on networks and links. We must work as a team. We must work in common responsibility. The Cambodian People's Party has worked over 37 years to draw an experience of "sharing both sadness and happiness." Yesterday, I went to Koh Kong province, and on to the Thai territory, to pay final homage to a person we worked with and are amicable with. For us, it does not end when he no longer have function and did not spare time to say farewell. That we have affection, the affection will last a whole life.

I wish to see that you do not obstruct each other. Whoever is capable in what he is doing, let us make way for him/her. We must be severe. We must exercise public function reform. We are doing a great job when we

ity; Promote Household, Community and National Economies

Everyone should be aware that the country needs peace, political stability, economic growth, reduction of poverty, and improvement of people's living condition. We must work in tandem to defend peace, political stability; and to promote household, community, and national economies. They are what our nation needs. I am sure you all will understand me and/or the Cambodian People's Party better because you have been living in structure and respect of your religions under the time of Cambodian People's Party's or Hun Sen's ruling. This meeting is not one for elections campaign. After we have everything set, we will have a meeting once a year. I will meet you again. I am not too old to do that.

Let All Religions Help with Human Resource Training

My last proposal is for every religion to help with human resource training. I am sure the Christian followers have been doing this works through their

have made it a Ministry of Public Functions. We have reformed our salary grades from each with thirty stairs before to 14 for A, 14 for B and 10 for C. The salary stairs for D is no more. Following previous stairs, officials would spend their whole entire lives, 60 years, to get to the last ones. With the currently reformed ones, they would get there faster. They will move a stair up every two years. I hope ministers will look into this issue properly for those under their supervisions.

Two Questions for People to Think

I have two issues today to bring up for our people to think. They do not have to believe in what I will say but think about it. Firstly, political parties call for determining of the Prime Minister's term and the argument was for younger people have better

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efforts to establish various orphanages, and human resource training centers. To make people strongly believe in one's faith, one must have well educated human resource, who would be for the support of religion but also for national development. We have sitting here intellectuals from the Buddhist, Islam, and Christian backgrounds [...]

I thank leaders of the Christian community for contributions they made so far to the defense and development of the country. We should see this effort as a machine. One part of it does not work, the whole machine will not. When some actors do not play their roles, not only the country will stumble, there will be many conflicts but even division. Stakeholders of all races and religions have made efforts to build up economy, to defend peace, territorial integrity and unity, and socio-economic development, to achieve 7.7% economic growth in the last 20 consecutive years [...] I hope we will meet again next year in a bigger hall for bigger number of participants ... ■

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place those older ones who go into retirement. Demand in education is still big and it is our job to work together to respond to it. The Ministry of Education is the leading institution, but in the whole country, there must be joined efforts of families and communities [...]

Royal Government, Families, Communities, Religions against Drugs/Offenses

I am sure today is a magnificent day that brings joy to graduates and their families. We still have some youths who continue to take a wrong turn. We are making more efforts to have them back to our fold. Some have engaged in drugs, gangsters, and other improper actions detested by society. I would urge our people to see through that though it is partly shortages from the Royal Government, but I would urge families to help deal with their families' members as far as drugs and criminal offences are concerned. We must make efforts together. The Royal Government has created an opportunity for our people through the establishment of peace, political stability, security, social order, and chances for education of all levels, investments in industry, services and other sectors.

We must work on this together and in a synchronized manner. Buddhist monks too must advise people in their Buddhist teaching to refrain from committing those sins. Tomorrow evening, there will be this event to break the fast (Ramadan) of the Muslim people. On 24 June, I will meet with 3,000 people representing those in the Christian community. We could have some graduation ceremony scheduled to afternoon session because we could deal with rain better now. Someone in France posted in his Facebook Page about flooding in Phnom Penh after rain, while rain flooded the river and city in France. You can now see his intention. He would not post things positive about Cambodia and he chose not to say a thing about (the River Seine) flood in France [...]

Let us hope that the river Mekong will have water level as high as 9.50 meters ... as predicted by the Ministry of Water Resource and Meteorology. Last year, the Ministry of Water Resource and Meteorology also predicted the flood level to be at 9 meters but it turned out to be at 7 meters only. We could not have boat race event in the water festival. This year, we hope that rain befalls in Lancang basin, Tibet and down through to the Mekong. There was this tradition in our country that the Chinese are offering alms to the water deity so that the flood would not rise too high [...]

Eurasia – Opening a Market for Cambodia and ASEAN

Today, we are celebrating, with the presence of HE Bu Jianguo, the Chinese Ambassador, the symbolic inauguration of the Cambodian Research Center on Maritime Silk Road. It is one of the initiatives of President Xi Jinping, as part of the “one belt, one road” initiative. It was welcomed widely not only in China for its extension of international relations and development in relation to connectivity and integration but also among nations in ASEAN, East Asia, Shanghai Cooperation Organization (SCO) and Eurasian community. Eurasian community consists on China, Russia and some other countries with whom Cambodia has become partner.

During my visit to Russia, I also visited the headquarters of Eurasia. The most important meaning for doing so is to open market for Cambodia. Before leaving Sochi and heading back to Phnom Penh, it has been some kind of thought that Cambodia is a leading country in establishing relation with Eurasia. There have been questions whether being in partnership with Eurasia must be a move by individual country or ASEAN as a whole. I then had the floor that we should do both – as an individual country or ASEAN with Eurasia. It will provide a huge benefit within the framework of “one belt, one road” as initiated by China, supported by ASEAN and neighboring coun-

tries to China, and nations within in SCO and Eurasia (Economic Union).

Maritime Silk Road, Silk Road, AIIB

I must affirm that in late 2014, hosting APEC summit, China invited heads of states and governments non-members of APEC for a meeting in relation to “One Belt, One Road” and “Maritime Silk Road” issue. Cambodia, Laos, Myanmar, Pakistan, and some other countries neighboring to China were present. The “one belt, one road” project not only reaches out to Southeast Asia but also other regions, through to Europe. President Xi Jinping declared a fund of 30 billion USD, if I am not mistaken. I have, in my intervention, drawn attention about the fact that there are more projects in the region than capital to implement them. I think we are grateful to China to declare its funding for the project so those countries could seek our financial supports.

We have not yet spoken about BRICS – which consists of Brazil, Russia, India, China, and South Africa, which holds second leading role to the World Bank. China, with help from Cambodia and other countries, has established the Asian Infrastructural Investment Bank (AIIB). Asian countries will seize this opportunity because they will have in addition to funding provided by China, two more sources – “Silk Road Fund” and “AIIB.” It is a good thing that the Bank is now underway. The fact that I have spoken about this is not because HE Chinese Ambassador is here. China never direct Cambodia what to do [...]

Don't Threaten Cambodia with Assistance Cutting

I just tell to some countries not to threaten cutting assistance to Cambodia. All you could think of is cutting assistance. That has challenged me to say if you wish to do so it would be up to you. I would have your attention though that those who would suffer primary effect are the ones working for NGOs. They provided funding to

NGOs. I think with two nostrils and one mouth, we could breathe easier. Along with the Asian Development Bank, AIIB, together with the Chiang Mai Initiative, gathering a sum of 400 billion USD, it is a guarantee of safety for developing countries in Asia. I am ready to welcome should there be BRICS Bank in the future.

A Long-Time Relation with China

The fact that “one belt, one road” project will serve the Chinese interest it also promotes connectivity and integration among countries. Before reaching China, we will have to go through Vietnam, Thailand, Laos, or cross the sea. According to historical proves, we noted that relations with China with this region started long ago since the Song, Yuan, Ming, and Qing dynasties – major dynasties in China. In Koh Kong, a Chinese ship sank and just discovered. Extracted objects are on display in Koh Kong and some sent to China for verification of which dynasty the ship was in. We also have a small island in the River of Tonle Sap, Mekong, named after China – Chinese isle. They lived here for generations. In Punhea Loeu district, I saw a number of plates inferring Chinese trade in this part of the world.

On a plate inscribed “river of no return.” In Cambodia, because of meeting of two rivers making four out of two, water flow in and out of the lake of Tonle Sap. The river does return. In acknowledgment of then dynasty, river of no return could have meant that the change from one dynasty to another would not return to the previous one – for example from Song to Ming, or Ming to Qing. You may also remember the fact that Zhou Daguan also traveled to this part of the world by sea. He reached Cambodia in 1292. As you can see, history has it that relation between China and countries in Southeast Asia occurred through trade via sea line, which now China called 21st Century Maritime Silk Road. A

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master plan is underway for a study to figure out connectivity by air, rail, land and economic.

Last year, we received some 800,000 Chinese tourists. We have to figure out how to get Chinese tourist interested in visiting Cambodia. We have allowed direct flight from Chinese provinces in addition to training more Chinese guides, who will explain to the Chinese about our culture and temples. We also allow use of Yuan currency in the Cambodian financial market. This was a decision we made since when HE Li Peng, then Chairman of the Standing Committee of the National People's Congress, visited Cambodia. I told Premier HE Ju Rongji later there were all sorts of currencies circulating in Cambodia. The fact that Yuan stepped in would not be a problem. As you can see, it is not completely new for Cambodia to this initiative. I hail and thank our Chinese friend for providing support for studies and research on this issue in RUPP.

CPP Would Not Infringe Upon Competency of Institutions

I wish to make a statement from this forum to politicians and those who happen to have to understand Cambodian politics. I gave an interview last Saturday to Fresh News about an instance that there was a coercion brought upon CPP. I have made it clear that (1) there will be no negotiation between CPP and CNRP. The only way out is (to go through) the National Assembly. In fact, CNRP already abandoned that option. And (2), should there be any talk in the time to come (which means CPP has its door open for talk) CPP would not discuss issues that are in the competency of court and/or about those in prison. Doing so would render pressure and sustain impact on procedure of the court.

I have spent more than half of my life doing negotiation. If they suggest a discussion to draft so and so laws, I would not hesitate to agree. However, issue of faking treaty or maps is a court matter. Why is it the

CPP's responsibility? Why CPP has to negotiate on that? They should be aware of the fact. What happened where? They will take action respectively. CPP does not have any dispute with anyone, why making it CPP responsibility to talk about? As President of the Cambodian People's Party, I never knew of any talk. It had been a scoop here and there about possible negotiation. I have the duty to make thing clear. They have a problem with the court. They need to find a lawyer to join the legal process. Please do not be confused of roles. Seeking to negotiate with the Cambodian People's Party, they have piles of issues for CPP and CNRP to cover those culprits. That is more reason for CPP not to talk with.

The Cambodian People's Party will not discuss any issue that is not within its competency. It is our official position. Individual must challenge with own problem. When you have a legal problem, you must face an arrest, and/or a subpoena. It is not a matter under the competency of the Cambodian People's Party. CPP has no rights to interfere in court matter. CPP is a ruling party in the Royal Government but CPP has no rights to interfere in the executive power's matters. Some foreigners did not have full knowledge of what is going on. They should rather not say about it or they would infringe upon rights of a sovereign state. It would be better if they could tell person committed wrongdoings to correct himself.

Don't Threaten with Demonstration

I told one of the ambassadors ... that there are only two options – (1) allow the person to instigate and cause turmoil leading to war between Cambodia and Vietnam, and (2) arrest and bring him to court on ground of falsifying documents and using fake documents. Which one do you prefer? Do you want a war between Cambodia and Vietnam? I even said now that Vietnam has become your friend, would you like a war

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chance to come to that position. They also said in similar line so the poor will come to being members of the National Assembly. Just think if it is believable. They told our youth in every campaign their promise to make them important, big and nominate them as candidates for National Assembly members, or even ministers.

When the elections come, everyone must pay to have name in the candidates list. The one to stay on top will pay more and less for those who stay lower. Would the poor have money to pay? I wish political parties will keep silent on this or their reaction would tell what they are. Our people may think on this fact. There are only 124 seats in the National Assembly and another 123 more for reservists. We have millions youth. Would they all become members of National Assembly?

They will have to pay money. The ones higher in lists will pay more. Those standing lower in lists will pay less. Would the poor really have chance to get money anywhere to pay? Would you children of the poor have a chance to become members of the National Assembly? It is only for those who have money who could get to that. Those without money would not stand a chance. Please do not yet believe me. Think about it. Youth in the whole country would have to think about it. Would it be realistic in this sense when someone comes and promises that you will be a member of the National Assembly? Sometimes, that someone does not even have money himself ... They started raising money even now.

This kind of demagogue thing should not happen in Cambodia. Such demagogue politicians should not be in Cambodia. It should end. Look, Funcinpec failed because of what. It was because of promises they made. They promised a district head position sometimes to ten people. When they could not get to be one, they were unhappy and angered. The Cambodian People's Party nev-

er promised. We would just nominate ones whenever it is possible.

Secondly, they declared that if they win (elections), they would keep all officials in the current Royal Government and pay them even better. Is that promise believable? What do they think about people who help campaigning, and even paid for so and so positions? Some in foreign countries even sent in their money with anticipation to take positions of governors or ministers. They promised local helpers to be district heads, police inspectors, etc. While they promised to keep everyone in the current Royal Government, whom they accused of being corrupted officials, human rights violation, how could they fit in others? Think about it.

While promising to keep those who are in current Royal Government, what are they going to do with people who feed movement to send in people to guard you in Phnom Penh or collect thumb prints? As for thumb prints, there will be another serious issue. I heard one person had 82 thumb prints. It is an insult to HM the King. They cheated people. However, we will wait for specialists to see what they had to say. I must perform my duty as Prime Minister and will not allow instance that someone cheats HM the King. I must follow the rule. I hope diplomats will not say Hun Sen uses judicial system to solve the issue. If not using judicial system, what are we going to use?

Cambodian Position on South China Sea Issue

Let me talk now about Cambodian foreign policy. Today the Cambodia Daily wrote that "Cambodia Spoiled ASEAN Statement on Sea: Report." (Samdech Techo read the text of Cambodia Daily). Let me now speak to the whole nation, friends and partners in the framework of ASEAN. Cambodia has taken its position from the beginning to firstly, use ASEAN-China mechanism to implement justly the DOC

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between the two. If we do not abide by law, what should we refer to now? Legal process is a correct thing to do. Would it be better to use gun? We do not need it here. We destroyed some 300,000 of them. It is a small matter. The person should not employ the whole party in his protection.

I warn that please do not threaten with demonstration. You did that once only to ask for the post of Vice President of the National Assembly. This time, because of your female relation issue, you challenge people to demonstrate. How reasonable is that? Sexual matter is a court matter. He should proceed accordingly. Instead of doing so, he appeals for people to demonstration. Authority has the obligation to provide security and social order. Where is the crisis? The person creates a crisis himself. He had to take charge. They called ministers to give answers in the National Assembly. When the minister accepted and got himself ready to do so, they did not attend [...]

Insult to Me, My Family Deserves Invaluable Compensation

I have a matter. It is not a small issue. I suffered a severe damage. If you do not pay me back, you will not be relieved. I will not do anything in your favor. You have insulted me must to severe. Accusing my wife a wife of a former leader of Vietnam Le Duc Tho and Hun Manet is not my son – is too extreme. Would anyone accept this kind of insult? Leaders of CNRP and their activists have done it. Such an insult is unforgivable. I would wish diplomats to answer me if that was a freedom of expression. I am sending this message to the Secretary General of the United Nations, leaders of every countries, and embassies – if they say your wife is a whore and your own son is not yours, would you treat that a freedom of expression? I would not forgive it. I demanded use of term “criminal” ... lately they even bothered that my last child who is daughter in law to Sok An is

not my own daughter. It is an individual issue. I will take this matter as individual matter. I will not touch your party [...]

Assessing, Researching and Using Other Means to Verify Thumb Prints

Another matter that I need to clarify is that I never say anything about fake thumb prints. HM the King Norodom Sihamoni sent me a letter together with boxes of papers stamped with thumb prints. In some places, people complained that they gave their thumb prints to request for water wells, not for releasing so and so. Having received the letter, I wrote on it my instructions to Samdech Krola Haom Sar Kheng to (1) make an assessment of the prints. In the past, we had incidents, and CPP officials included, that people used thumb prints to cheat. Some used one thumb print under many names; (2) conduct a research in local level to find out whether owners of thumbs have printed for that matter or not; and (3) seek other means to verify them. I did not say yet they are not true. I have written so because the issue is concerning HM the King and people. We cannot afford to fake them. We must assess them. We must have people’s verification. We do not allow cases where thumb prints for schools are being used for other purpose [...]

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etnam. If we do not join ASEAN, we may be isolated. Secondly, it is the community spirit. What is it? ASEAN works with consensus, whether the country is rich or poor, big or small, every member has one voice equally [...] Thirdly, Cambodia would benefit from ASEAN integration because of economic construction, socio-economic development, and connectivity. Fourthly, ASEAN is a big diplomatic outreach to partners, ASEAN plus one, ASEAN plus three, ASEAN and Eurasia, ASEAN and UN. These are the factors behind our entry to ASEAN. We are not working to be a member in blindness ...

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(Declaration of the Conduct of Parties in the South China Sea); and secondly, make efforts between ASEAN and China to issue COC (Code of Conduct on the South China Sea). The third point is for countries claimants to the area must solve problem among themselves. ASEAN cannot measure land for them. It is unjust to say that Cambodia’s stance splits ASEAN.

Firstly, I am talking about importance of relations between China and ASEAN. They have hundreds of issues more than just South China Sea issue to tackle. The trade volume between ASEAN and China is so big and it gives enormous interest to ASEAN. China is a big market for ASEAN. Territorial disputes among concerned countries are not between ASEAN and China. In the 2010 ASEAN Summit in Hanoi, in a working lunch, I told heads of Governments of the ASEAN countries that we may sit around one table, but we do not eat the same food.

I made it clear that there are countries claimants and non-claimants. It is a true statement. When the General Secretary of the Communist Party of Vietnam visited Cambodia ... I determined on a stance either we do not include this point of South China Sea or we do not issue a declaration. In a visit of the General Secretary to China, the joint declaration reads countries will resolve areas of bilateral concern, bilaterally, and areas of multiple concerns, multilaterally [...] I will not just give my support without thinking of justice and our nation. The Summit in Phnom Penh failed to issue a joint declaration is not because of Cambodia. It was because they bullied Cambodia.

One country approached us for recognition of an island and another for recognition of its exclusive economic zone. Cambodia is not judge. Cambodia coordinated on South China Issue to keep solidarity and harmonization in ASEAN-China relations. They should consider

that Cambodia played a good role. Two French Prime Ministers appreciated what Cambodia did. Some said it was because Cambodia was too close to China that the Summit could not issue a joint declaration or yield a COC. I may ask everyone in return, why countries chairing ASEAN in 2010, Vietnam, in 2011, Indonesia, did not do it? That Cambodia failed to do so in 2012, why in 2013, Brunei, 2014, Myanmar, and 2015, Malaysia did not do it too? It was because Cambodia is small. They bullied us.

I would not allow anyone to do so to Cambodia. I do not support one and neglect another. I just demand justice. I am asking every country not to use force or threaten to use force in South China Sea, and work together to achieve COC. More importantly, Cambodia appeals to every country involved to negotiate. Vietnam should negotiate with China, China with the Philippines, Philippines with Vietnam, etc.

More than a month ago, an Ambassador came to see me. I believe his country has instructed ambassadors to send similar messages to other countries to seek ASEAN’s one voice in support of decision of the court. It sounds as if they have already had some kind of scoop with the court. That is doubtful, in that case, if it will be just. Let me declare Cambodia’s stance that it will not make any joint declaration to support the decision of the court. It is the Philippines who sues China. Let the Philippines deal with it, why call for ASEAN’s support. What is more unfortunate is we do not even know yet what decision the court will make.

Cambodia will issue its own declaration. I discussed it with Deputy Prime Minister Hor Namhong and Foreign Minister Prak Sokhon already [...] They would say Cambodia is not in solidarity with ASEAN. May I ask if when the Philippines decided to sue China it discussed with ASEAN ... I have been patient and call back my ambassador. They walked off ASEAN

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RUPP Graduation & Maritime Silk Road Center

(13 June 2016 — Unofficial Selection and Translation)

There was last night three matches of Euro 2016. In addition to those, we also have local TV program The Voice, semi-final contest. It is a popular event and both youth and elderly people like it. Since I have more than one TV in my room, I could watch The Voice and the matches at the same time. As for the last matches, I fell asleep. When I awoke, I saw the German team had one goal shot. I then fell asleep again. Early morning, checking website of Euro 2016, I saw that it was a 2-0 result. As of today, I lost three bets of matches. It is not a bet with money anyway. We have been predicting who would win the match ever since a few events ago. I hope you would not fall asleep while I am giving my speech.

Maritime Silk Road – A Great Initiative of the Chinese Leaders

I am so happy today to be able to join with students of the Royal University of Phnom Penh (RUPP) once again to hand out diplomas for 3,746 graduates. Secondly, I am here today to declare the official opening of the Cambodian Research Centre on Maritime Silk Road, sponsored by the People's Republic of China, for which I am grateful and welcoming the presence of HE Bu Jianguo, the Chinese Ambassador to the Kingdom of Cambodia. Though we only mentioned it is the Maritime Silk Road project, originally, if I am not mistaken, it was known to be the Silk Road of the 21st Century. It is however shorter to just say Maritime Silk Road. It is important to remember that the "Maritime Silk Road", which is a part of a wider project of "one belt, one road," is a magnificent initiative of the new generation Chinese leaders.

The Hun Sen Library Still Popular

I would take this opportune moment to express my sincere appreciation for the efforts made by the Ministry of Education, Youth and Sports, and

particularly by RUPP in the sphere of human resource training. RUPP continues to be a leading university in human resource development and training, thanks to cooperation it has with foreign friends. I agree that RUPP will make further efforts for development as is stated by Minister Hang Chuon Naron's speech. I am still proud with the fact that the Hun Sen library – built and put into use for nearly twenty years now – continues to be popular among researchers, students from both inside and outside RUPP. I will continue to provide supplementary support for staff of the library to work on Saturday.

Education Recruits 5,000 New Staff Every Year

I am proud with efforts of leaders and management of RUPP. As an outstanding university since the beginning, we should recall that RUPP came to existence under the reign of Sangkum Reastniyum (populist society) of Samdech Preah Norodom Sihanouk, then head of state, Preah Borom Ratana Kaod. RUPP closed once under the regime of Pol Pot. We have been doing everything we can to bring development and progress to this university again by putting in place more buildings and improving its curriculum. I am grateful that RUPP leaders and management have made successful efforts in graduating 37,989 students so far [...]

If I am not mistaken, students who finished their studies at RUPP could take exams to become professors and/or officials of the Ministry of Education, Youth and Sports [...] they would stand a chance to meet me twice – once while they graduated and again when they finished their pedagogical education program and started their teaching career. The state ministry allowed to recruit more staff is the Ministry of Education, Youth and Sports. Each year, the Ministry recruits 5,000 new staff to answer to growing demand for teachers and to re-

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(Continued from page 7) mechanism. Cambodia will keep its stance on three points – (1) continue to implement DOC, (2) make efforts so that ASEAN and China achieve COC, and (3) concerned countries will discuss their issues. As far as the court matter is concerned, it is not issue for ASEAN. South China Sea is not an issue between ASEAN and China. They are matters for countries who claim sovereignty.

When we had problem with Thailand (on Preah Vihear) we did not ask ASEAN to support the court's decision in The Hague. Why do they force us and place all the false on us. I find it unacceptable. I told HE John Kerry, on his visit to Cambodia, that one should refrain from pouring oil into flame and try to keep detent in relations on South China Sea. I told the same thing to Prime Minister Shinzo Abe of Japan when I was in Tokyo. I would not allow any-one country to pull it into confrontation with another. I am demanding only neutrality and justice. We will not stand with any declaration to support the court's decision, which we do not even know what the decision will be. No matter what it will be and for whoever the favor will be, Cambodia will not join. It does not seem to be legal matter, but political.

How could they juts blame Cambodia? They should see if it is going to be a matter for a fight. Should they decide it is what damages will incur to whom? Trade volume between China and Vietnam is 30 billion USD. Cambodia and China stands at about 3 billion USD only. Vietnam and China have to stay together. They solved issue of land border already. The Philippines and China relation under (President) Arroyo was amicable. I hope the new President will find an amicable way to do thing with China. I am calling on countries outside the region not to interfere in South China Sea issue. Let us leave it to concerned parties to resolve the problem. Where there is bilateral concern, let them resolve it bilaterally.

Where the concerned parties will be more than two, let them resolve the issue multilaterally.

They may think of what I said. Cambodia has nothing else to lose more than in 2012. Cambodia clarifies its stance now. Cambodia is not anyone's puppet. If the conflict is between Vietnam and China, Vietnam and China will solve it. If it is between China and the Philippines, they both should do it. Vietnam and the Philippines also have problem with each other (in South China Sea), they should do it among themselves.

The fact that they wrote "Cambodia spoiled another ASEAN meeting" concerning South China Sea makes us seem to be the one who breaks thing. I just warn you that Cambodia sticks to its clear role to make thing calm, contain conflict between ASEAN countries and China. Cambodia is maintaining ASEAN-China relations for common interest.

If Cambodia wished to make it hot, Cambodia would just accept the requests by two countries – one for island and another for exclusive economic zone. Tension would rise because Cambodian chairing of ASEAN. Cambodia may be small but it is an independent country and has a clear internal and foreign policy to follow [...] there is a huge interest in the relation between ASEAN and China. We need to increase confidence from concerned parties and good cooperation, expanded trade and investment, as China has restored a "one belt, one road," and the 21st Century "maritime silk road" that will provides wide ranging benefits among neighboring countries [...]

Four Factors Why Cambodia Joined ASEAN

I may remind you once again why Hun Sen worked hard to join ASEA. There are for factors. Firstly, it is the principle of non-interference. It is a major one for us. Cambodia locates between two giant ASEAN countries – Thailand and Vi-

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