



Samdech Techo Hun Sen and Premier Li Keqiang during the official visit and OBOR meeting in the People's Republic of China

A Meeting with Christian Leaders/Followers

(25 May 2017 — Unofficial Selection and Translation)

A Second Meeting in Communal Elections Campaigns

I thank Christian leaders and followers for taking part on this occasion. This is our second meeting after our first meeting last year. We have agreed to meet once a year. Next year we will meet again. This year, the Ministry of Cults and Religion proposed to me three date choices – 18, 19 and 25 May. As you knew that on the 17 May I was in China, and on 18 May, I was in Kompong Speu province. As it happens, 25 May is within the period of election campaign for the communal council elections. Therefore, should there be any requests for anything I would not be able to offer help because we all have to abide by the election law. No matter how powerful anyone could be, s/he would have to abide by the law. I understand though that you are gathering here not for assistance. However, if we could do something together, it would also be great [...]

There is this request for a meeting on the coming 15 June with the Muslims. I also have agreed to meet them once a year. The

Chinese association also has a meeting schedule. I do that also with our sportsmen and sports-women. We also have the March-3 national culture day when I meet with our artists and art specialists. I have other meetings scheduled also with investors, etc. As Prime Minister of the country, I have to take up these as obligations. I have a great pleasure indeed to be able to join in this meeting with Christians in the Kingdom of Cambodia. I would like to take this opportune moment to express my sincere appreciation and respect to the efforts made by the Christians since when we last met [...]

Religious Harmonization

In relation to racial and religious harmonization, Cambodia has defined its actions at two levels – firstly, national level, where we are harmonizing races and religions present in the country. In Cambodia, we have Buddhism, Islamism, Christianity, other faiths, and/or unbelievers. This is our actions conducted at a macro level. However, we also have the need to ensure that each religion is in harmony. We

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Hailing 10th Cambodian Veterans Day

(10 May 2017 — Unofficial Selection and Translation)

Losses of Gen. Meas Kroach, Four Cambodian UN Peacekeepers in CAR

... With our joy in celebrating the Veterans Day, we are sad over the losses of General Meas Kroach, who had been one important contributor in the liberation of our people from the regime of Pol Pot's genocide. I met General Meas Kroach in November 1977 ... Together we built an army of 23 battalions and 100 armed operation groups for national liberation. Last year, General Meas Kroach was with us on this day for this event. Today he is with us no more. We all express condolences over the loss of a com-

rade in arms and thank him for the contribution he made in this just course from beginning to his life's end.

We also have another loss yesterday. The information came to us about Cambodian UN peacekeepers in the Central African Republic (CAR) – firstly we only lost one life. As of now, it is clear that the three unaccounted in the attack incident also died. Cambodian peacekeepers lost their lives under the flagship of the United Nations humanitarian mission in CAR. Captains Im Sam, Seang Norint, Mom Tola and Mao Eng had lost their lives in the attacks by

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Hailing International Red Cross - 8 May

(08 May 2017 — Unofficial Selection and Translation)

This Time Last Year We Led a Large-Scale Campaign on Water Shortage

I am so happy today to join with Samdech, Excellencies, Lok Chumteav, foreign and national guests, and the Red Cross volunteers for the celebration of the 154th Anniversary of the World Red Cross and Red Crescent Day. This time one year ago, as I could remember, we celebrated the 153rd anniversary at a time that we had to combat in a large-scale campaign to provide people with water, not only for irrigation but also for drinking. It was a large campaign, which involved the armed forces, our administration of all levels, the Cambodian Red Cross and the Cambodian private sectors.

digging more wells and ponds for people in remote areas. They turned out to be serving our people who have lived in areas that are prone to water shortages. I would take this opportune moment to express my sincere appreciation and thanks for the Cambodian Red Cross, authorities of all levels, the armed forces and generous beings for sharing their wealth and resources to resolve the calamity.

Red Cross Is Everywhere and for Everyone

Today, on behalf of the Royal Government of Cambodia, I would like to welcome the presence of everyone that indicates

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have seen that in each religion there could be many sects – in Islamism, Christianity, or Buddhism. In Buddhism, there are *Mahanikaya* and *Dhammayutikanikaya*. It is so important in such instance that in each religion, there is a harmony.

Let me convey my appreciation to every Christians – leaders and practitioners, for their contributions in the development of this country. I have also noticed that each religious sect of the Christianity has contributed in human resource development. I had been to some of your places and noticed that along with religious practice, the community also made efforts to building schools for the sake of the children in respected areas to have access to learning. Simultaneously, I am giving as much appreciation to efforts of other religions in the Kingdom of Cambodia for their partaking with the Royal Government and the Cambodian People's Party, which is currently in power, to build up harmony, unity, and reconciliation, while striving for socio-economic development and poverty alleviation of the people [...]

Words That Make War

... War is very likely. I have talked so much about war and peace. Some people made a point that they have no guns so there would not be any war. I must remind you that there would need no gun to inflame a war. Words that you insulted and blamed everyone as traitors – you may want to see them in Facebook and I have no way of knowing yet as to how the National Elections Committee would deal with them – would be a real cause. They have insulted the Cambodian People's Party seriously. They went this far to say that CPP has no more supporters but to ask "Yuon" (Vietnamese) to join their processions. This is why I say they use their words to bring about war. What if supporters of the Cambodian People's Party could not hold their patience [...] War could happen from your words.

It is in this note that I should remind about the fact that the country has an ethical code. They should try to avoid clashes. They should just advertise their products and refrain from criticizing products of others. They should follow the commercial rule. In trade, people just tell you how good their products are. They would not bother discrediting others. I think the same is true in religions. People who follow Christianity should not blame those who follow Islamism or vice versa. As you can see what had happened in some countries in Europe. What had drawing of cartoons of Muhammad in some magazines brought about in Europe? They had terrorist attacks, vengeance. Some say it is their freedom of expressions. Buddhist followers also must not denigrate either Christians or Muslims. Even in each religion, from one sect to another, there should not be issues of denigration.

Cambodia has the most political stability. However, the oppositions have yet withdrawn from their natures of agitating and insulting. The situation has so become fragile. It has been goods some early days but as I read the Cambodia Daily this morning, Mr. Kem Sokha said that whatever the Royal Government is doing – from increasing salary to reducing prices of electricity and running water – was in fact because they had demanded them. He may take my words now that the ruling party has in fact a decision making power and what to do is in fact the authority of the Prime Minister. You had promised elderly people of 65 years old and above a monthly per diem of 40,000 Riel. Did you make it real? How could he say that that the salary has now increased to one million at the lowest is because he has demanded it? You promised to make it so in 2013. Now is 2017 ... have you got it right? He should not try to earn from achievements of the Royal Government.

Without CPP Leadership, War Is Imminent

As for electricity, whatever they wish to do, they should wait until they win the elections. I wonder if he is not ashamed of himself that because he wanted to be President of the National Assembly, and the demonstrations had to go on for months ... I asked him in the National Assembly when we shook hand "what did your Excellency say? If no step down, you shake for a step down." I warned him bluntly that if you were to do that on that day, it could have been your funeral. I would not hesitate to act on any move to force a legal Royal Government into dissolving ... I wish they do not underestimate the gravity of troublesome. That they have not yet won the elections, they have already gone this far. What else would they not do if they won the elections? That is why I made it simple in my speech that war is imminent should the Cambodian People's Party lose its control.

Now, people can say what they wanted to. There would need no weapons to cause war. They have said it in Facebook and worse still, they made it clear that they first deal with the Hun family. I just have their attention that the Hun family contributed so much for the construction of this country and they are not for you to kill ... People should not insult Tia Banh or Pol Saroeun on their statements to go against the color revolutions. Whatever actions leading to toppling will meet strong rebuff absolutely. To guarantee lives of millions, we could stand to lose hundreds. We saw the past suffering. What I am saying is going live and I wish to add that whatever happens will not be because I was starting it ... The National Elections Committee should come up with some kinds of orientation for some of the statements they made that are leading to causing anger within the period of election campaign [...]

Ever Oppositions Apologize

They have made many false accusations on the Cambodian People's Party. While voters' registration is going on, and validation of voters lists is un-

dergoing, they discredit us that we did not want to have elections because we were afraid of losing. Now that the campaign is in full swing, and a real election is coming near, what should they do? Should they not apologize for the wrong they said? If they were real man, they should. In my capacity as Prime Minister, I had declared the date of elections since nearly one year so that the National Elections Committee could have sufficient time to prepare for them. Why would you all discredit and insult us? In the meantime, there are just days ahead that the elections will come. Would they – local or foreigners – apologize now for their false statements? Every time, they abused us. When we resort to law to deal with them, they quickly made noise as if it was a political suppression.

... I would just urge our people to think about it thoroughly. I wish to tell everyone here and the people in the whole country that peace and unity that we have for the first time in hundreds years of history are real. We knew how it was when the country was in division ... let alone those from the 15th and 16th century [...] Once again, the Cambodian People's Party has fulfilled another marvelous achievement that, along with benefit for the country, was also for other countries to experiment – the win-win policy. I traded my life to liberate the country from Pol Pot's regime. Putting the win-win policy into practice, I did it once again for the sake of our country's peace. My late mother and grandaunt came to see me in my room seeking my reconsideration of going into the Khmer Rouge strongholds ... I told them "should anything bad happen, it would be bad luck for me and people who came with me. If nothing bad happens, I will bring the whole Cambodia together" [...]

Toppling, Thwarting and Disorganizing Pol Pot's Regime

In 1998, it was the first time in the Cambodian history that
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Cambodia became one united nation with one Constitution, a King, a Royal Government and armed forces. I could say that there were no other parties involved in the peace efforts except distracting it. That we were trying to liberate the country, they joined hands with the Khmer Rouge. As far as the political role of bringing peace and national reconciliation in concerned, I do not mention that of HM the King as HM is above anyone and anything else, the Cambodian People's Party was the one that toppled and prevented the regime of Pol Pot from coming back to power. The Cambodian People's Party was the one to disorganize the regime of Pol Pot politically and militarily through the implementation of the win-win policy, bringing the country to unity for the first time in history in dozens of years, if not hundreds of years, and development.

We departed from 100 per cent poverty. Who would have anything after the liberation? We have now downgraded poverty rate in the country to within 13%. We strove to stand up to rebuild the country and I thank the people of Cambodia for supporting the Cambodian People's Party in every stage from toppling, preventing the return of the regime of Pol Pot, rebuilding the country through various stages of peace negotiation to implementation of liberal and pluralistic democracy. They have always voted to support the Cambodian People's party to make and keep peace and develop the country ... (that we scored socio-economic achievements as) fruits of economic growth because we have realized positive results of reforms of governance. We have a real roadmap to get here. It is not a victory of only the ruling party and the Royal Government, but of the whole people of Cambodia [...]

The Oppositions Sought Aid Cut and Order Canceling

... I wish that our young generation should see that the one who brought in factories and

jobs is not the oppositions but the Royal Government. We have established a working condition under the agreement with ILO and syndicates. Where there are shortcomings, the Ministry of Labor and Vocational Training will continue to address them. Whatever you have made these days, there were nothing provided and helped by the oppositions. They would do nothing but launched demonstrations and sought foreign countries to bring no investments to the country and more so to provide aid. [...] The Royal Government has made efforts through the Ministry of Industry and Handicraft to provide our workers with access to running water, and the Ministry of Mines and Energy to make sure that our workers benefit from a lower price of electricity at 610 Riel/KWH. The opposition parties did nothing.

They however try to fool people that these happened because of their demands. They went to CG in Tokyo, Japan, to tell donors to give no aid and to bring no investment to the country. They told the European Union not to purchase our goods [...] Let me share with you on this matter that should they wish to support the salary increase as they had said it, they could have voted in support of the budget law. They did not do it in the National Assembly and in the Senate. If they were to support the salary increase for our civil servants and the armed forces, they could have voted to support just that part of the budget law. Originally, our law set a tax ceiling for income of 500,000 Riel and above. At a later stage, we had moved the ceiling up to 800,000 Riel. They did not vote to support it. Again, for the budget law of 2017, we moved the income tax ceiling to above one million. They still did not support it [...]

The Opposition Campaign Fans up War, CPP Members Exercise High Patience

... Some has said something about 500,000 USD for development of the commune/Sangkat. So far, our investment

in infrastructure has reached between US\$ 700 million and US\$ one billion. So to speak, one bridge costs us more than a promise of 500,000 USD for a commune. They just said it blankly. Even I am the one to make a final say on things, I would consult with other leaders. The oppositions, on the contrary, do not care about that. They just declare that they would remove the Ministry of Rural Development. If this is to go on, I am sure that war is imminent ... The Cambodian People's Party has been patient to keep peace for the country because it is the ruling party. Our country has transformed from an isolated to an integrated one at a regional and world level – in ASEAN, East Asia, ASEM, WTO, etc. in which we have become a country to coordinate least developed countries in the framework of World Trade Organization ... We also have joined the operations under the flagship of the United Nations [...]

I insist that members of the Cambodian People's Party exercise high patience. Please do not engage in exchange of insults. We must continue to be polite and disciplinary ... (Any attempts to try armed rebel) would not yield a good result. Please do not engage the color revolution game. It had been every time in the past that the oppositions did not recognize the elections results and resorted to demonstrations. Now, according to law, they will not stand that chance any more ... If they do not respond positively to invitation of HM the King, do not swear in, and/or do not attend the first National Assembly meeting, their seats will be divided among other parties ... They may not wish to repeat the incident (of burning police vehicle) in Stoeng Meanjei. We will not allow that. I already have the armed forces ready for that [...]

CPP's Continuance of Power Keeps Peace and Development

... They say we are stuck to power. What are they doing these days? I am staying in

power and they are trying to take power. Should the Cambodian People's Party win, it will continue to hold power. CPP continuance of power is to keep peace and to continue development. That is what it means ... Some commented in my Facebook – "Samdech is old now. It is about time to transfer power to others." I replied, yes. I will transfer but not to you but to officials of the Cambodian People's Party. Some even commented that even deity they take turn every year. I replied – yes, they do and they only give their turns to other deity ... Well, since this year we are meeting at a time that our country is edging closer to the elections, I have some points that I should have said it now.

... If we compare to 2012, we have done so many things now, though we still have more shortcomings to fix. The Cambodian People's Party does not require its candidates for the communal councils to pay any money for their candidature postings. It is because of distortion that members of other parties are taking parts with the Cambodian People's Party ... I would advise that respect of one another is the only best way. I would remind that it was because of shaking hands and stepping on foot that we could not work together. Dialogue culture came for a short live. It dies because of lack of faithfulness. I would hold dialogue with whoever who really need to dialogue with me faithfully. I would not have dialogue with convict. I would dialogue with anyone who will keep his/her end of promise. I wish also to send message to some diplomats that if they wish to see me to discuss bilateral issues, I would be happy to sit down with them. If they wanted to discuss with me on Cambodian internal affairs, I would not do so. I would have my minister to see you or even department heads [...]

Religions in Solidarity Contributes to National Harmony

... I am calling on all Christians no matter what religious sect
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they belong to have solidarity among themselves and from one religion to another. This will contribute to harmonization in our society and country. There will be no religious conflicts. This meeting will continue next year. You may be tired and dislike the fact that I have spoken too much. I wish to wrap up results of the works that we have done to bring out the role of the Cambodian People's Party in bringing and keeping peace, endeavoring for socio-economic development, exercising poverty alleviation, and continuing the march to a more effective and efficient governance...

You may still have difficulties but they would be as hard as when the country was partly in war and partly in peace. You may have low salary but it is still better than when we only had some rice and a few items that our civil servants got for their works in the past. We may lack roads but our traveling does not encounter jeopardy from ambushes or mines as in the war. We may not have the best schools buildings, but we are no longer leaving our kids learning under the trees or tilted houses. The time of those who know more teach those who know little, and those who know little teach those who do not know has passed. Though you may not have nice churches, or Buddhists – nice temple, or Muslims – nice mosques, we are better than when Pol Pot allowed us no freedom of belief. We must work harder to improve our churches, exercise disciplines firmly, and the Christian teachers should follow strictly their rules since they are part of human resource in religious field [...]

... I thank Jesus for allowing me this chance to meet with his followers and to explain to them the works that we have done and will do. That I am not a Christian is not an obstacle for us to meet once every year. In the Ramadan, I also joined with the Muslims to fast with them. If our Christians have a dinner, and would want me to join them, I would say no. We all

human beings have same needs, no matter what religion you believe or party you belong, and not even races. I am so happy to see that we are one united family and I wish to see no disunity because of agitation from those who want power. However, they do not have force strong enough to topple the Cambodian People's Party yet. Their human resource is not yet up to what it needs ... Well, I seem to go on without end [...]

Let's Meet Again in May Next Year

Next year we will meet again in May because June will be the campaign period for the general elections. We will try to squeeze our meeting in. I would try to fulfill what I promised to do. However, once again, for today, I have not had anything for our participants because we are meeting in the campaign period. I know that you are here not because you expect anything from me, what you want to witness is that there is a recognition for the role of Christians in our nation. As long as the Cambodian People's Party is in power, our Christians – locals or foreigners – can continue their presences. May Jesus Christ bless you all peace and progress. I hope that Jesus also blesses me as well as the Cambodian People's Party because the Cambodian People's Party has created a chance for Jesus to be sacrificial object of the Cambodian people. I wish our people from provinces go back in safety and hope that you and your families will vote for the Cambodian People's Party...■

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11 and 12 May, on 13 May I will board a plane to the People's Republic of China for a one belt one road (OBOR) meeting. After that, there will be an official visit to the People's Republic of China from 16 to 17 May, where there will be a trade fair in a province of China. I could be arriving in Cambodia on early morning of 18 May. Some have underestimated Hun Sen's health. Hun Sen is still fine and work this much....■

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rebels. One other captain had wounded his left arm. It is a loss of our army and people. I invite you all to stand up and express condolences for the souls of General Meas Krouch and our heroic soldiers who lost their lives yesterday.

Search for Facebook Page Owner Long Dimanche

In this sad development, on behalf of the Royal Government, as President of the Veterans Association, and my own behalf, I am sharing grieves of the bereaved families. Along with this, I am calling on owner of the Long Dimanche Facebook Page to remove his posting (that our soldiers were beheaded) immediately. The posting does damage to the honour of our army. I am ordering the Ministry of Interior to investigate the case ... such posting is no less than declaring war with the whole army.

We would not forgive such terrorist act that killed our compatriots and soldiers working on foreign soil. We continue to fight terrorism but such fabricated posting could be held responsible. The person who does this would be forgiven if he removes the posting. If he is a member of political party, his intention of doing so could bring on his party question about their intention and the party could be seen as enemy of the armed forces. I am calling for an investigation and in case it was a naïve mistake, Long Dimanche must remove the content from his page.

Calling for a Review of UN's CAR Troops Arrangement

For such loss, we are calling on the UN general staff operating in CAR to review their troops and improve security arrangement as such shortcomings would cause danger to peacekeepers. The Moroccan UN peacekeepers (responsible in providing armed protection) suffered injuries and went missing in the attack. The Cambodian UN peacekeepers dead bodies discovered about two Kilometres away from the attack place. The rebels could have ar-

rested and taken them away before killing and burying them.

I think we will dispatch a team from the Ministry of National Defence to CAR to look into troop arrangement [...] We do not blame the UN general staff work but we are calling on a review of UN troop arrangement in CAR to avoid such sad incident. The Cambodian troops are not fighting force. We are doing engineering works – demining and building roads. I am calling on a review on this matter. We may ask to see the planning and arrangement of troops and security. Many of us here have gone through many fights so we know something about this. As a member of the United Nations, we have rights to give our opinion [...]

Cambodia to Continue to Engage in Peacekeeping Operations

It is part of our responsibility for what had happened. I hope that Cambodian UN peacekeepers in CAR or Mali, South Sudan, Lebanon, etc. would not find this a shock. They should know that 15 million Cambodian people, 110,000-men armed forces and 60,000-men police force are with them and ready to continue this peacekeeping operation. We have our troops and new equipments ready. We are also preparing troop shifting. We do not backtrack [...] I am taking this moment to affirm to the United Nations that Cambodia will make further efforts to send more peacekeeping troops to help our friends. We do not bend because of such attack [...]

We are sad for the loss but we are proud too that Cambodia, standing up after liberating itself from the regime of genocide, has done a great deal of works to prevent the return of the regime of genocide, to honour internal peace through implementation of the win-win policy bringing complete end to the war [...]

Unifying the Country

Our soldiers and veterans sacrificed their flesh and blood for

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our motherland. Our efforts bring tremendous achievements for the country. Some insulted us and coloured us to whatever picture they like even they know that our sacrifices saved them and their families. They dare not say about this just course of national liberation that brought the country a real peace. In its past, Cambodia was a divided country with many pockets of controls by various war factions and armed forces ... we had worked hard to bring the country a unification under one Constitution, one King, one Royal Government, and armed forces.

It was not a joke and we earned it not because of deity or gift from any country. UNTAC (United Nations Transitional Authority in Cambodia) spent 2 billion USD in its role to keep peace in Cambodia and to bring about reconciliation of the three warring factions, and to organize elections. However, UNTAC left Cambodia with two governments and two controlled areas from 1993 through to 1998 ...

The win-win policy that we set out brought us complete peace, reconciliation and independence, for the first time in hundreds of years of history if we counted from the reign of HM the King Srey Raja in 1470. Cambodia was in constant conflict and division. Factions coloured one another as red, pink, white or blue, and those belong to the government. In 1970 and 1975, Cambodia divided into two controlled areas and governed by two factions. We fought not only in our country but also in the international arenas and United Nations, where Lon Nol, who launched the coup against Samdech Preah Norodom Sihanouk, with support of the US, occupied the Cambodian seat at the United Nations and others [...]

CPP Builds Peace and Development

We have done so many works. We hope that we will continue to do more. We have done many things together and shared times with each other in

difficult time. The Cambodian People's Party has been the only party that builds and brings about current development. Many other political parties had the past sought to destroy the people's rebirth after the liberation from the regime of Pol Pot. In the course of building our nation, some have opted to seek foreign countries to cease their assistances, investments, and even to cancel their purchase orders in/to Cambodia. That our workers have jobs and income in the present is not because the efforts made by the opposition party. The opposition party campaigned in many countries, even Europe, to cancel purchase orders of apparels from Cambodia. We understand that should the Cambodian People's Party make no efforts and discontinue its power, danger is coming again.

When we increase salary for our civil servants, the armed forces, and they may watch again footage of National Assembly session on Budget Law, they did not vote in support of it. Now, they tell people that (the Royal Government) increased salary for civil servants and the armed forces because they had demanded it. They did not even vote to support the budget law, which earmarked 50% of its current expenditure used for on salary of civil servants, armed forces and retirees. Was this their demands? I am stealing the spotlight of this forum to campaign but I have to speak out the truth [...] they even tried to prevent the Consultative Group Meeting (on Cambodia) from giving assistance. They later demanded to the European Community not to place purchasing orders from Cambodia. Their actions did nothing but to cause trouble to our workers and their families in rural Cambodia. Was that how they want their people to get jobs?

War Would Arise

Nowadays, whoever love and/or vote for the Cambodian People's Party, they are named foreign puppets and traitors. It is an act of insult on the overwhelming majority of people voted for

the Cambodian People's Party. Winning the elections, we gave them the freedom of actions according to Cambodian laws. However, that they colour this or that, insult and many other unconstructive actions, we may ask what exactly are they doing? Should the Cambodian People's Party be in negligence, war would arise. Look, we hailed the victories of sports medallists like Som Sievmei, Ouk Srey Mom, etc. but they never do so [...]

They would not congratulate them because doing so would be equal to praise the Cambodian People's Party. One may ask if this silence is an act of national reconciliation. On the contrary, whenever they found something negative, they would trumpet it immediately. Would this be a nature of political party or individual responsible in national reconciliation? [...] With such gestures, would it be possible to work together [...] People should think about these actions. There is no politics in sports [...]

Voting CPP for Peace and Achievements

No matter what they have in mind, they should also see bridges across the rivers in the time of Techo leadership. Electricity, roads, water canals, etc. (are also making statements). We still need more but at least this is how much we have achieved from the time that we were barehanded and the city had dwellers. Phnom Penh now is in traffic congestions. I hope that our people understand and see that as pride of our veterans and disable soldiers as well as our civil servant retirees who had made efforts altogether in the past 38 years. It is on this note that we must at all costs protect what we have achieved and in order to protect those achievements, the Cambodian People's Party needs to be winner in every election.

You may remember what happened on 28 July. The elections results were yet to come out, how many cars were on fire at Stoeng Meanjei. They have acted in many places and caused

frustration for people going to vote. We did not take any measures then. We were patient. However, in the forthcoming elections in 2017 and 2018, should there be such actions, the armed forces will take measures ... We would not allow you to destroy public property anymore. That they had not won the elections but they cause havoc to augment their demands [...]

Information Technology System Used in Paying Checks

We are making further efforts through the various platforms. The national fund for social security must work it out how to speed their work up [...] HE Vomg Soth about the fact that once it is completed, veterans, disable soldiers and retirees will cash their salaries from ATM close to their place of residences. This is state reform. As of present, civil servants are using banking system to receive their pays, while the amount of salary has increased as well. We have almost completed with in the national police force. We have largely done it in the army. We have used information technology to speed up reform in the salary system. We no longer have to load up cash in trucks and send to provinces or military region anymore. We have achieved these because of the leadership of the CPP-led Royal Government.

Social Land Concession for Veterans and Disable Soldiers

I am insisting continuation of inspection and provision of social land concession for our people, expect those living in Kandal and Phnom Penh, where there is no land to give out. In other provinces, where land is available, veterans and disable soldiers must have access to them. I thank our development partners for providing assistance in various forms such as prosthetic arms or limbs, physical rehabilitation, vocational training for our veterans and disable soldiers. I thank generous people in the country for setting some of their re-

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Tbong Khmom Provincial Town Inaugurated

(09 May 2017 — Unofficial Selection and Translation)

I am coming back today after my presence in 2015 to launch the groundbreaking ceremony for the construction of the provincial town hall of Tbong Khmom – our new province. In 2016, we put into official use the Heng-Samrin-Tbong Khmom University that is not far from here. We are putting parts of the projected constructions into official use and some are still underway. It is not yet the end of construction of the provincial town of Tbong Khmom, putting into operation in 2014, provisionally at the district office of Punnhea Krek. The provincial town staff and related offices are moving in to work in their respective offices today [...]

The Need to Have Tbong Khmom Province

... I have no idea in knowing that I have come to this leadership position. Today, symbolically, we are putting an administrative office into operation to serve people's needs and requirements, with a thorough study under the leadership of Samdech Krola Haom Sar Kheng. Kompong Cham province has a large area and population – two million over the whole country's population 15 million. There is a need therefore to divide the province into two. In the past, people had had to travel to the provincial town of Kompong Cham to seek for administrative services. For people in Mehnot, it is very long distance to travel there. With the Tbong Khmom province established, they can benefit from public services closer to homes [...] We are moving administrative offices and services closer to our people [...]

A University and Hospital for the Province of Tbong Khmom

Judging by the fact that our past had not been sweet, we have made it this far is a remarkable thing. It is a fortunate thing that while we are putting together our efforts to set up and build the new provincial town of

Tbong Khmom, we have also been able to build a university here for our students. Soon, the People's Republic of China will build a hospital, which will serve as a big referral medical centre. I have presented the project to HE Xi Jinping of (the People's Republic of) China. Once it is done, our people will not need to send patients on a long journey to Kompong Cham. We are addressing our people's requirements.

Offering a Primary, Junior and Senior College, Teachers and Students Hostels

We have so many works to do. I have noted a message sent to my Facebook account by Lang Sophal. He has brought up a number of proposals [...] after my discussion with Samdech Krola Haom Sar Kheng and Governor Prach Chan, and my engineering team, we have come up with a decision to do some of the works right in time for the 2017-18 school year [...] Since we already have a master plan, and to address a long-term requirement, we will build a set of educational facilities – for primary, for junior and senior secondary education. Once it is done, when (Lang Sophal) you are in retirement, your elder son will finish his senior secondary school education [...]

Riel 400/Cubic Meter for Use of 3 Cubic Meter and Below

Please allow me to take this opportune moment to make it known to our people in this province and other places where living in hired residences they have had to pay for electricity and running water by themselves. As for clean water connected from the national water network, people will pay the price at cost of production if they only use three cubic meters and less per month [...] starting from 15 May, the price of water will be lowering to Riel 400/cubic meter if they use only three cubic meters or less per month. Price of water refine-

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a strong solidarity on the work that we have been doing so far. President of the CRC as well as the representative of the International Committee of Red Cross (ICRC) to Cambodia touched in their reports about the theme selected since last year and still applies for this year – the Red Cross is everywhere and for everyone. It is a correct theme and addresses not only the Cambodian situation but also every country. Very often, natural or man-made disasters strike at the local level. Therefore, presence and action of the Red Cross everywhere is necessary to deal with them.

I thank the wise effort of the Cambodian Red Cross for setting up network with the Royal Government's sub-national mechanism to act in complementary with each other to deal with disasters. By joining forces together with local authorities at provincial and district levels, the Cambodian Red Cross has become a strong force. We do not waste forces we have and use them together as a collective means to deal with whatever disaster we may encounter. I encourage continuation of such mechanism to respond to unforeseeable disasters that vary from one type to another, from drought and water shortage to flooding and/or strong wind and lightning.

CRC Youth Applies Peer Education in Villages and/or Schools

I am encouraging the Cambodian Red Cross (CRC), especially grandchildren, nephews and nieces who are the CRC youth wing and present everywhere. In the course of my travel around the country over 5,000 kilometers months ago, I discovered that in every school there are cells of the CRC youth. They are the one who act today and will take over the works in the future. Disciplinary CRC youth wing has contributed peer education at the village, commune and especially in their classrooms. They did help in evading drug and other irregular social problems among peers.

Collected Fund Used Properly

Today, in the whole country, we are setting a meeting between those who need help and those who can help. I noticed a slogan on the way in that says – culture of sharing starts with me. I am so grateful to sharing by generous people to the Cambodian Red Cross so that the latter can truly assist the poor. I have noticed that the Cambodian Red Cross has made a new step to build homes for the poor. I am grateful to foreign friends and businessmen for making contributions to the Cambodian Red Cross funding.

I also must remind everyone of the efforts excelled by our Buddhist monks so far in humanitarian actions as they had provided assistances to those in needs themselves or offered whatever they had to the Cambodian Red Cross to fulfil such missions. I am so pleased to see that our compatriots understand and take action in helping each other [...]

Tension Soars High in Middle East

In some countries, they raised money to purchase weapons. The representative of the ICRC to Cambodia just said in his speech that there are so many problems in this world, some of them are natural and some are man-made. Look, war in Afghanistan is not over. Wars in the middle-eastern countries – Syria, Iraq, Yemen, and some others, are soaring high in temperature. Days ago, I received a letter from the United Nations Secretary General to attend an International Conference to seek more assistance for Yemen in Geneva. Why there is a need for us to do that? It is because of the disaster inflicted upon by man, not by nature.

I sincerely hope that our nation understand the true value of peace. I wish to see no attempt to bring the country back to war. The presence of peace provides chances for us to improve our way of life and alter it. However, should war be

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ment varies according to location and water source. I am calling our people to understand this. For the provincial town of Tbong Khmom, the price of water will also be set according to the cost of refinement and treatment [...]

For Phnom Penh in particular, there are two prices. Those who use water three cubic meters and less per month will not pay Riel 550 but only Riel 400/ cubic meter. For those who use clean water service more than three cubic meters per month, they would pay only Riel 500 instead of Riel 550, too. It is the Royal Government's policy to assist people with lower income. The same is true with regard to electricity. Consumption of ten KWH per month will pay only Riel 480 per KWH. Consumption of 50 KWH and/or less will pay Riel 610/KWH. Consumption more than 50 KWH/month will pay 770 Riel for those connected to the national electricity transmission lines and Riel 790 to the private lines. This has indicated a reversal trend of increasing salary and lower water and electricity services prices.

One Bird in Hand Is Better Than Many in the Bushes

I hope we will continue to be and work together for peace that we hardly found and for self, family, and national developments. We should not be fooled by empty promises and divisive intention. We must be united against all attempts to bring about hostility and division in our society and nation. The best option is we must follow the trail of win-win policy. As you can see, when the Cambodian People's Party is in power, everyone and/or party can reside together. On the contrary, some have taken a stern position to insult and blamed us to have lacked democracy. At this very moment, they are spreading out all kinds of promises.

I am sure that our people have sufficient understanding and experiences from the past when they lost lives, relatives, and families. With the action taken

by the Cambodian People's Party, we have ended war. People are free to travel wherever they wanted to. We have already realized our policy of one junior secondary school at least for a commune. Though we have divided the province of Kompong Cham into two, the newly found province Tbong Khmom also has up to 23 junior and senior secondary schools. It is a true figure. It has not been an empty promise. Please hold whatever you have in hand [...]. It has been said that one bird in hand is better than twenty in the bushes.

Let us not forget that the peace that we have won for the whole country is indeed fragile judging from what you can find in Facebook – insults, contempt and incitements. They stir people's anger. It is now real time for our people to choose between peace and war. Even when I had to stay in hospital for a medical checkup and treatment, they sent in comments in contempt of my life. Based on these I dare say about my concern of the fragility (of peace) and a real possibility of war. The policy of where there is me, there would not be you and vice versa, and many other tricks in their sleeves, will indeed bring about war.

People to Use Best Judgment on Communal Councils Elections

Living under the leadership of the Cambodian People's Party, people enjoy freedom. Those who committed crimes will have to serve legal punishment. In just days to come, we will go to vote. I hope our people will use their best judgment. We have shared difficulties and peace together. We should not abandon achievements that we have realized together, and place out hope on empty promises, the answer to which is war. Some people said fear has had me. I just wish them understand that if I were to surrender to fear, I could not have stayed with the people, to bet my life to save people from the genocide of Pol Pot [...]

Implementing the win-win poli-

cy is not a simple matter. We did it. We ended this status of a Cambodia with many controlled areas by various factions. Towards the end, we also ended the status of one country with two governments and allow our people to live under one roof of the Constitution, one King, one armed forces and one Royal Government. These have clearly indicated the role that the Cambodian People's Party has played so far.

Increase of Salary for Civil Servants and Workers

... Cambodia faced with complete destruction. We started with a ration of nine different items for our soldiers, police, teachers, and civil servants. At present, salary of our civil servants increased gradually. In 2012, when we conducted communal council elections, workers only received US\$ 80 per month. Now, workers received a salary up to US\$ 153, or more including other interests. Children work to send home their incomes to raise their families and to use in agricultural activities, and some have even opted for machines to work on their lands. In the last communal council elections, our teachers received a salary between 300 and 400 thousands Riel. As of this time around, the minimum salary of our teacher is 950,000 Riels, and in 2018, the minimum salary will be no less than one million Riel.

Increase of Per Capita Income

The country's per capita income in 2000 was US\$ 200 and it is US\$ 1,300 as of present. In 1969, the per capita income of the country was only US\$ 260, at which time in South Korea its per capita income was only US\$ 74. However, with efforts they made, South Korea has now come to a per capita income of US\$ 50,000. Should we not have the coup run by Lon Nol, foreign aggression, and the genocidal regime of Pol Pot our per capita income could have been many thousands.

CPP to Continue No Tax on Farmland

With efforts put together, we have been able to reduce the 100 percent poverty rate to only 13%. We will continue to work hard on it thanks to existing policies. I wish to remind our people that in its past, Cambodia never, in any regime at all, failed to collect taxes on farmland [...]. However, in the past 38 years, the Cambodian People's Party never levy taxes on farmland to our farmers. As long as the Cambodian People's Party continues to rule, we will not seek people's commitment to pay taxes on their lands. This is a real tangible thing. It is not an empty promise. As for other politicians, have they been making a clear statement on that?

Mourning Loss of Cambodian Peacekeeper Life in Central African Republic

We have sad news today and I am asking concerned officials to follow the matter seriously. I am taking this moment to express our condolence and mourning of a Cambodian peacekeeper life in the Central Africa Republic, where there was a rebellious attack causing loss of one life and missing of three. Five Moroccan peacekeepers who escorted the convoy suffered heavy and light injuries. They also had one of their soldiers missing. Captain Im Sam from Siem Reap province, driver of a bulldozer pronounced dead. A search and rescue operation is underway to look for the three missing Cambodian peacekeepers and others. We do not know yet if they escaped or held hostages. I also asked for close consideration and monitoring of the act of delivering the deceased Captain home [...]

If they were to escape from the fight, those missing soldiers would have returned to base by early morning. It is not yet day-break. Should they be held hostages in exchange with anything, I suggest the United Nations to do whatever necessary to take care of lives of the Cambodian and Moroccan citizens [...]. I am calling on high responsibility of the United Nations to guarantee lives of the

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imminent or happening, there would be no chance to reform or to improve, for example infrastructural needs for our people, since we would not be able to safeguard even our life.

Uncertainty on Korean Peninsula

In Asia, we are facing with uncertainty in the Korean peninsula. Days ago, in the ASEAN Summit (in the Philippines) some leaders had said that they were wondering what tomorrow would bring after they woke up. I think the US and North Korea should not threaten each other because doing so causing fear for people in the Korean peninsula and in the region.

Threatening to use both nuclear and non-nuclear weapons causes fear to the world. In the end, there will only be losers. I hope that the nuclear powers who show off either mother of all bombs or father of all bombs, nuclear or non-nuclear weapons, reconsider their political options rather than threats with weapons.

I have said it was just a threat and percentage of having a war is low but words that are coming out of mouths of Presidents or leaders to use nuclear weapons in their fight are not childish. I do not advice the Presidents or leaders of anyone country. However, what they said causes impacts on other countries, not only between you two. War will be destructive [...]

On Drugs, Traffic Accidents, Kuntha Bopha Pediatric Hospital

I would take this opportune moment to appeal to our youth to stay away from drugs. Not that only it causes many consequences on your physical condition but the Royal Government would have to set aside a sum of money, used for development purpose, to provide them with treatments instead. It is not only a loss in family but also the whole nation [...] Years ago we spent national budget on HIV/AIDS. We have lesser burden

on that now, though we still have to continue our attention and care. It is the Royal Government's burden to provide assistance for victims from drugs as well as from HIV/AIDS [...]

I would take this moment to also appeal to our people to respect traffic law to evade accidents. We have in average loss of six to seven lives per day, and many more injuries, from accidents [...]

I am calling on our people to defend their lives and lives of others. We need many bags of blood to save people in traffic accidents [...] Reduce driving in drunkenness and respect traffic rules would reduce accidents, and we can save many bags of blood for other patients.

I am so happy to have learnt from the speech that the Cambodian Red Cross will continue to provide one million USD to the Kuntha Bopha Pediatric Hospital. I also thank generous fellows for providing assistances to the hospital. Dr. Beat Richner is ill. We will not allow dysfunction to the hospital because of his absence [...]

Relation between Cambodia and France Continues

Upon known primary results of the presidential elections in France, Emanuel Macron has won some 65% of the votes. I would take this opportune moment to express my sincere congratulations to the President-elect who will swear in just days ahead. In France, the procedure will not take a long time. The Constitutional Council will proclaim. No matter from what party the President-elect is, I am sure good relation between Cambodia and France will continue [...]

To end this, I thank our people who sent me their well wishes on Facebook page and in SMS to my phones concerning my health in the last few days. This clearly reflects your consideration on my health. I just send words that those who wish to see me dead or to reap benefit from my health will never have chance [...]

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sources to help disable soldiers in the construction of their homes. At times of need, like border conflict, we also saw that our people shared whatever they had with our soldiers. This clearly indicates that the Cambodian army is of the people, from the people and for the people [...]

Correct Policies Leads to WEF on ASEAN

People's peaceful life comes from sweat and blood of the veterans and soldiers who stand guarding the country at every point. They do so for the sake of your peaceful life. Please do not give them any contempt. (People exercised policies of) demagoguery and parasite are not choices for country leadership, or even provincial and/or district levels [...] we have this World Economic Forum (on ASEAN) starting tomorrow in Cambodia. Today, the Prime Minister of Laos will arrive. I will have a meeting with him. I will then proceed to meet on with other delegations after the establishment of the Asian Infrastructure Investment Bank (AIIB). President of the Philippines will arrive later tonight

Birthday Wish to HM the King

I am conveying my best wish to HM the King on his birthday anniversary on the forthcoming 14 May. I wish HM to stay as shade for our people and HM's humanitarian actions has been exemplary for our civil servants, the armed forces as well as our people in the whole country. HM the King has always been at the local level to meet with people. I am sure the people of Cambodia wish His Majesty the King for his birthday.

I also thank Samdech Me, the Queen Mother, for staying as Honorary President of the Cambodian Red Cross and assisting always, since its inception, then under the leadership of the late Preah Norodom Sihanouk Preah Borom Ratanakod. We wish HM the Queen Mother longevity, and let us stay under HM's cool shade ...

and then the Vietnamese Prime Minister. Many dignitaries are coming to Cambodia. Some 800 investors from the US, Europe and Asia are here. It is an honour for Cambodia, after recovering from destructions, to host such important forum, to participate in taking up roles in the framework of the United Nations, and in the region.

It is not accidental. They all happened because of the correct domestic and foreign policies of the Cambodia People's Party. We hosted ASEAN Summit and related summits twice. Was that not something to be proud of for our veterans and soldiers? Is it not the pride of Cambodia, especially for those who voted for the Cambodian People's Party? Let us hold it tight in our hands, keep up with the pride we have and make further efforts to stand up from destruction to become a country that is at full peace, has no secession, realized 7.7% economic growth in the last 20 years, and will achieve another 7% growth this year and year to come. Salary of the army and police forces, civil servants will improve and we do so not at the demand of the oppositions...

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Cambodians serving in the peacekeeping operation, which in this case, one had lost his life. I am also conveying my deep condolence to the family of the deceased soldier [...] It has been our big pride for Cambodia to serve in various unprecedentedly international roles. I am calling on concerned officials to monitor the situation closely and report to me as soon as new development occurs ...

World Economic Forum in Cambodia - 10, 11 & 12 May

... Starting from tomorrow, we will have a World Economic Forum in Cambodia. More than 40 countries will meet here. The President of the Philippines, Prime Minister of Laos, Prime Minister of Vietnam will also be present besides minister-rank guests and big businessmen [...] After marathon meeting on

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