



Samdech Techo Hun Sen in the World Economic Forum, Davos, Switzerland, 15—21 January 2017

Amendment of New Article 48(iii)

(31 January 2017 — Unofficial Selection and Translation)

Amendment to New Article 48(III) in Absence of Opposition Party

Maybe I should welcome the absence of the opposition party (National Assembly members) this morning. This action should show our people the very reason why the Cambodian People's Party decides to call for the amendment and implementation of some other works. It all started from irresponsible actions as members of the National Assembly. They join the National Assembly for a meeting or leaving at their own free wills. They blamed the National Assembly for a half-full condition. This time if they were to do so, I am warning them of halting their salary. I heard that HE Son Chhay is going to throw a press conference at 9am. I wish he listened to what I had to say.

Internal Regulation's New Article 48(iii): Minority NA Members and Minority Leader Is One

You may all know that this had started when I made a statement from Zurich, Switzerland. What had brought me to think about doing this? It was not an issue of a few days. According to my message exchange with HE Kem Sokha, it started on 7 December 2016. I already shared to different groups to know and understand this matter. On 7 December 2016, at 7:34 am, after Samdech the President of the National Assembly sent out the decision concerning the appointment of the minority NA members and minority leader ... I sent a message on WhatsApp to HE Kem Sokha.

It should go like this - "this morning I read the news and noted that some people disagree with the appointment of Your Excellency as the minority NA and minority leader. They requested that Sam Rainsy holds the minority leader position and you are the minority NA leader. The new article 48 allows the two posi-

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38th Anniversary of 7-January Victory

(7 January 2017 — Unofficial Translation)

Here followed is the unofficial translation of Samdech Akka Moha Sena Padei Techo Hun Sen at the Ceremony in Commemoration of the 38th Anniversary of the 7-January Victory (7 January 1979 – 7 January 2017)

7 January 1979 was the historic victory of the Cambodian people in overthrowing the regime of Pol Pot's genocide, ending the darkest period of Cambodia, and ushering in a new era of **independence, freedom, democracy, and social progress**. Today is a great event that the people of Cambodia in the whole coun-

try are happy celebrating the 38th anniversary of the glorious victory with great pride on numerous major historic achievements scored over the past 38 years, including those obtained in the recently passed 2016.

We are celebrating this event to commemorate always the supreme gratitude of our heroic cadres and combatants of the National United Front for Salvation of Kampuchea and the Vietnamese voluntary troop, who sacrificed greatly in the fight to overthrow the regime of Pol Pot's genocide

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Addressing Gathering of Local Journalists

(14 January 2017 — Unofficial Selection and Translation)

Meeting Journalists on Every 14 January

My wife and I are so happy to be able to join for the first time with press people. I wish to affirm that this is not a press conference and/or a gathering to greet the 32nd anniversary of my premiership 14 April 1985 to 14 January 2017. We shall be organizing such gathering every year. Next year we may have a bigger one and it shall fall on 14 January every year. On behalf of the Information Minister, HE Khieu Kanharith, I wish to address disappointment expressed by some of the press people who do not have a chance to participate in this event today. I hope there is an understanding. For those who could not make it this time that we have gathered over one thousand of them, we hope to host more for the next gathering [...]

Cambodia in Dictatorship or Liberal Democracy

I thank the Minister of Information for organizing such important event. This has led me to ask a question of Cambodia is under a dictatorship or a liberal democracy, since we have so many journalists. Is Cambodia in the state of dictatorship, shutting up people who scolded us, or it is under liberal democracy with freedom of expression? It is true that I do not wish to make any uneasy-feeling remarks though some have expressed their displeasures for not being invited. For next year, I am

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calling on those press people of the opposition to join in the event of people belonging to similar profession, though you may have different point of views on things. Some support the Royal Government and some may support the opposition parties, but we all are under the same roof. This should clarify that though you may have different opinions, people of same professions and Khmer nationality should meet.

I am not talking about foreign press ... I am sure those press people who work for the opposition or anyone here would not all support Hun Sen. However, under the roof of democracy, one Constitution, HM the King, the Royal Government, we ought to speak with each other, though our opinion may not be the same. I think meeting once a year would not be difficult to do since the one who will be in difficulty will be me. I have my schedule to meet once a year with sportsmen, the Christians, Muslims, and now the press people. I shall also have an annual meeting with those in the ethnic Chinese associations.

A Leader Who Meets More Press Than Any Others

Since we have met now, let me say something. I think that it is not a new thing for us. If it were to be a press conference, I may say to you that in this world, perhaps I was the only leader who met the most with the press. No one ever met more than I do with the press. It is because no one was in power longer than I do. I started as Foreign Minister since 1979 and up to now, it is over 38 years already. You may want to count how many press conferences I did and many of them were not simple ones. Some of them were at the United Nations or anywhere that many famous journalists spent ten or 20 hours to meet Hun Sen. Famous ones like Jean Claude Pomonti, Nayan

Chanda, Jacques Bekaert, and Elizabeth Becker met me many hours. Raoul-Marc Jennar also was one of them when he was journalist and he is now advisor of the Royal Government of Cambodia [...] I had confronted so many things that were not trivial and they all concerned strategy. Some time I had to give press conferences at three o'clock in the morning, for instance, ones about IMC (Informal Meeting on Cambodia), JIM (Jakarta Informal Meeting), JIM-I, JIM-II [...]

Press Office to Set Up Websites and Facebook

Let me first start with institutions. Those brilliant ones would set up a good press network. I have seen that we have done something to get them organized but they do not seem to work or work in limited level. Some work rather fast and many would be so slow, and I mean to talk about the spokesperson organization. Since we have people coming from the province as well, I would urge the network of the Ministry of Information, provincial press office so to speak, like head of the press office, would be a spokesperson with a supervision of a deputy governor. This would help a lot and we would not have to request for more staff since they all are professional already. If you could do that successfully, you would not have had to deal with the press on your own. The Minister of Information would have to meet and work with the provincial governors in the process of appointing heads of provincial press offices as spokespersons. They must also work on managing informative websites and Facebook pages [...]

Trustworthy Press Speaks the Truth, Timely Manner

Let me be frank and I must or I am not a Prime Minister. It is because I have always spoken the truth that I could stay on for 32 years. It would be un-

easy to bring me down. There would be no chance for color revolution. It seems to be quiet down. How to make press trustworthy would be for them to speak the truth and in a timely manner. If any press told untruth once, and again, no one would go back to it. Secondly, information they offer should be timely manner as there are many sources available out there. I am advising this because I wanted all of you in this profession to be capable and gaining readers' trust. If Hun Sen is talking about an ox and you wrote about buffalos, and I now have my way of getting my messages across, like my Facebook, and Fresh News is now live, who would trust your writing?

The point here then is you must tell the truth and make it in a timely-manner. There is a strong competition these days and speed is the most important thing. Politicians, business people, they really need first-hand information ... I have brought this issue up so that you would have to make sure how to go about working on your profession to tell the truth and be timely-manner.

A Journalist – Not a Lawyer or Judge

Secondly, I would ask journalists, on newspapers, radio, or TV, especially those on TVs, not to appoint themselves as lawyers, and judges. Some might have over-performed their duties and encroached upon those of the courts. We are to only provide true information and refrain from drawing a conclusion or being a judge. I think what I said had had the attention of those of you who happened to perform your role and duty in a trend I mentioned. I do not need to have your names out. Sometime they even went this far to say so and so political parties should do so and so things. I think it is not your role and duty to do so. All you had to do was to just tell the truth and

leave conclusion to the audience. You are commenting, but not judging as if you are lawyers or prosecutors, who have the legal duty to charge. As the press, I think you should pursue the role of reflecting the truth of what is happening in the society.

You should act in a way to help build up the society or what could a leader do to make decision if white thing has been told to be black and vice versa. You may accept people's opinion but you may not make a closure conclusion, opening for no protest. Once you make it your conclusion on a story that that thing is wrong or right, you have closed the case [...] Sometimes, some words, even the Prime Minister had not dared to say it yet, commentator with a microphone had it all the way. This has led to a comment by the late editor in chief, Pen Samithi, of Rasmey Kampuchea, to refrain from misconceiving one's role. He said that press people should not be beyond limit.

Please Do Not Hide the Truth for Interest

There is one more thing. If you write correctly and rationally, you may not be afraid that so and so in written matter would sue you. What is to be concerned about would be a trade between hiding the truth for interest. I have heard about it and there may be true cases. Some rich and/or powerful people have committed wrongdoings and the press caught them up. To avoid their cases brought out in the press, they would offer them money. This kind of press would not bring progress to society, but drive it further into corruption. Take for instance a case of log business, some time they not only hide it for interest but also make up a story to give guilty person an advantage. In case of making a mistake, please do not be afraid to make a correction to prove that your

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and in defending the revival of Cambodia. We are expressing our deep gratitude for friendly countries – near and far, and peace and justice loving people the world over for providing us with faithful supports for this noble course. We are bowing in respect for souls of more than three million compatriots who pitifully and unjustly lost their lives under the regime of genocide, and praying for their souls to rest in peace.

On this occasion, we all are expressing our fidelity and highest gratitude for Preah Karuna Preah Bat Samdech Preah Norodom Sihamoni, King of Cambodia, and Samdech Preah Mohaksatrei Norodom Monineath Sihanouk, the Heroic Queen Mother of Cambodia in Freedom, Dignity, and Happiness. We wish Their Majesties good health, strengths, intellects, and longevity to stay as cool shade for every Cambodian and lead the Cambodian ship to the shore of progress always in full independence, peace, unity, sovereignty and territorial integrity.

At present, the people of Cambodia are living harmoniously in peace and are making physical and mental efforts, and wisdom, for the sake of developing their motherland and working together to eliminate the scars of sufferings left from wars and the regime of genocide. Although we are living peacefully now, we must not forget the darkest past of the motherland and nation covered by war and fierce crimes, soaked in blood and tear of people insulted by all mean. Destruction and tragedy befallen on the Cambodian people had been great and resulted from the 18-March-1970 coup wire-pulled by foreign countries causing flame of wars that burnt and annihilated our motherland, and killed lives of over half a million Cambodian people. After the liberation on 17 April

1975, the Cambodian people hoped for a peaceful life. However, the Pol Pot's clique plundered completely achievements of the victory and created the regime of genocide killing their own people and devastating everything of national spiritual and material values, turning the already-burned motherland in war flame into a brutal killing field. In a period of three years, eight month and twenty days, the Pol Pot's clique destroyed national infrastructure to the root. They eliminated rights and freedom that are essential to every human being, while over three million people massacred. It was true that were there no rescuing efforts in a timely manner, the people of Cambodia would suffer endless execution.

In that most serious circumstance, pure patriotic forces of the Cambodian People's Party separated from the genocidal regime of Pol Pot came together and created the National United Front for Salvation of Kampuchea on 2 December 1978, mobilizing whole national forces to wage up struggle to rescue the country and appeal for supports from friendly countries – near and far. With great and timely-manner support rendered by the voluntary troops of Vietnam, the National United Front for Salvation of Kampuchea successfully led the people to overthrow the genocidal regime on 7 January 1979. **The 7-January victory saved lives of the remaining people in a timely manner and gained back for the people their rights and freedom. That had revived every Cambodian spiritual and material values accumulated for thousands of years, while making active contribution for peace and security in the region. This is the historic truth that no force could twist, exaggerate, forget, and/or destroy.**

After the 7-January liberation day, we restored socio-

economic and living condition of the people from nil, while the country was in a state of mingling peace and war along with economic embargo and unjust political isolation from countries that wished to bring the regime of genocide back to Cambodia. Obstacles and hardships hindering Cambodia's march forward in that stage were enormous and could draw Cambodia back into a new disaster if there were no efforts to overcome them. Confronting with such dangerous obstacles, the Cambodian People's Party, the National United Front, and the authority of the People's Republic of Kampuchea, established right after the 7-January liberation day, raised high the banner of great solidarity to defend the national survival, make efforts to restore, build and defend the country, while stepping forwards from one victory to another.

It was in this instance that over the past ten years after the 7-January liberation day, Cambodia that started from nil had strengthened, expanded, and created antecedence and necessary conditions for Cambodia to step with pride into a new stage in history, i.e. peace, national reconciliation, democracy, and development. Passing the 38 years, started from the 7-January victory, Cambodia advanced on a correct path in accordance with the people's aspiration and in conformity with common regional and world trends, though there have been so many zigzags to negotiate:

- *Cambodia, where before was a killing field, insecurity, minefields, has become a land of peace and a popular touristic destination in Southeast Asia by welcoming millions of tourist arrivals each year.*
- *Cambodia, where there were armed conflicts for power, has become a country that constantly holds principle of liberal democ-*

racy and pluralism where elections organized regularly in a free, fair, and just manner in which people chose and elected the country's leaders. Cambodia has become a rule of law country with committed respects to legal principle; and a sovereign country with full territorial integrity, respects and promotes human rights and dignity.

- *Cambodia, where before was under economic embargo and political isolation, has become a country that is integrating itself actively into regional and world structures and architectures, and is fulfilling actively its role with equal rights and footing in affairs of regional and international arenas.*
- *Cambodia, where before was economically weak and plagued by poverty, has now become a country that exports food and stands as a country scoring a sustained high economic growth at an average of 7.7% per annum in the last two decades, while realizing good progress in reducing poverty as well as improving certain important social indicators*

These great historic changes arose from correct political leadership with determined will; active participation from the people in implementing rights and obligation shaping up a great solidarity for the sake of building and defending the motherland. They also indicate sacrifices of physical and mental efforts of every level officials and armed forces in rendering services for the nation and people; cooperation among different political currents and other circles in society based on supreme national interest and in accordance with principle of liberal democracy and pluralism, with faithful sup-

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ports from friendly countries and international community. These are major factors of the victory and historic lessons learned that we all should be aware of and keep them always in order for such bitter history not to recur in our motherland.

The 7-January victory spirit continues to exist and be lively always in the hearts of every Cambodian and for many generations to come. The spirit of 7 January is a light that shows us the ways to overcome obstacles and hardships to endless victory. The spirit of 7 January is that of peace and national reconciliation, and the spirit of being the master of their destiny of our people. The spirit of 7 January is that of the Cambodian nation without division of political tendency, both those who went through the regime of genocide and those belonged to the younger generations who did not experience it.

Only those who wished to have the genocidal regime returned and those would use Cambodia for own perfidious end without thinking of the Cambodian people's life are opposing to the 7-January victory. As of now, the people of Cambodia are marching into 2017, the fourth year of the implementation of the fifth legislative term Royal Government's "political platform" and "Rectangular Strategy – Phase III" with following many satisfactory achievements scored in 2016:

- *Foundation of national defense and security strengthened to improve competency in national defense, sovereignty, and territorial integrity of the motherland; guarantee peace, political stability, security, public order, and harmony of the people. This has provided favor for strengthening and expanding liberal democracy and pluralism, while implementing rule of law.*

Various political parties, those newly created ones, associations, non-governmental organizations, and all sort of media included, are taking freely actions. National institutions and public administration of all levels are implementing their works that guarantee socio-economic development, democratic process, and rule of law. Voters registration organized by the National Elections Committee went smoothly with success and is welcome by national and international public opinions.

I would take this chance to express my respect to the Cambodian people in the whole country for their brilliant efforts to implement their rights with responsibility by having their names registered to acquire the right to vote as owner of their country's destiny. I am calling on all citizens who already registered to check their names in the voters' lists that the National Elections Committee will soon post in a timely manner to guarantee your voting right.

- *Implementation of reforms promoted with fruitfully determined will that improves good governance for growth, work, equity, and efficiency. Reform at sub-national level, including commune/Sangkat, enjoys wide ranging supports and participation from people of every circles and international community. Exercising these reforms, financial resource transferred to communal/Sangkat administrations has increased 12 folds in the period between 2002 through to 2016. Together with resources gathered from partners, civil society, generous beings, and participation from local community, the communal/Sangkat administrations have expanded their abilities to provide public services and develop thou-*

sands of rural infrastructures each year such as rural roads, bridges, water wells, reservoirs, small-scale hydraulic projects, schools, healthcare posts, and other social services.

- *In process of socio-economic development for 2016, Cambodia well guarantees macro-economic and financial stability, in which inflation kept below 5% and a stable exchange rate. The economic growth of 7% as predicted from early part of the year, whereby industry exercised growth 11.4%, service 6.7%, and agriculture with better prospect than previous years. Gross domestic products (GDP) per capita increased from 760 USD in 2008 to 1,215 USD in 2015, and in 2016, it could revise to 1,300 USD. This has allowed Cambodia to exit its status of low-income country to become one in the lower-middle income countries, with efforts to realize more major prospects of development. These rapid progresses show clearly active social life in every field at present time. For 2017, despites external and internal challenges, it is predicted that Cambodia continues to guarantee macro-economic stability and will achieve growth within 7%. This favorable status is bolstering and expanding opportunity for business, trade, and investment in Cambodia.*
- *It should be noted that along with increase of rice yield of our farmers, the market for rice is competing hard, thus leading to problem of price of rice. We have taken numerous measures so far to maintain stable price of rice. I would express my sincere appreciation for officials, traders, and people, for responding to the Royal Government's appeal for a movement to buy rice from farmers to re-*

lieve some of their difficulties. While our people are busy harvesting rice, the Royal Government continues to make full efforts to protect their interests. For those traders in markets located on state land, the Royal Government decided to allow them to transfer their rights to occupy, use and benefit to their children or others without limiting by timeframe. Recently, the Royal Government decided to eliminate taxes and other obligations on small vendors who trade goods in small baskets in markets in the whole country. At the same time, the Royal Government makes 12% increment on basic salary for civil servants and armed forces for 2017, and is on the way to reach its goal of over one million Riel in the year 2018. It also increases pension. Minimum wage of workers, employees in textile, garments, and shoes will increase from 140 USD to 153 USD per month and will start from January 2017. This means workers and employees will receive, including other benefits, from 170 USD to 181 USD per month.

These results reflected focus of the Royal Government in alleviating poverty and improving people's living condition, while bettering public services provision for people.

Over the past 38 years, it has been that of solidarity, heroism, and victory. Holding firmly on to the spirit of 7 January, and based on numerous exceptional achievements scored so far, we are continuing to march forward with hope and confidence in the prosperous future of our motherland and nation. We have gone through various major obstacles and there will be no obstacles bigger ahead. We have witnessed a great national force to own its destiny.

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From here on, no obstacles could hinder our aspiration from realization as long as our nation unites and continues on this correct present path. In this spirit, we oppose resolutely controversial actions no matter from which sources they may be that would divide Cambodia again. We adhere firmly the spirit of national reconciliation, principle of democracy, and human rights. We are making efforts to resolve different opinions in society patiently, understandingly and in a non-violent manner, by strictly respecting and implementing law.

The Cambodian People's Party resolutely defends the independence, sovereignty, and territorial integrity of the Kingdom of Cambodia, the Constitution, the monarchy, and every national achievement, especially safeguards peace, political stability, security, and firm public order that are essential for guaranteeing progress of democracy and human rights. It will guarantee sustainable and equitable development, while making sure of improvement of people's harmonious livelihood.

We oppose external actions that attempt to put pressure on the Royal Government of Cambodia to perform according to their wills under the pretext of democracy and human rights, and consider that as an infringement on competency of a sovereign state and universal principle. Cambodia cannot accept pressure or interferences, especially those from outside, for changes through color revolution, which is contrary to principle of democracy and rule of law.

Such attempt has been creating internal conflicts, instability, insecurity, war, sufferings, refugees, and unjust loss of lives without end on tens of thousands of innocent people in a number of countries. The Cambodian People's Party drives for implementation of

campaign to fight and quell theft, armed robbery, drug, illegal logging, illegal land grabbing, illegal fishing, illegal mining, illegal sand business, and illegal checkpoints. Those committed offenses will be punishable by law.

We continue to implement profound reforms in all fields and determinedly fight against corruption. We will include decentralization and de-concentration reforms aimed at transferring functions and resources to sub-national administrations, especially those at communal/Sangkat and district/municipal/Khan levels to move public provision services and local development closer to and be responsive to people. The Cambodian People's Party continues to implement honestly culture of dialogue with Parties that have seats in the National Assembly and the Senate in conformity with principles of liberal democracy, pluralism, and rule of law. Dishonesty and insulting one another with bad words and instigation for revenge and violence will not guarantee lasting culture of dialogue. It would also destroy national unity.

At the same time, the Party gives attention to increasing cooperation with other political parties, associations, non-governmental organizations, and other circles in society in order to safeguard and expand national achievements. This should also help answer needs of the Cambodian people, strengthen peaceful environment in society, including also political atmosphere for the forthcoming elections of the communal/Sangkat councils – a necessary factor to guarantee a free, fair and just manner that strictly abides by law, order and ethical code of the elections.

On this auspicious occasion, on behalf of Samdech Akka Punhea Chakrei Heng Samrin, leaders of the Cambodian People's Party, and on my own

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tions held by only one man, not two. In case you cannot accept the appointment, this morning I request for amendment of the new article 48 of Internal Regulation by removing it." I also sent the decision of Samdech President of the National Assembly. At about 7:57am, HE Kem Sokha replied to me that "there nothing that matters. Leave it as it is." That was how it all began.

Before entering the NA session, I came across HE Eng Chhay Eang outside and asked "I heard that your side disagreed" and (disagreements) posted in the Sam Rainsy website and Yim Sovann's website. As far as I know, at about 11pm, there was still comment that HE Sam Rainsy was the minority leader with an equivalent rank of Prime Minister [...] Later, on the Sam Rainsy's website they claimed that "position was not important" and that "we had misinterpreted the Constitution."

I had said that the new article 48 (iii) of the National Assembly's Internal Regulation could be a problem. While the law has yet to adopt, they had already sought for amendment. For what was it? It was for political gain for the one in

a foreign country. There was nothing else. HE Pen Panha already made a report to the National Assembly's session. They have tried to disguise their motives under "effort to adjust political situation." The meaning was to release criminals. I am declaring once again that Cambodia does not have political prisoners but politicians who committed crimes and are convicted.

Fives Reasons for Amendment of New Article 48 (iii)

... Prior to my departure (for World Economic Forum in Switzerland), Samdech Krolahaom Sa Kheng reported to me of the other side's response. I could have sent this request for amendment from in the air if I were to have internet access. ... However, I have prepared everything about two hours before landing. We sent it to the network of the permanent committee (of the Cambodian People's Party) to think about it and convene an urgent meeting about the amendment. Let me now list all five reasons why I initiated this proposal for the amendment of the article. HE Pen Panha, already hit on one of them. I will share with you all fives.

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behalf, allow me to express my respect and deepest gratitude for compatriots inside and outside the country for their firm supports to the leadership of the Cambodian People's Party in the past 38 years. This has allowed the Party to fulfill successfully its mission to serve the country.

The Party will continue to implement its political platform to realize further achievements, while driving for the implementation of policies and measures aimed at improving and raising high living condition of the people. I have strong belief that our compatriots from every corner of the country will continue to sup-

port the leadership of the Cambodian People's Party to realize entirely our compatriots' aspirations, which is to build Cambodia into a country of independence, peace, freedom, democracy, neutrality, and social progress.

On this occasion, I wish to extend our profound thanks to our friends – near and far, development partners, and international organizations for always providing supports for the course of justice of the Cambodian people and continuing to strengthen and expand relationship and fruitful cooperation with the Kingdom of Cambodia...☐

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Firstly – Ending Misinterpretations

The first reason here is for us to end misinterpretations of the article that some have even accused us of making abusive interpretation the new article 48 (iii), which stated that only one person hold the minority NA members and minority leader positions, while they tried to divide into two. The CNRP itself also misinterpreted the concept. On our side, there seemed to be a misunderstanding too. We may read it together on this point - “leader of the NA members of the Parties outside the Royal Government that hold 25% of seats and above is called leader of the Minority leader in the National Assembly. Leader of the Minority is a dialogue partner with the Royal Government on national issues. The Minority leader holds an equivalent rank as Prime Min-

ister.” Clearly, it states that it is only one person.

Kem Sokha Admitted Sam Rinsy Was Wrong on Two Points

... In my room, HE Kem Sokha said to me clearly - “he (Sam Rainsy) was wrong on two points. Firstly, he was no longer member of the National Assembly.” This has concluded that HE Kem Sokha admitted that HE Sam Rainsy was no longer member of THE National Assembly and he therefore could hold no such positions. I did not start the discussion on that matter. Kem Sokha brought it up. Secondly, he said – “first, one had to be leader of the (minority) NA Members leader before becoming automatically leader of the minority.” HE Kem Sokha was right but I do not think he would dare tell everyone. If he were to get things out, he may have to get all of it out. (He should know

about this phone) by holding some back. So far he only released what served his interest. He should know that I could release everything and he would have to take responsibility [...]

I was the one to propose the article. That I request for removal would not be wrong. It will depend on whether the National Assembly supports it or not. Today we do not need their presence. If you would boycott until the national elections in 2018, it would all be fine. We could still make law. When we first established the Royal Government, we made numerous laws without waiting for them [...]

Secondly – Ending Abuse of Power through Using Mechanism on Issues Infringing Upon the Court Competency and Royal Government Authority

... Secondly, to end the abuse of power through using such

mechanism to discuss issues that infringe upon competency of the court and authority of the Royal Government. HE Pen Panha stressed on this issue already. I wish to add a bit. While in my room, he talked about this and that but more importantly he stated issue of abusing power. He had promised prisoners and two of them had requested to buy them air tickets for the US in mid January.

I have told HE Kem Sokha that we must respect the court measures. We have three different sets of cases here. The first set is relating to individuals of ADHOC non-governmental organization and that of Ni Charya (Vice President of the National Elections Committee). When the court closes investigation and the trial begins, we may proceed to carry out similar procedure as we did to the commune head – Mr. Chet. I already whispered the way to do it to HE Sar Kheng on that day [...] HE Kem Sokha still owe me something. He promised to do it in three days. He did not. Waiting for the court's verdict, and for it to pass to the court of appeal, we may need to wait for two months. It is not legal to request for release when the court verdict has not yet been final.

The second set of cases concerns the convicted Boeung Kok protesters with riot nature. The trial had happened and I would proceed to inspecting as to who would deserve to be set free. I would use the power vested in me as Prime Minister to request for release according to Imprisonment Law.

The third set of cases is concerning Hong Sunhour and Um Sam An. Their crimes of falsifying and using falsified documents are serious. HE Kem Sokha responded - “they all are his (Sam Rainsy) men. He used them.” He attacked Sam Rainsy right before me.

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 take responsibility.

What Happened in Cambodia Now Happens in the US

... Having come to this I just wish to thank President-elect Donald Trump of the United States for speaking the truth about dirty things of the US press. I do not wish to see dirty press in Cambodia ... Our world seems to be in confusion these days. It has always our thought that the US is the best in terms of advanced technology.

When the US President Barack Obama said that the Russians hacked the US elections, it seemed to have told us that the Russians are better. It is difficult to understand. What had happened in Cambodia has now returned to the US. The case of demonstration after the elections, demanding for recount, claiming of fraud, etc. had gone back to happen in the US. This has clearly showed that what the Americans had brought to Cambodia

has now turned on them [...]

Checkpoints Must Be Arrested

In the CPP plenum the other day, the Snuol district governor requested to Minister of Information about those press people setting up checkpoints to charge money. After he finished his intervention speech, I just told the meeting right away they have no privilege. An arrest is necessary for such action. Whether it is the press, member of the National Assembly or the Senate, these are crimes caught in the act. Whoever set up checkpoints will face arrests [...]

Re-training Courses for Press Career

I have another advice for the press too. They should learn to ask question. Some asked and I never answered. We have so many to answer to and some had made their questions too long. They should learn to be succinct in asking question. Learning to ask question is

important for journalists. This has brought me to my last point, which is about strengthening capacity of human resource in media. We must continue to provide training for people who wish to follow careers in media and communication. The Ministry of Information, aside from professional curriculum training at the Department of Media and Communication (Royal University of Phnom Penh), should provide retraining courses for our media people. The various TV companies may want to host those trainings in rotation [...] Looking back at what I have said today, you may think that I have a good intention. We want to be a family and stay in one boat together. My presence today is for consolidating institutional role and encouraging our press people, while giving them more rights, and not to take away their rights ... I hope that next year, we will have those who missed the chance this year joining us [...]./■

“WEF Blended Finance Initiative”

(19 January 2017 — Unofficial Selection and Translation)

... I'm very pleased Cambodia is the first country in Asia to join the SDGs mechanism. Actually, the developing countries' biggest challenges is the infrastructure. If we review the project of development of the developing countries, it could be heaps in the warehouse because there is no financing to do them. If we talk about infrastructure in Asia, we have Asia Highway, ASEAN Highway, and Singapore-Kunming Railway. If we mobilize all the speeches that Head of States and Governments delivered on infrastructures, they could be stored in 2 or 3 warehouses. What is the main problem for that? It's financing that need to support these projects. Fortunately, it is lucky for those countries that China initiated the One Belt-One Road and the Silk Road's fund of over 40 billion USD, including the establishment of Asian Infrastructure Investment Bank. However, I think it is not enough, we still need to mobilize all resources from the private sector to support the projects of infrastructure development. Seeing the importance of the investment from private sector for the sustainable development of infrastructure, we have signed the agreement for WEF's Blended Finance Initiative. I think this is the establishment of the new initiative based on our win-win policy.

Q: Could you please tell me some specific areas or projects you want to get some investments from foreign investors in Cambodia? And as you know that this year ASEAN celebrates 50th anniversary, do you have any plans to extend more relationship with other Asian countries including (South) Korea?

A: I would like to inform you that in 1987, Cambodia has put four priorities into practice for 30 years, and they will

continue to be our priorities. The first priority is human resource development. In this field, we get most participation from the private sector, as we have more than 100 universities run by private sector. Second priority is water. Cambodia is an agricultural-based country, we need irrigations, but we have very little participation from private sector in this field. Our third priority is electricity, which, in Cambodia, we need big fund of investment especially on the hydroelectricity. So far, we do receive investments from private sector on the producing electricity as well as the transmission lines. And the fourth priority is the infrastructure of transportations and telecommunications.

So far, for the development on this sector, we have some funds from the government of (South) Korea, but no participation from private sector yet. As for now, we have three new projects including the building of new airport, the high-speed road from Phnom Penh to Sihanouk province, and the high-speed road from Phnom Penh to the Cambodia-Vietnam border.

At this moment, we also need big fund to modernize the Cambodia's railways. I would like to welcome representative from South Africa which I also met your former President, H.E Thabo Mbeki who had been to Cambodia in 2002 when we organized the ASEAN-African Summit there.

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ASEAN Highway in a World of Division

On 20 January 2017, Samdech Techo Hun Sen attended a lunch break organized by the WEF in Congress Centre, Pischa. Leaders at-

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He said “my people are not that skilful.” As I said this, I would ask HE Sam Rainsy to check and not to say that someone else is dividing them [...]

It is a serious crime (that they faked documents that) President of the State Council Heng Samrin signed a treaty to abolish the border, which even as Minister of Foreign Affairs, I did not even know about it. HE Kem Sokha said “I understand. I do not touch on that. However, please allow me to say differently out there ...” Well, talk as you please. It cannot be done in real though [...]

Dialogue Culture Continues

Hence, abuse of power through using such mechanism has gone on and on. We must amend this to end it. For instance, it was difficult to have a agreed-upon agenda (for meeting of the two leaders – minority and majority). I just tell you, why would you need to have to have such agenda set? If one side proposed it, just agree with it and you may bring yours up in the meeting. That is the trick. I have had experiences in negotiation. Who would shut you up? No matter what would happen, you had already brought the matter up [...]

... We cannot allow this mechanism to be used to abuse power to infringe upon the court competency. People may talk about this or that but let me affirm that dialogue culture continues. How would it continue? It would happen through the Permanent Committee of the National Assembly. Let us talk to one another. We have this Committee. You never are there. We still talk about they are coming. Now we cannot talk because they are not here.

The other day when I received the International Olympic Committee President's Trophy, HE Kem Sokha sent me

a congratulatory message. I sent him my thanks, We have WhatsApp. Let us communicate [...]

Thirdly – Ending Culture of Minority Holding Majority as Political Hostage

Thirdly, to end a culture where the minority holds the majority as political hostage and demands endless political solutions for convicted criminals. Anything that matters is political. There are many politicians in Cambodia, why are they not in prison? Why it happened only to the one politician that lives in exile? He made so many statements ... If one negotiates with me and the other is stepping on my foot, I do not have the need to work with them. I am waiting for the court to reach its final verdict. This time I am asking for one million USD. However, the first verdict would be on the case sued by Samdech Heng Samrin. If I am to win the lawsuit, we may ask for a verdict to defend property to seize the property and put it for sale.

I heard that the CNRP head office registered under Sam Rainsy's name. We may wait for the final verdict. HE Hor Namhong too should take what he owed (from lawsuit) [...] There will be no more minority voice holding the majority as hostage. We have let them do as they pleased many times already. This time we cannot. We may amend the law on political parties if we have to. We may revise the law to say that prisoners hold no rights to be head of political parties. That is my proposal. I heard many things (he would do). I would ask him to come in anytime [...] People said that he is the one who cuff and un-cuff. Yes, it is right. You just happened to know. It is the power given by the Constitution [...]

Fourthly – Stop Accusing Each Other for Lacking Intention to Negotiate,

(Continued on page 8 B)

(Continued from page 7 A) tended the session took part in the discussion on “ASEAN Highway in a World of Division.” A number of important points brought in for discussions were (1) raise awareness on objectives of integrating ASEAN and why ASEAN scored successes, (2) Lessons Learned from ASEAN Experiences, (3) In Search of ASEAN Potential (ASEAN + 3) for regional integration of Asia and the Pacific.

In Q&A session, Samdech Techo revealed his thoughts about “what are choices of ASEAN for its departure? And about ASEAN Highway or ASEAN Road.” Without hesitation, Samdech Techo reaffirmed Cambodia’s stand to continue with the ASEAN road. He expressed unfaltering belief on current development approach of ASEAN and promotion of visionary implementation and planned integration to create “one big and most important market” in Asia that will guarantee high competition with equitability in the development and full integration to the world, where everyone will hold one ASEAN identity [...]

ASEAN 50 Years: What Next? Build 2025 ASEAN Economic Community

On 19 January 2017, in a working dinner at the Central Sport Hotel, Saumerstube, on “ASEAN in 50 Years: What Next?” participated by many heads of states, Samdech Techo gave his closing speech after the opening session by the Prime Minister of Vietnam, a Q&A session facilitated by representative of the University of Singapore and three other private companies. Some leaders also shared some important points in their speeches. Samdech Techo, in that evening, set out an ambitious vision for building the ASEAN Economic Community by 2025 as highly integrated and cohesive economy. It embodies four major char-

acteristics (1) a common market and production base, (2) a region with high economic competition, (3) a region where there is equitable development, and (4) a region fully integrated into the world economy, and every nation takes a common ASEAN identity.

To realize the vision, Samdech Techo Hun Sen said, ASEAN must focus on (1) strengthening and expanding cooperation to guarantee security, safety and full stability; (2) continuing firm, balanced, sustainable and inclusive economic growth; (3) realizing “the master plan on 2025 ASEAN connectivity”; (4) realizing quickly “the agreement on regional comprehensive economic partnership”; and (5) promoting central role of ASEAN in regional cooperation and strengthening ASEAN capability to resolve challenging regional and world issues.

Cambodia-Switzerland Relations Closer Than Ever

On 19 January 2017, Samdech Techo Hun Sen conducted bilateral discussion with Doris Leuthard, President of the Swiss Confederation. The Cambodia-Switzerland relations started forty years ago and has now been closer than ever. Madame the President welcome Samdech Techo and appreciated progresses that Cambodia has made. She acknowledge efforts made by Samdech Techo to achieve fruitful results. Samdech Techo Hun Sen thanked the Government of Switzerland for assisting and providing assistance in areas of de-mining, health and the court to try the Khmer Rouge leaders. Samdech Techo proposed the two countries’ trade, which is standing at over 30 million USD, to grow bigger. Working groups of the two countries on foreign trade will continue to discuss on this issue and will promote private sector to increase participation i.e. exporting quality products

(Continued from page 7 B) Disagreement on Negotiation Agenda

Fourthly, to stop accusing one another for lacking intention to negotiate and to end disagreement on how to set up agendas for negotiation leading to ex-

of Switzerland to Cambodia and from Cambodia such as rice back to Switzerland.

Samdech Techo acknowledged and thanked Doctor Beat Richner for his active participation in improving healthcare in Cambodia, especially with the support provided by the Swiss President. That is an expression of heart and mind of the Swiss people to the people of Cambodia. Recently, the Royal Government of Cambodia decided to deduct two USD from every ticket sold for a visit to the temples of Angkor for the sake of financing further to the (paediatric) hospital of Kuntha Bopha. Samdech Techo also appreciated Switzerland as the ASEAN sectoral dialogue partner and sought Swiss support to continue to provide training of human resource for Cambodia.

The President of the Swiss Confederation thanked Samdech Techo for recognizing, supporting and providing financial assistance to efforts to help the Kuntha Bopha (paediatric) hospital by Dr. Beat Richner. The Government of Switzerland provides roughly four million USD for the hospital and another two million USD for Cambodia’s hospital supporting women, mother and children. While promising to urge more Swiss to visit Cambodia, the Swiss President will continue to provide assistance that will strengthen food security to farmers and encourage them to diversify cropping pattern more than just rice. Switzerland will continue to provide capacity building for the Cambodian National Assembly as requested [...]/. ◻

change of hostile words in media. For reason of busy schedules of the majority leader, we had requested for a rescheduled negotiation date to 14 January. They went viral extorting political profit from the situation that we did not respond them. It is good to remove it [...]

Fifthly – Spend No Money on Cars, Offices, Appointing Assistants and Protocols

Fifthly, there is no need to spend money on cars, offices, appoint assistants, and work out protocols for those who would hold this portfolio of Prime Minister. There was a request the other day for purchasing cars. I instructed to the Minister of Economy and Finance that they could buy them using the National Assembly’s budget. Let me expand on this a bit. The National Assembly is clever. They already have their budgets but they request use of the Royal Government’s budget for some of their expenses ... Everyone is to spend from allocated budgets as adopted by the National Assembly [...]

A Message to a Pundit for Analysis on CPP

... I wish to send a message to a pundit who said that there seemed to be a fracture in the Cambodian People’s Party ... Let me tell you if there were no Prime Minister Hun Sen, there would not be Acting Prime Minister Sar Kheng. You may have to read the new 125 article, which is the former 106 article of the Constitution. If you are not informed, how could you be a pundit? The article 125 stipulates - “*if the post of Prime Minister is permanently vacant, a new Council of Ministers shall be appointed under the conditions as stipulated in this Constitution. If the vacancy is temporary, an acting Prime Minister shall be appointed.*” Who has the power to appoint the acting Prime Minister? It is Prime Minister Hun Sen in this case [...]/. ◻