

Cambodia-Laos Joint Press Briefing

(12 September 2019 — Unofficial Selection and Translation)



12 September 2019 - Samdech Techo Hun Sen and Prime Minister Thongloun Sisoulith of Lao PDR

Prime Minister Samdech Techo Hun Sen [1]:

Elevating Trusted Strategic Comprehensive Partnerships

Today is an historic development in the relations between the Lao People's Democratic Republic (Lao PDR) and the Kingdom of Cambodia. What we have done on this day, I should emphasize, is that the two sides have signed the joint declaration stating about elevating strategic comprehensive partnership between the two countries and considered it a remarkable achievement in the two countries' relations. We have made efforts to realize numerous tasks historically inherited by ancestors of the two countries as amicably neighboring countries. The strategic comprehensive partnership would allow us to promote further existing relations and widen trust between the two countries.

Cambodia-Laos Border Treaty and Build New Border Poles

We have also discussed a number of issues that include, what I am sharing with the press today, border issue, on which the two

Prime Ministers agreed to prepare a Cambodia-Laos border treaty based on the achievement of around 86% that we have scored. It is an important task. Previously, the two countries' border had not been that clear. However, after so many works we have done together, we have come to an agreement that the two countries' border committees draft a border treaty to accept the 86% works scored so far. We also have agreed with each other to change current small border poles with more suitable size ones marking borderline between state and state [...]

Border Committees to Design and Submit Border Poles to Leaders

The two Prime Ministers entrusted task of designing border poles to the two countries' border committees and submit them to the two countries' leaders for approvals. We also have agreed to split the cost of doing so in half. Besides, we have come to a common view about figuring out how many more border poles needed to plant. So far, on hundreds of Kilometers

(Continued on page 4)

Cambodia-Malaysia Press Briefing

(03 September 2019 — Unofficial Selection and Translation)

Dr. Mahathir Mohamad, Prime Minister of Malaysia and I have just wrapped up bilateral discussion in a pleasant, close and fraternal atmosphere. First of all, let me express my sincerely profound thank for Prime Minister Mahathir Mohamad for doing us the honor of conducting his official visit to the Kingdom of Cambodia today for the first time in his current term.

I am pleased to give a high evaluation to this historic visit. The visit serves as a strong friendship, solidarity, and bilateral relations between Cambodia and Malaysia.

I extend my warm congratulation to great achievements scored under the energetic leadership of HE Prime Minister. I have a strong belief that together with striven development and

modernization goals, as well as development policy in every fields, Malaysia will realize its objectives to become a developed country, an economic tiger in Asia, and to participate in contributing evermore active and important role in regional and world arenas.

Taking this opportune moment, I wish to express my sincere greeting to the 62nd National Independence Day of Malaysia, and the diplomatic relations establishment between Cambodia and Malaysia on 31 August 1957.

On bilateral relations between Cambodia and Malaysia, Prime Minister Mahathir Mohamad and I have noted with satisfaction progresses achieved in the

(Continued on page 2)

Excerpts of Interview to China Media

(18 September 2019 — Unofficial Selection and Translation)

Question 1: [...] *this year is the 70th founding anniversary of the People's Republic of China, what are your personal impressions on achievements scored by China in its 70 years development?* [...]

First of all, Cambodia is so happy and congratulating China's 70th founding anniversary of the People's Republic. In fact at the time that China shrugged itself off its difficult condition and got the People's Republic established, many countries in South East Asia and other regions were active in their fight for independence. The establishment of the People's Republic of China (PRC) from 70 years ago has created trust among many states under (foreign) colonialism at the time. At later stage, PRC played very im-

portant contributing role for peace in the region, especially in the 60s and 70s, while war still raged in Indochina. It went without saying that most of the struggle movements stemmed from the fight against colonialism and foreign aggressions for independence [...] As for PRC's progress, it is a miracle and showcases to the world how a country with 10% of the world land mass fed its people of about 20% (of the world population). A magnificent achievement under the leadership of the

(Continued on page 5)

In This Issue

. Cambodia-Laos	1
.. Cambodia-Malaysia	1
... China Media Interview	1
..... Morodok Techo	2
..... Political Discourse	5
..... Police Academy	8

Visiting Morodok Techo Stadium

(29 July 2019 — Unofficial Selection and Translation)

The Morodok Techo Stadium Complex – A Result of Belt and Road Project

We are pleased to connect the last seats in this enormous stadium complex of ours. Before us is the achievement of the cooperation between Cambodia and China or a part of the Belt and Road project [...] I have chosen this ship-like architectural design of the stadium complex to symbolise connectivity in the framework of the Belt and 21st Century Maritime Silk Road initiated by the President of the People's Republic of China, HE Xi Jinping [...] we may call it a stadium complex. It costs us 1,050 million Yuan or between 160 and 170 million USD. According to our Chinese friend, the construction is the best architecture of its kind among the Chinese assistances provided to foreign countries [...]

Open to Assistances/ Cooperation from Every Countries

I wish to pose a question to some people who have reiterated their dissatisfactions (on this development) and (made comments to) destroy the Cambodia-China relations. My question was if it were not for the Chinese assistance, would we be able to achieve this stadium complex as we do now? This stadium complex is to host the 2023 SEA Games event. We are not making Cambodia-China relations exclusive, though. We are open to assistances and cooperation from every countries. The matter here is which countries are willing to help? [...] in light of this I also like to ask if it was wrong to receive assistance from China to serve the Cambodian people? [...]

All Five Permanent Members of the Security Councils Are in Cambodia

Some, while using the roads (/ bridges built with the Chinese assistance) insulted that Cambodia's relation to China disturbs its permanent neutrality. What

is the meaning of permanent neutrality? Cambodia is open to relations with every countries. Those who talked about Cambodia's permanent neutrality in its definition of conducting business with, borrowing from, and falling in debt trap to China may want to clarify this term. All five permanent members of the Security Council of the United Nations have their embassies in Phnom Penh. They may give me their impartial arguments on this fact to be independent analysts. Have I closed down any foreign embassies? We are doing business with everyone here. If anyone wishes not to see Cambodia doing too much business with China, they may assist us more. That would be a wrong thing to do [...] in fact some countries have much more business relations with China than Cambodia, attracting more Chinese investors to their countries, but they do not have any issues on that [...]

Getting Ready for Smooth Hosting of SEA Games

Let me give you some of my recommendations on what needs to be done [...] *firstly, as far as infrastructure is concerned, I think we need a wider road [...] but also I wanted to have your attentions on the media preparations.* In Laos, when they hosted SEA Games, they have only a few TV Channels [...] we should start thinking of distributing tasks for the TV channels we have [...] I have started to allot fund for (hosting SEA Games) 2023. It will go into a saving account and we will continue to do that next year too. By the time we are hosting the games, we have needed fund in hand [...]

Secondly, to wish for more medals in which sports is one thing but let us remember that we are the host. In such case we have to take full responsibility to ensure smooth hosting operation from beginning to end [...] to raise our country's image [...] we are picking 5 May for

(Continued on page 3)

(Continued from page 1)

two countries' relations of friendship and cooperation in every fields such as security, economy, trade, investment, tourism, education, labor, culture, etc.

We are determined to strengthen and expand further close cooperation bilaterally and multilaterally for our two people's interests and making contributions to regional and world peace, stability, and prosperity.

Presently, trade and investment relations between our two countries maintain good status, while there are numerous Malaysian businesses in Cambodia. In 2018, trade volume between the two countries was at roughly 500 million USD.

In the first six month of 2019, the volume of trade has recorded some 400 million USD already. To further volume of trade and investment between Cambodia and Malaysia, Prime Minister Mahathir and I have agreed to instruct related institutions of the two countries to seek for means for more cooperation in this field.

We have admitted there is this need to strive for cooperation on information sharing and training in the field of national security and defense. We also are welcoming continued discussion between the Ministries of National Defense of the two countries leading to signing a memorandum of understanding on national defense cooperation.

We have encouraged relevant institutions of the two countries to expedite signing of a memorandum of understanding on cooperation in combating against human trafficking.

Let me take this opportune moment to express my sincere thanks to Malaysia for its delivered assistance in human resource training through its technical cooperation and for positive cooperation in improving wellbeing of male/female workers currently working and residing in Malaysia.

To further relation between people of Cambodia and Ma-

laysia, we have agreed to encourage youth exchange through sports and youth's leadership development programs, and cultural exchanges.

As far as international cooperation, regional and international mechanism are concerned, Prime Minister Mahathir and I have exchanged views on the two countries' concerned regional and world situations.

In this remark, let me inform you that we have exchanged opinions on a number of issues such as the South China Sea, the Rakhine State, and issues relating to the United Nations Security Council's sanctions on North Korea, and those of powerful countries on other countries, which bear effects not only on those countries but also on partnering countries.

Prime Minister Mahathir and I also discussed the candidacy of Timor-Leste to become the ASEAN 11th member country. We are of the view that the country should be welcome to be a member of ASEAN.

As you have witnessed, a while ago, we have offered our presences to witness the signing ceremony of (1) the agreement to avoid tax duplication and to prevent embezzlement of tax and income tax, and (2) the memorandum of misunderstanding of tourism, for which we are looking into visa facilitation that travelers with visas to Malaysia can also visit Cambodia.

If they visit Cambodia, they also can visit Malaysia. This is a brief aspect of what we have realized. May I invite HE Prime Minister to share his remarks./

(Continued from page 4)

Techo raised in his remark to refrain from causing division in relations between Laos and Cambodia. How could such information formulate?

I think (what he had said has) discredited him and causing division between the governments and peoples of Laos and Cambodia. Let me just clarify this much. Thank you./

(Continued from page 2 B) hosting SEA Games because in July, we will have elections [...] we also will have the 60th jubilee anniversary celebration of Cambodia's Independence. In addition to those, we also have more works to do after the elections [...] in this thought, besides working hard for medals, we also have to ensure the hosting will be going smoothly as planned [...] we are poor but let us not be poor in manner [...]

Hosting ASEM in 2020 and ASEAN in 2022

We must stratify clearly our responsibilities. We should also remember that in 2020, we will host the Asia-Europe Summit to which leaders from over forty countries will attend – 28 from Europe and 39 from Asia, plus head of European Commission, European Council, who will co-chair the meeting [...] in 2022, when Cambodia will be taking rotating chairmanship of ASEAN, I thought of hosting the first summits in Siem Reap province and the second one in Sihanoukville province. I have now revised the plan to host them all in Phnom Penh. It would not be a simple work to bring around the working mechanism of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and related institutions to places [...]

Real Intention behind Proposition of Chinese Military Presence in Cambodia?

Let me take this opportune moment to reiterate (Cambodia's position) to those who have raised this issue about Chinese military presence in Cambodia. What exactly is the real intention when you are making this up? Before 1970, you also talked about the presence of Vietnamese troops in Cambodia. It was not long after that you plotted the coup to bring down Samdech Preah Norodom Sihanouk. I think we all remember that. The same is worth our thought is they accused Iraq to have possessed weapons of mass destruction (WMD). They made war on it. Tens of thousands lost their lives. Finally, there were no

WMD [...] would the real intention be no different to that of 1970? Cambodia and China have no necessity to go into "secret agreement" [...]

More Weapons/Ammunitions from China

Let me tell you the truth, the goods is on shipment now, I have approved spending nearly forty million USD to purchase weapons from China in addition to the previously purchases of 200 million USD and later 90 million USD. I have the need to strengthen capacity of the Cambodian army. I have no fear about doing that. Would there be any country in this world without weapons? Our weapons and ammunitions are rather old [...] I am frank on this [...] I called Defence Minister, Samdech Pichey Sena Tia Banh, to allow troops exercising with real bullets [...] countries have allowed their troops to practice firing real bullets and North Korea has even fired the missiles. Why can we not do it?

I have no plan to change our weapons system. Some suggested that we should swap to such and such system. I denied. It will be a waste of money. Besides, we may come to many hiccups causing by providers. The system we are using these days we can go buy from numerous countries. That would include countries in Europe, in the former Soviet Union block. As a leader of the country, a Prime Minister and Vice President of the National Defence Council, I must have a clear thought on that [...]

RGC Has Financial Ability to Over One Year Salary

This year, the economic growth could well be within 7.1%. That is the economic growth in general [...] some have misinterpreted that the Royal Government is short of money for administrative expenses because of the US law (proposed in Cambodia). Let me tell you even if there will be no further income/revenue, Cambodia is financially able to cover salary for over one year [...] Cambodia has roughly 15 billion USD in foreign reserve in treasury

and 250 million USD (14 million millions Riel) in the National Bank [...] we spend roughly 300 million USD per month and our revenue is over 400 million USD, would that be suffice? We have a surplus of 100 million USD here [...]

Unsubstantiated News on African Swine Flu and Personal Health

I think I have to bring a few things for your thought. I am talking about distorted news regarding our country and also me personally. *Firstly, the African swine flu.* I am calling on our people to consume pork [...] this is the time when our country forbid fishing. If people do not consume pork, they would opt for beef or fish and the items would jack up prices [...] our health service has already informed you that such flu is not transmittable to human. Besides, sick or dead pigs are not allowed to bring out of raising areas and for butchering [...] *secondly, it is concerning my health.* Based on what some talked in the social media, I am now in Singapore for various unfounded remarks such as my lung no longer worked because of too much smoking or I have bled my stomach because of overdose of medicine [...]

Let me warn this person – his Facebook name and pen name in the Phnom Penh Post in 2013 was So Samyuth. His real name is Khorn. He called Samdech Krola Haom "the Brown" – (literally in Khmer it may refer to animal of such colour). You are one of the 118 in the list forbidden of political rights. In your article elaborating about "the fifth passed pawn," (it was clear that) you incited what could have been a colour revolution. I have information about you in my hand now [...] I think some who may have believed in those fabricated news should think again [...] I invite all of you to think what sort of politicians are they to wait or to pray for their opponents' deaths? Are they brave? [...]

Kao Kimhuorn – Candidate for ASEAN Secretary General

I have in kind to propose HE Kao Kimhuorn, Minister Attached to the Prime Minister, as the candidate (picked from the three potential ones) for the post of Secretary General of ASEAN [...] I will propose him. Please inform (Deputy Prime Minister and Minister for Foreign Affairs) HE Prak Sokhon about this decision [...]

The US Proposed Law Affects No Cambodians

Now about the US proposed law. HE Kao Kimhuorn did some research and shared with me that there are many laws regarding Vietnam and Myanmar, etc. but have not been passed. Let us now suppose that the law has passed in the House of Representatives, then the Senate, and in a week or so President Donald Trump will have to sign it into force. If that happened, what would be the problem to the Cambodian people? The law is in fact aimed at (1) issue no visas for certain officials and (2) freeze property (found in the US). Nothing would happen to the Cambodian people [...] the law would affect some ten people [...] it was like the US sever diplomatic relations with Cambodia [...] in the black list was Tia Banh – it is equivalent to cutting military relation; Sar Kheng – it is like they cut off relations with police; Aun Pommoniroth – like they cut off economic relation.

As you can see what they try to do will affect no Cambodians. Should they place me in the list, I am telling to do it and confiscate the said over 200 million USD property of the Hun family. They may do that even before the law passed [...] they said Hun Sen was sick because he was concerned about the law [...] I will continue to go the US's New York because it is where the UN headquarters is. However, I believe, the Donald Trump's administration is not that thoughtless to push Cambodia that has diplomatic relation with the US away [...]

Only Convicted To Be Arrested

(Continued on page 7)

(Continued from page 1)

of the borderline that we shared, we have planted only 121 border poles. More poles needed to be mounting [...] as for the remaining 14%, the two Prime Minister entrusted the task of working for a solution together with the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and we are optimistic that a solution will be reached at an appropriate time in the spirit of friendship and good neighboring cooperation [...]

Purchased Electricity from Laos Would Expand Bilateral Trades

Today, as you ladies and gentlemen reporters have already learnt, we have signed a number of agreements, whereby Cambodia would become a market for Lao export of electricity, while Laos would also become a supplier of electricity to Cambodia. It is complementing each other. Based on what we have signed together, and those agreements we signed from before, we would be receiving up to 3,100 MW of electricity from Laos. It is such a huge amount. If we compared to Cambodia's consumption of electricity in the past, Phnom Penh and the whole country consumed less than 40 MW. As of present, Cambodia has stepped up its purchase to 3,100 MW of electricity – considering it a kind of commodity – from Laos exporting to Cambodia in a rapid manner after the agreement comes gradually into implementation stages [...]

Direct Flight between Cambodia and Laos

Among other things discussed, we have touched issue of direct flight of Cambodia's Angkor Air as well as Laotian airlines between the two countries in the hope that it will expand tourism between the two countries. I think I should talk this much and turn the floor to Prime Minister HE Thongloun Sisoulith to give you more information.

Lao PDR Prime Minister [1]:

... This official visit (to the Kingdom of Cambodia) has been a great symbol. We have agreed on many strategic issues

that are benefiting good relations and fruitful cooperation of the two countries and peoples. I totally support what has been presented to you by Samdech Techo. I think that high-level mutual visits signify the good tradition between our countries and we will work to promote it further. I agree with Samdech Techo Hun Sen that we discussed and resolved fruitfully border issues. We have made a step forwards. Importantly, for the 86% borderlines that we have approved, we will build and mount a better and larger border poles.

I have suggested the Cambodian side to come up with the pole architectures and the two Prime Ministers would make a decision on them. We will share the cost in half. The 86% borderline result has been a remarkable success of our efforts working together in so many years. As for the remaining border issues, the two Prime Ministers have entrusted the Laotian-Cambodian Joint Border Committee as well as the Ministry of Foreign Affairs (of the two countries) to work for solution altogether. I have confidence that we will score a solution because we have such a good neighborly relation with each other.

More importantly, I agreed with Samdech Techo Hun Sen that the signing of the Joint Declaration will elevate our relations to a long-term and long-lasting strategic comprehensive partnership based on trust and collaboration for national developments and harmony in the relations between our two countries and people. Other agreements signed have also given us more confidence and collaboration between the governments and peoples of the two countries.

The Lao delegation and I are very pleased that Samdech Techo Hun Sen and the Royal Government of Cambodia decided to purchase over 3,000 MW of electricity from Laos from now through to 2030. This decision will complement each other. Samdech Techo already mentioned purchasing electricity from Laos for Cambodia's

development and Laos will use income from electricity for national development and betterment of our people's livelihood. As of now the two countries have recorded only 16 million USD in trade. After the electricity from Laos, I think that trade volume between our two countries will add more prices. I hope we will be able to further development according to the spirit that the two sides have agreed.

Besides, we have discussed about promoting more people-to-people relations, tourism, labor, cultural exchange, and meeting between local levels. Whatever problem that may arise at the local level, both sides would be able to discuss and help each other to achieve local solutions. Problems that are beyond local ability to resolve would bring to the attention of the national level. I hope the local levels could work and resolve every problem altogether because our two governments agreed and shook hands in solidarity and one strand for national developments and betterment of living condition of our two peoples who have shared good customs and traditions. It would be a good thing for our children and grandchildren to continue such a good relation between our two countries. Taking this opportune moment, please allow me to thank Samdech Techo Hun Sen for giving the Laotian delegation his agreement and decision in the visit to the Kingdom of Cambodia this time.

Prime Minister Samdech Techo Hun Sen [2]:**Laos, ASEAN, Allow Observe Non-interference in Each Other Affairs**

Thank you Prime Minister HE Thongloun Sisoulith. Taking this opportune moment, though I have no intention to bring Cambodia's internal affairs upon foreign guests, let me clarify one thing. Recently, a pundit raised his analysis that Deputy Prime Minister and Minister of Foreign Affairs Prak Sokhon's visit to the Lao PDR was to seek Lao assurance that

those fugitives (from Cambodia) who currently hide themselves in Paris would not enjoy access through Laos to Cambodia. The said pundit thought that Laos saw that as an important part in holding (the Royal Government of) Cambodia hostage or they would allow them access to Cambodia through Laos. Let me send words to that pundit – whether the press will or will not run the interview you gave – what you said has come to me. I wish to see that you make no further mistakes on Lao behavior or Thai or Vietnamese, or any countries at all in ASEAN. He should have learnt more about country-to-country relations and principles of ASEAN on non-interference in one another internal affairs.

On this remark, I would like Prime Minister HE Thongloun Sisoulith to share with the press today and to that pundit on this issue [...] let me affirm that Laos is not the only (country/government), the Thai government already received the Cambodian court order to arrest any convicted persons (showing up in their countries). We will also send the court ruling to other countries members of ASEAN. I regretted that being a pundit he made such an analysis. Maybe Prime Minister HE Thongloun Sisoulith can clarify this principle of non-interference in each other affairs (among countries in ASEAN).

Prime Minister HE Thongloun Sisoulith [2]:

... There has been such happening and information. Let me affirm that whoever convicted by the court, whatever nationality he may have, and traverse through Laos to inflict destruction in another country, we would take stern measures to prevent that from happening, particularly, in the case of Cambodia, who is our friend. In fact, the visit of Deputy Prime Minister and Minister of Foreign Affairs to Laos was to organize my visit to Cambodia this time. That we have such new is not good and dividing our two countries. I wish to send a message to the pundit that Samdech
(Continued on page 2)

Political & Socioeconomic Discourse

(04 July 2019 — Unofficial Selection and Translation)

Cambodia's Social and Cultural Event at WTO Headquarters

I am so happy today to see you all once again after we met in October last year. It has not even been one year yet [...] however, because of certain jobs that I had to come to Geneva and I am sure my presence in Switzerland has made Cambodia proud. As you know, yesterday in the WTO headquarters, after delivering my speech, Cambodia hosted a social and cultural event in which we catered participants with the Khmer dishes. It was a great opportunity for us to enlighten Cambodia's situation to those dignitaries the framework of the UNHRC [...]

With Them Opposition – Patriotic

I thank everyone for making their time to come all this way from France and within Switzerland to see me and be together as a Cambodian family. This has revealed, through legal representatives of the country, your minds and hearts about your homeland. How unfortunate it was that some have commented in Facebook that you have been hired at a price between 200 USD and 2,000 USD to make your presences here. It is a grotesque insult on our people for their efforts to make long distant journeys by air and cars for this purpose. That they can insult Cambodian people this much, I would not have imagined. I have involved myself in politics since I was 18 years of age but I never hold thoughts of insulting on my own nation. There had been some people walking out of CPP. I never consider them selling out their ideals. I always judged that first of all it was their freedom to choose which Party they wanted to join [...] and second of all it could be because the Party could not give them what they wanted or even made some mistakes on them [...] it is beyond ability to think that some political parties leaders always consider the ones to have left them “traitors” and to

judge them as tradable goods [...]

Demonstration on 5 July? ... He Is Home Already

Let me say one thing before they twist and turn things [...] why did they request to hold a demonstration on 5 July? I must make this case clear or they would go about twisting it around [...] why did they ask for a rally on 5 July? It is definitely a demonstration against Hun Sen and they would say Hun Sen ran out of Switzerland because of their demonstrations. I must bring this issue up. I have said earlier before my trip to Switzerland that I will be present in Switzerland from 2 to 5 July. Why did they not hold the rally against me any days on 2, 3 or 4 July? Why on 5 July – that day that I already return home? [...] they should have accepted their failures in rallying people for such demonstration [...] according to information I have here they have filed for demonstration to the Swiss police a few hours before. As far as I know, such request would be answered after 48 hours. That means they cannot hold a rally tomorrow. They will have a demonstration the day after tomorrow. Hun Sen would be in Phnom Penh already on Saturday. He would go for golf on Sunday [...]

Youth Abroad Provide Financial Help to Building Collapse Victims

In the introduction report, I listened to the condolence message and financial contribution to help our compatriots who are the victims of the collapsed building in the province of Preah Sihanouk. Let me inform our people in the country that the Cambodian youth abroad – in the US, France, Switzerland, Belgium, Holland, UK, Germany, Czech, Hungary, Australia, New Zealand, Korea, Japan, Malaysia, and Canada – have contributed a total sum 177,069 USD. It is a spirit of sharing difficulties with the families of

(Continued on page 6)

(Continued from page 1)
Communist Party of China [...]

I have two remarks here. Firstly, when there was this 1997-1998 Asian financial crisis, should China be hit by the same crisis, Asia would have been in a difficult situation. It was a good thing that China steered clear of the crisis. China's role and economic growth stood countries in Asia to recovery sooner than later. Secondly, the 2008-09 world financial crisis and economic downturn had China playing its rescuing role once again. China recued not only economies in Asia but the world over [...] I must say that China has helped itself, the region, and the world. Last but not least, President's Xi Jinping's initiative of One Belt One Road as well as the 21st Century Maritime Silk Road has attracted many countries, Cambodia included, with many cooperation projects. They are benefiting from the projects as we speak [...]

In conclusion, China has passed the time of slow development and is now in its high development phase. As a friend of China, Cambodia wishes the Communist Party of China as well as the government and people of China further achievements for the sake of own progress and also for other countries in the region and the world [...]

Question 2: *China and Cambodia are two good friends from the ancient time. After the establishment of PRC, the two countries' relations came through various tests and made many progresses [...] would Samdech be elaborate on this relations?*

Let me recite here a Chinese scholar's slogan “a long road tests a horse strength.” We celebrated the sixtieth anniversary of the diplomatic relations establishment between Cambodia and China last year - 2018. Reviewing the past, Samdech Preah Norodom Sihanouk, the nation's King Father, Preah Borom Ratanak Kaod, recognized the People's Republic of China since when it was not yet a member of the United Nations. I have a great respect on

this vision of Samdech Preah Norodom Sihanouk Preah Borom Ratanak Kaod as then head of state of Cambodia [...] at a later stage, [...] in 1996, during my visit to China, HE Jiang Zemin, then General Secretary of the Communist Party of China, said to me “HE Hun Sen is an old friend of China” [...] we implemented the one-China policy and we are sure that China would not want anything from Cambodia but fidelity [...]

I have always reminded my colleagues [...] to adhere firmly to the one-China policy as it is a respect to China's sovereignty and it is tantamount to respecting sovereignty of Cambodia itself [...] that was the value let by Samdech Preah Norodom Sihanouk's trailblazing efforts and Samdech Preah Borom Neat Sorodom Sihanoni, King of Cambodia, and I have followed the King Father's path [...] my impression on relation with China was that though it is a big and developed country, I always feel equality working with its leaders. Though Cambodia is small and we are searching assistance from bigger country, and the fact that sometimes I had to work with leaders who are my senior such as Jiang Zemin, Hu Jintao, Li Peng, Zhu Rongji, Wen Jiabao, etc., they all are respectful and never consider us small or younger in age. China has got a habit of talking less and doing more. We respect this. It has given us an ability to coexist, bind friendship, and work together for a long time to come. I think I have not said enough but it has revealed that respect of independence, sovereignty and mutual respect were the key elements for us to bond together [...]

Question 3: *[...] China's pursuance of five principles – peaceful coexistence, equality, mutual respect, non-interest aid [...] do you think Chinese assistance play any roles for economic progress and development of Cambodia?*

I already hit this point above. China provided us with uncon-

(Continued on page 7)

(Continued from page 5)

the victims [...] it is a sad incident. It already happened. However, one proud thing of what happened was the solidarity that our compatriots had shown that on my Facebook page I have said it twice – A friend in need is a friend in deed [...]

Peace and Macroeconomic Stability Essential

Let me now go into some issues inside the country. Related to what I have said in Belgium last October, I intended this discourse to carry on what we have been doing in the country. I must say that we are carrying forward the strategy of two ends of one knot for the country. It has been a strategy to resolve every problem. What is it? The first end of the string to the knot is maintaining peace and the second one is keeping macroeconomic stability. They are necessary in every stages because they are interrelated [...]

2018 Economic Growth at 7.5%

In General, situation in the country has been favorable to attract more tourist arrivals. We also see that it is important to ensure macroeconomic stability to guarantee that salary increment for our civil servants, the armed forces, and workers would be of real value. We have prevented inflation and ensured purchasing power [...] our economy has been performing well. At end of 2018, we noted that our economic growth scored 7.5% compared to our goal to achieve only 7.1%. It is a big achievement given the ongoing trade war by which some economies suffered [...]

Two Power Generators of 400 MW Purchased

Based on this year experience that there had been shortage of water in reservoirs leading to losing over 1,000 MW in dry-season hydropower generation, and to avoid repeating such shortfall, we have decided to purchase two generators – each with a 200 MW output, or 400 MW from both – one from Germany and another from Finland. They will stand by in

Phnom Penh. They will provide additional source of power when there would be shortage of power from other sources [...]

Lack of energy has become a big topic and we have the belief that we are able to resolve the matter. We have bought some electricity from Vietnam [...] Laos and Thailand this year [...] as we are now in the rainy season, we purchased only between 80 to 100 MW from Vietnam. We must look for more energy investments fueled by clean coal, gas, solar, and wind [...]

Switzerland Proposed Four Projects in Health, Power, IT and Education

I met with a Swiss company this morning. They have presented me four projects and I welcome them. The first one is about establishing a hospital. I think every day our people spend so much on their health in Singapore, Vietnam, Thailand, etc. With a good hospital, our citizens can choose to have their health looked after in the country. Tourists and investors would like to visit or do something in the country too. Secondly, they are interested in electric power generation. I welcome their study. Cambodia would need more power but also transmission lines [...] thirdly, they are talking about e-government. I told them I am longing to even e-people, the quicker the better. Fourthly, this project relating to education. I have invited the company to go see by themselves either they do it with the Ministry of Education, Youth and Sport, the Ministry of Labor and Vocational Training or anyone of the over 100 post graduate education foundations [...]

Finland Interested in Waste Recycling

Meeting with the Finnish Minister of Cooperation, he presented to me waste recycling technology and skills of Finland. If any Finnish company decided to go, it would be great. I told him about waste crisis in the Philippines and Malaysia. We in Cambodia also have this

problem that some has hidden waste as goods in the manifest. We are forcing them to send them out [...]

With EBA or Without EBA, We Must Work Harder

I followed this interview given by Cecilia Malstrom on signing a free trade agreement with Vietnam while giving a warning on Cambodia, Myanmar and Bangladesh [...] let me affirm that with or without EBA we must work harder. My concern is not about losing or not losing EBA favor but whether our civil servants and officials working behaviors [...] what is EBA? It is a favor system for countries not yet developed. It will not be forever. It is to go at a certain point. It will not be here anymore when our economy is growing to a certain level. In ASEAN, only three countries receive EBA favor – Cambodia, Laos and Myanmar. Other ASEAN countries with better economies such as Thailand, Vietnam, Indonesia, Malaysia, etc. never have it. Some countries in Africa, for some reason, they do not even accept it [...]

Arrest Those on Court Orders

I heard they say something about six parliamentarians to accompany them to come back to Cambodia. Let me clarify this. As a Cambodian citizen, it is his/her right to go wherever s/he may like to. Nobody prohibits her/him. Hun Sen is not the one to determine if you can or cannot come. However, those with arrest warrants must be brought to jail. That is clear [...] as for foreigners, to enter Cambodia, they have to file for visas. If their requests are denied and they dare to come, they may try it. A member of parliament of Thailand entered Cambodian territory (without a visa). (The) Cambodia (court) tried him. If they have visas, they go to hotels. I will only send those with warrants to prison [...]

Worry About Own Issues, Not CPP

In Venezuela, there has been admittance that they have trusted too much in the army to

bring Maduro down. In Cambodia, they have trusted that Samdech Sar Kheng will bring Hun Sen down [...] if a vice President of the Party and a Deputy Prime Minister brought down incumbent Prime Minister, what would that be? It would be a coup [...] let me advise you to improve solidarity among you and if you cannot get the rally going, you should not stay in politics anymore [...] you do not need to help us fix CPP internal issues [...]

Chinese Military Presence and Investors – Geopolitical Issue

There have been many forms of (false) concerns and incitements created about Chinese military and investors. First of all, I must affirm that some people have talked again and again about (the China) debt trap. We must ask a question if there is any country in Europe that goes without debt [...] Cambodia has just reached 21% of the allowed debt ratio of 40% of GDP. China has initiated a one belt one road project [...] we do not want to trapped in debt. China also does not want that to happen. That is a normal process in conducting business and development [...] Cambodia has been strict on what and how to borrow. We would allow only low-interest concessional loans. We do not allow loans of any commercial interests. We borrowed from Japan, South Korea, Asian Development Bank, World Bank, European Bank, and French Bank, and others. Why there only this concern about China?

Cambodia Has No Need for Foreign Military in Its Territory

On the Chinese military issue, they have said it again and again about Ream and Darasakor resort could one day be bases for the Chinese navy. Let us think why do we need foreign troops in Cambodia? Who is going to attack us? As for China, why should China come down to Cambodia since Cambodia and China are in close distance from one another? To

(Continued on page 8)

(Continued from page 5)
ditional assistance. China's principle of respect of independence and sovereignty was the key point that enables Cambodia, other countries as well, to work well with China. There has never been a condition for Cambodia to do this or that. China always respect Cambodia's decisions [...] I may bring up this fact that should there be no Chinese help, Cambodia would not be able realize the construction of over 3,000 km road and bridges across rivers [...]

Cambodia's internal connectivity depends largely on assistance from PRC [...] China also assists us in getting connected with neighboring countries and (on to mothers in) the region [...] an important point elaborated in the ASEAN agenda as well as efforts for integration in the framework of Greater Mekong Sub-region, even in Asia as a whole, I may say [...]

Questions 4: *As always, China adheres to peaceful policy and promotes good neighborly relations, friendliness, faithfulness, sharing interest, understanding, and tolerance. How do you see China's role in regional and international security situation?*

It was those policies that you have mentioned that is the foundation for China to gain more friends [...] let me bring up this point as to who would benefit truly from the ASEAN-China Free Trade Area? It was the ASEAN countries in fact who would because China imports from ASEAN more than ASEAN imports from China [...] the ASEAN Plus Three mechanism – ASEAN plus China, Japan, and South Korea, and ASEAN Plus each of the three – are good mechanisms. Two more mechanisms to mention here is the Lancang-Menong that connects China with other countries in the Mekong region [...] and the Greater Mekong Sub-region grouping together countries along the Mekong River – Myanmar, Thailand, Laos, Cambodia, Vietnam, and Asian Development Bank. They are interconnected from a political point of

view to promote economic progress, trades, investments, tourism, and people-to-people relations [...]

Questions 5: *[...] you just mentioned about how China built itself from poor to the biggest economy in the world. Could you set some lights on achievements from connecting China's one belt and one road to Cambodia's rectangular strategy?*

When President Xin Jinping, the Vice President, visited Cambodia, he saw the possibility to synthesize the rectangular strategy with China's one-belt one-road initiative. That has led to harmonious relations agreement between the two countries [...] for Cambodia, it is a part (of a wider platform) connecting and drawing benefits from cooperation with PRC [...] providing Cambodia with chance for progress through measures in one package and/or by sector of the PRC's belt and road initiative.

You may have seen with your own eyes now Cambodia's progress with regard to infrastructures and other developments. We are reaping benefits from belt and road initiative synthesized with the rectangular strategy. I think, because of their similarities, we would be able to work together for a long time. It is in this meaning that we have termed our relations as comprehensive strategic partnership and iron friend [...]

Question 6: *[...] as you know the world is having impacts from the US-China trade war. Some are maybe positive and some are negative to the world economy. What is your thought on that?*

We all area aware of how trade war started and we all are concerned of impacts it may have on world economic growth. As far as tax imposed by the US on Chinese goods is concerned, and some other countries, has widened trade war to the world. It is still early to give an evaluation on where it will go and stop. There seems to some little hope that a conciliation is within reach to a certain extent, if not entirely, between the US and China, and other partners [...] I

have noticed that in this situation, many European countries have increased trades and businesses with China [...] I am still optimistic that the countries involved (in the trade war) come to a conciliation. Should tension goes on the world would face unimaginable downturn. We must continue to follow it up. As for Cambodia, we are working with our own strength to ensure our economy's firmness and resilience, while minimizing possible impacts [...] you may have seen already how Cambodia made efforts to stand up in this circumstance that external factors are not favorable, trade war tension included [...]

Question 7: *Tell us any expectations you may have on future cooperation between Cambodia and China in political, economic and cultural fields, for instance.*

I have been working for over 20 years to lay a foundation of our relations and upgrading it from good neighbor to good partner, and to comprehensive strategic partnership. Lately, President Xi Jinping called Cambodia China's iron friend. I am optimistic that the relation continues to advance as we are preparing for the year of cooperation, for instance in the field of tourism and law enforcement, etc. [...] for the sake of elevating our countries' relations.

In my recent visit to China, our Chinese friends promised to look into the Cambodia-China Free Trade Agreement (CCFTA) in addition to the ASEAN-China Free Trade Agreement. I am hopeful that CCFTA will come into being in the near future to help Cambodia access a market of 1,300 million population. Such a development would give Cambodia's chance for more progress. Companies from China will continue to invest in Cambodia [...] you may have seen that Chinese tourist arrivals to Cambodia have increased remarkably and I wish to see five million tourists from China in the coming year.

I wanted more though a bigger China market where goods

from Cambodia can go in [...] I wish to reach this goal and I hope China will respond on this wish [...]

Question 8: *[...] we are coming from Cambodia-China Friendship Radio, and my colleagues are speaking Khmer [...] do you have any comments on the Radio [...] we are here eleven years now.*

That is one aspect of cultural and information exchange, and people to people relation. I have observed that such exchanges provides chances for the Chinese people to understand about Cambodia, and the people of Cambodia about China. I encourage the Radio, TV stations and media to continue such cooperation [...]

We must help publicize information for/from each other to raise awareness in culture, tradition, custom, and other relations between our two countries and people [...] to promote relations in culture, tourism, information, and even in politics and economy, or state to state relations. We should not overlook this point. Were there no such connection, we may not have understood each other [...]./☉

(Continued from page 3)

Regarding so and so is going to return I think I do not have to talk about it. I have seen the statement of the National Police General Commission [...] they have not requested help from any foreign countries. They will take responsibility in their operation and will deal with the convicted only. No matter how many could come, they will only take actions to get the few convicted [...]

Let me warn those who have not been reinstated political rights to refrain themselves from being involved [...] as for those in Bangkok, they may know that the two Prime Ministers have determined that Cambodia and Thailand will not allowed their territories be used by either against another. We have ensured that with neighbouring countries. We welcome those convicted on land, water and by air [...]./☉

Police Academy: Ready fro ASEM

(05 August 2019 — Unofficial Selection and Translation)

Getting Ready for ASEM in 2020, ASEAN Summit in 2022 and SEA Games in 2023

In 2020, Cambodia will host the Asia Europe Meeting (ASEM) and it will be a responsibility of our national police to keep public order to ensure a smooth conduction of event. I have seen request for purchase of materials needed [...] We also will host the ASEAN Summit (and related summits) in 2022, followed by hosting SEA Games in 2023. Certain materials purchased would be of use value for the three events, I reckon.

I have forwarded it to Deputy Prime Minister and Minister of Economy and Finance Aun Pommoniroth for his appraisal and recommendations [...] by the way, as I promised, building a five-floor school building for RPA I do not mean we will use the state budget. I will mobilize fund for that purpose [...]

No Shelters to Terrorism, Trafficking of Drug, Weapons, Money Laundering

National security matter is not simple, especially in the world context of complex spread of terrorism and crimes – both traditional and non-traditional. Cambodia had intercepted drug eluded through many airports from North America [...] that has proved capability of our police officials [...] were there instability, no construction efforts would be possible. Tourists would also be alarmed [...] ISIS has infiltrated in the region

(Continued from page 6)

Hainan, we need only a little over one hour. Why should he like to be in Cambodia to attract more problem? [...] in the history, if we study about China, they never send troops out of their borders [...] Cambodia itself has also bound in its Constitution to allow no foreign military bases in its territory or its military abroad, except those peace keeping operations under the UN flag [...]

Joint Border Military

[...] and they may not be in one place [...] keep up our vigilance and ensure that our country will not become a shelter or hideout of terrorists. Though our country is not the target of terrorism, we must make sure that will not happen. We must not allow money laundering in our country.

Normally, trafficking of drug, weapons, money laundering are all in one file. We must take countering measures to these threats to keep security for the country. We must cooperate with related partners to accomplish this. As a developing country, it is not avoidable that Cambodia would face with this or that issue. That is a normal process. We must not ignore this normality. We must work hard to eliminate it or we would not be able to ensure our march forward and people would face with fear.

Cambodia's Economic Growth First in ASEAN

It is also true that some countries would accept and some would find it difficult to accept the reality of Cambodia's progress. We must join efforts to ensure better and effective works. It is with effectiveness and efficiency that we will bring our country to socio-economic progress. Recently, the Asian Development Bank (ADB) placed Cambodia's economic growth at 7%, highest in ASEAN, followed by Vietnam, whose growth is below 7%...■

Exercise with Thailand, Vietnam

I think I will raise this idea to have a joint military exercise with Thailand and Vietnam along the border. My point is to combat jointly when there comes disasters across the border. Take for instance, there was once a flood in Mondulkiri province and because of inaccessibility from the Cambodian side, we had requested help from Vietnam to rescue our people. Forest fire is also a menace

knowing of no boundary [...] after such exercise, they go to their countries, we stay in our land [...]

Japan, South Korea, China – Help with Infrastructures

There have been three countries helping us on infrastructures. First of all – Japan. China and South Korea came after. Japan built us the bridges of Kizuna in Kompong Cham and Tsubasa at Neak Loeung. Japan also built us the national road 1 and is working on national road 5. South Korea has helped us built the national road 48 from the national road 4 to Koh Kong. They also built us the national road 22 and 3. They are working on national road 2 two. If there were no Chinese help, would we be able to have another bridge over the Tonle Sap River at Jroy Jangva? The bridges at Prek Kadam, Prek Tamak? The Koh Thom bridge over the Bassac River? The bridges over the Sekong River and over the Mekong river in Stoeng Treng? We are going to have a new bridge soon at Kompong Cham's Stoeng Trang. We have more than 2,000 km asphalted road. Where do we get the money from if not China? Who would help us? [...] we will soon launch the construction of a new road from Battambang's Samlot-Tasanh to Pursat's Thmo Da and on to Koh Kong [...]

If China Does not Do What It Did, Who Would Fill in the Gap?

Former battlefields are turning into market and development places, and borders areas have been in friendship, peace, and cooperation after we put into successful practice the win-win policy leading to peace throughout the country [...] trade volume with Vietnam has recorded nearly five billion USD. How do we achieve all this? It was because of connectivity infrastructures that China has helped. In five years, the World Bank is prepared to offer us one billion USD and the Asian Development Bank – 600 million USD. Japan, China, the European

Bank, France, and the UK – all have their parts to contribute. We could draw one simple fact about China's role.

If China does not do its part so far, who would fill in the gap? [...] we would continue to have ferries along the rivers [...] without road infrastructures, how could we make our rural economy vividly interactive for growth? How do people get their produces to markets? We may not talk about China debt trap here but China assistance [...] we do not attract only investors from China. In fact, China came later than other countries. It was until its economy rises strongly that China came with big investments in Cambodia [...] if other countries are concerned about China's presence (in Cambodia) they should increase their investments too [...] land in Cambodia has got higher value because the Chinese investments. Some countries have what they call China Town. In Cambodia, we do not have China Town [...]

Just Arrest Him Wherever He Turns Up

I Well, when I already left (Switzerland) they may not say they organize demonstration to chase Hun Sen out (of Switzerland) or to say that Hun Sen was afraid of the demonstration had left. I have my flight scheduled to follow or we will have to request for a new flying schedule. Usually, if anyone country along the flying path has not responded we cannot leave Geneva. We are to fly in other countries' airspace. Some people asked me about what if that person (convicted by court and declaring he would soon come to Cambodia) to fly over Cambodia's airspace but did not land, what are you going to do. I said that would be the job of the Cambodian air forces [...] what if s/he did come but do not step out of the plane. Just open the door and arrest, I said [...] Well, there are official and unofficial entrances. Unofficial entrances have not been mine cleared [...] whether by air or by land, just cuff him wherever s/he would be [...]./■