

**15 May 2008** (Unofficial Translation of Selected Comments)  
**Inaugurating the Phnom Penh's Narun Na Im Mosques**



15 May 08—Samdech Akka Moha Sena Padei Techo Hun Sen and Madame Mamek Chhitha with the Muslims in Jrang Jamreh of Phnom Penh

**A Magnificent Mosque**

The multi-source funding has indeed brought to sight this magnificent mosque in front of us and I am so proud to see such progress made after the country is liberated from the genocide of Pol Pot. It is national progress as the religions have taken its development with Islam being an example here. Though Samdech Cheas Sim, Samdech Heng Samrin and other leaders are not Muslims but after the liberation we have allowed religions to fulfill the needs for development. The second Kingdom always offers ample chance for progress altogether both in religious and secular world.

**Harmonizing the Country's Religions and Ethnicities**

After the fall of the Pol Pot genocide, CPP has stayed as the sole Party in charge to prevent the return of the regime. After the creation of the Royal Government in the Second Kingdom, HM the King continued to harmonize the people of various ethnici-

ties and religions in the whole country. Cambodia is a special case that might be resemblance to some but not all of the countries in the world.

In the genocidal regime all but nothing stays alive. Buddhism, Islam and other religions all vanished. I used to talk about the chat between a Buddhist and a Muslim as to who got born first between the two - the Buddha and the Alah. The Muslim said both were born at the same time because they both were saved by January 7, 1979 together.

This point in the history of Cambodia is true. CPP therefore since its birth always makes efforts to harmonize the religions and races and always considers that differences in race and in religion should not be obstacle to development but on the contrary Cambodia is proud of how we unite without racial discrimination to develop our country.

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**26 May 2008** (Unofficial Translation of Selected Comments)  
**Handing Out Diplomas for Human Resource Uni. Graduates**

**Graduates Welcoming**

I come here again today to witness the graduation of the Human Resources University - 2,259 graduates. I would like to express my appreciation for the graduates who have now become human resources of the country. Without personal effort, support from the families and teaching endeavors provided by the University, we would not be able to have reached this day. First, however, we have to help ourselves. UNTAC (the United Nations Transitional Author-

ity in Cambodia), for instance, spent two billion US dollars while they were in Cambodia. But when they left, Cambodia was still at war. This has indeed taught us that only the Cambodians could reconcile and end the war. So it is important that each of us has to make own effort.

**Learning - a Non-Stop Process**

I also have to make effort to study too. I learnt about the world situation, factors in-

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Visit the *Cambodia New Vision* at <http://www.cnv.org.kh> for the Opening and Closing Keynote Addresses by Samdech Akka Moha Sena Padei Techo Hun Sen, the Prime Minister of the Kingdom of Cambodia, at the National Conference on People's Prosperity through the Achievements of the Implementation of the Rectangular Strategy between 2004-07.

**05 May 2008** (Unofficial Translation of Selected Comments)  
**Meeting Graduates of Cambodian Institute of Technology**

*Samdech Akka Moha Sena Padei Techo Hun Sen made some comments during the bestowment ceremony of graduates from the Cambodian Institute of Technology (CIT). In addition to the prepared text, the followings are selected and translated.*

I have just mentioned about qualifications as scientists - vision, conscience and intelligence and three bases for career development - real knowledge, experience and personality. I may need to make some comments in addition to what I have said in my prepared text.

**Re-emergence of Class Struggle?**

In very recent development of the situation in the country we have observed the danger of painting colors on one another, whereas some notes have been brought for thought of class struggle and the idea of class demolition. As we approach the elections, we

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also notice that the ignition of class struggle after the end of the cold war era. The targets are the rich, investors, traders, industrialists but I am sure this theory would not go to victory as the one carried out under the Pol Pot time.

### Sam Rainsy Party Defectors

More of the SRP members have abandoned their Party and joined the CPP. What I said in Kompong Chhnang was that I seek HE Sam Rainsy understanding of the gravity of the situation that he may have to alter his list before the end of the registration period. I have also begged him not to call these people rotten flesh or deem them as goods to be traded. I wish to say that I stand ready to take more of his rotten flesh except those in the prison and in pursuit by the court order.

Some of them who deserted the party at this time could not be replaced unlike at the time when HE Ahmat Yahya, Kol Pheng and Ngo Sovan did. In this folding situation, these people will be campaigning for CPP despite they are the SRP candidates. I wish the commentator - independent or non-independent - not to talk of them as tradable goods.

What I have said was in defense of honor of those who have defected from the party of Sam Rainsy because when I got a call from the CPP authority of the defection, I was caught by surprise. I believe it only when the paper work has come to me.

### REC - Hun Sen's ACMECS 2005 Initiative

Aside from this we have this piece of information by AFP on May 3 stating the Philippines' concern on OPEC type rice producing and exporting countries proposition. A few

days ago the Prime Minister of Thailand HE Samak Sundaravej raised the possibility of forming up the community of rice exporters. This is indeed not a new initiative. It is in fact my idea.

In the ACMECS (Ayeyawadi—Chao Phraya-Mekong Economic Cooperation Strategy) meeting in Bangkok in 2005, I proposed to members of ACMECS to set up an association of rice exporting countries with a responsibly strong applause. Some already left their power, and Thaksin was the chairperson of the meeting. From Vietnam was HE Pham Van Khai, Bun Nghaing Vorakjit from Laos, and So Win from Myanmar who died already.

Our Trade Minister invited Ministers in charge from ACMECS countries for a meeting in Siem Reap and there was an attempt to decide on the association's statute in its meeting in 2007. Vietnam proposed to postpone because the country has had to deal with some incidents. It was rescheduled to February 2008. In February, Thailand was still in political turmoil and did not have yet a Government. The Vietnamese side then proposed the meeting to be postponed till 22-23 April, after the Khmer New Year.

I then wrote to leader of the host country and other members that from April thereon I could not travel outside Cambodia because Cambodia has the elections to take place and also a new Royal Government to be formed.

That is why I said it was not Prime Minister Samak's initiative but Hun Sen's since 2005. The idea enjoyed the support from all leaders attending the ACMECS meeting but they all are no longer in power.

### REC - for Food Security

The proposed formation of Rice Exporting Countries - with the OPEC type that their production is uncontrollable at all but its aim is to contribute to provide food security. Cambodia has been approached by the World Food Organization to set up a buffer stock for regional distribution. When the region was hit by Tsunami, the WFP sent in planes to take rice from Cambodia. It would be a plus if we were able to set up a system of cooperation with countries having the possibility to export rice like Vietnam, Thailand, Cambodia, Laos and Myanmar altogether. Rice export from the five countries, I do not have the exact figure, could have been between 12 and 15 million tons and Cambodia still possesses its potential for more production. This will eventually contribute to providing guarantee for stabilized rice need in each country but also those countries in shortage of rice. REC should not be thought of making profit when there is shortage. REC does not hoard rice for price hike.

In ASEAN we have only two countries that does not produce or produce little rice - Singapore and Brunei. Otherwise others are rice producing countries, the Philippines also included. But what happens in the Philippines was that the country pays too much attention on biofuel crop cultivation on a vast area of land. President Arroyo is now diverting the policy to get the land for food crop cultivation instead. The US have used corn in processing biofuel for machines which with natural calamity the price of food price has come to a crisis.

In this regard I think that our friends in ASEAN should not be concerned about the setup

of the REC because our idea was to contribute to food supply in the region as well as in the whole world. Cambodia is a small country but its producing capability has been two million tons of rice export for one-crop rice cultivation inside the country. We could double our cropping and our rice exporting capability could therefore double too. In Vietnam, they produce rice three times a year whereas Cambodia still performs one-crop cultivation.

Because when I talked about it the region did not face the food shortage yet so no one seems to bother but as food has had its shortage effect, everyone is feeling disturbed. However the meeting will take place only in October. Cambodia will try to speed up its formation of the new Government so as to depart for meetings of ACMECS in Vietnam, then CLMV meeting in Laos and Asia-Europe in Beijing. Though the formation would be hindered anyway, Hun Sen is determined to go as no more hindrance could be real.

We had been stuck in the previous Constitution's article on the decision to set up the Royal Government and in the quorum required for convening the National Assembly session and the adoption of laws. Then CPP had 73 seats where as the quorum requires between 85 and 87. After the constitutional amendment, the National Assembly requires only 62, and CPP has 64 since 1998, therefore those affairs need not to be taken care of.

This is because they have taught me that every time they fail to get the most majority Party A swiftd its alliance to Party B and put pressure on CPP. That would not work anymore...■

**21 May 2008** (Unofficial Translation of Selected Comments)

**Dharma Hall, First Tapped Latex in Chub Rubber Comp.**

**A Place of Memories**

It is indeed my place of memories in the district of Tbong Khmum but I could not find the time to share with you all my joys and feelings for this place. I shared the hardest time here with my wife. I also got married about 17 kilometers from here. We also had our first son there. He passed away already.

First of all I would like to express my sincere appreciation and gratefulness to the senior people here who helped protect me in the time of the struggle to liberate the country. I also was wounded many times. My hardships here could symbolize activities in those days for national liberation and salvation.

The song "Suffering of a Wife Separated from Husband" is also closely relating to the Kompong Cham's district of Tbong Khmum. My wife wandered picking rice uncollected after harvesting and she was so worried with her son in her chest thinking of me, her husband. It was clear that the songs narrated her life that she had to collect scattered broken rice to feed herself and child. I am so grateful to her support which has become a source of motivation that I could go on in leading the country.

**A Dharma Hall & An Asphalted Road**

My wife and I are grateful to be invited to preside over the inauguration of the new Dharma Hall of the Phnom Chan pagoda which is a sacred place not only for the workers of the Chub Rubber Company but our people from all over the country too. It is a wonderfully large hall and the road to the pagoda is well asphalted too.

**Life-Taking Conspiracy**

May I recall for you the attempt on my life on September 24, 1998, in which four RPG (rocket propelled grenade) were shot at me. I was unharmed but the conspiracy to take my life was hatched not by one or two men but more. If it were to be investigated, we would have more to finger at. But the incident was long gone and I am still alive here. The would-be investigation, if we ever did, would bring us to a more complicated conspiracy of its kind. My life has been precious and protected as I had gone through many life-risking incidents. I also faced so many life-risky situations under the Pol Pot time and thereafter. But, merit will stay on the side of who fosters it.

As religious people, Buddhists, Muslims or Christians, we should hold on to religious teachings that instruct us all to perform merit and avoid committing sinful acts. This should help the country to increase its morality. When the country has more knowledgeable persons with high morals, the society has achieved a great part necessary for development. On the contrary, immoral actions - taking for instance attempting on other people's life, should be defined as things to be avoided.

**Do Everything & Nothing?**

The elections runners have started to sound out a contradictory theory on the Royal Government of Cambodia as a whole and on me in particular. I am blamed for taking the job of HE Chan Sarun, Minister of Agriculture, Forestry and Fisheries (MAFF) because I visited the farmers transplanting rice, as well as

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**A Blame on all Muslims an Injustice**

I believe that in the world no religion teaches human to do commit sinful act and it is based on this belief that I never agree to the fact that when whatever happens a finger is pointed at Muslim. I am grateful that the Cambodian Muslim Development Fund has taken the time to analyze my speech on inter-belief for peace and harmony in English, Khmer and Arabic...

**A Place for Muslim to Pray at Airports**

With the suggestion made by HE Ahmat Yahya who has now become the Cambodian People's Party member, and the decision and intervention of the Council of Ministers, Cambodia has now set aside a place in the Phnom Penh International Airport for the Muslims who travel to and fro to practice their religious praying and I would suggest that we should continue to take this matter into consideration for other airports like in Siem Reap, etc.

**Free Dress Code and Calendar for the Muslims**

We have also taken a number of measures to have the Muslim females to go to school both state and private educational institutions in their uniforms. Some countries made it a rule not to allow the Muslim females to put on Islamic traditional dress. I have suggested that if they wish to wear the students' uniform, or they may also put on their traditional dress, it would be up to your wish. I would instruct the Ministry of Education, Youth and Sports to set up a rule for all to follow. Cambodia would leave it up to you in this matter. Female students from the Muslim community may cover their

faces if they wish so. I know some of their practices because I have a Muslim godfather whom my father helped set him free from being captured by the bad-elements of the Khmer Issarak movement in between 1950 - 51. He was arrested for ransom and my father secretly at night cut him off the strings. In fact Cambodia never forbids students from wearing jeans in school too.

As for calendar I would like to suggest the Ministry of Culture and Religious Affairs make a calendar that will actually define correct timetable for our Muslims to practice their religious obligations. I would cover the cost of publishing the first Muslim calendar in English, Khmer and Arabic...■

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them have yet achieved the senior college diploma.

**Exam for All, Continuing Education and Salary Level Adjustment**

... We have a special education system in Cambodia. After the genocide we had the ten-year education system in which to complete senior college, we then extend it to eleven years in 1993 and 12 years thereafter. What remains to be solved is for those who have not got senior college diploma and the way to do it is to help them in some way to get an equivalent diploma so that they could go on.

This will eventually help our teachers (1) to go on to the tertiary education, and (2) to allow them to adjust their salary level. In the course of allowing for this kind of exam, we should also allow staffs from all Ministries to take as well, not only those in

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**14 May 2008** (Unofficial Translation of Selected Comments)  
**Inaugurating NR 48 and Four Bridges in Koh Kong Province**

**Welcome Thailand Representatives**

It is indeed a pleasure for us all to gather here to put into use the NR 48 of 152 kilometers and four bridges from the NR 4 all the way to Koh Kong province. I would like to take this time to thank HE Samak Sundaravej the Prime Minister of Thailand to send the Deputy Prime Minister HE Somchai Wongsawat and Foreign Minister HE Noppadon Patama as his high representatives in this inauguration ceremony.

**How the Roads and Bridges Come to Existence**

Please allow me to take this opportune moment to recall the past of how this road and bridges have come into existence. Over the past 23 years - from 1985 up to the present, HE Say Phuthong, who was formerly the vice president of the National Assembly and the President of the organizing committee of the Cambodian People's Party, has always provided me with his support and advice. It is indeed a pride that he is also here present with us. In the past our experience has brought us to the reality that Koh Kong is accessible twelve hours by boat, in case there is no storm and rain. There was in the past two major schools of opinions - one was to close contact entirely between Koh Kong and Thai people and the other was to open. I had to come to the province in 1985, again in 1996 and thereafter in 1987 and 1988. I then came to the conclusion that we should not close down the border trade at all.

The province was in fact closer to Thailand than to Sihanoukville. Fisheries were sold to Thailand as it took longer time for them to get

them to Sihanoukville or Sre Ambel. After the two countries are at peace, Cambodia is indeed disconnected in parts that I have to find the way to integrate the country not only in politics or administration but also infrastructure. Internal integration is primary before integration with neighboring countries.

We first had to track down the road here and the Thai Government also made a contribution of 2.7 million US dollars in the total cost of 7.7 million US dollars. I sent a personal letter to the former Prime Minister of Thailand HE Thaksin Sinawatra explaining him on one side the difficulties of the people in Koh Kong but mainly on the other to show him the necessity for the road to be built as it is going to serve as the corridor of ASEAN.

Positive response from HE Thaksin made a world of difference to me, to the people of Koh Kong and also to the whole Cambodian people. The road has economic interactions regionally.

**The ASEAN Corridor and Other Projects**

This road indeed is gathering a huge economic impact as it has made an excellent connection between Thailand and Cambodia at this border point. This will be serving as a corridor that links Vietnam and Thailand via Cambodia. It will run from Koh Kong via the NR 48, NR 33 and leading to Ha Tien of Vietnam. Thailand also offers assistance in building the NR 68 as well. Koh Kong as of now is importing electricity from Thailand but in the course of our efforts to develop the hydropower of Me Toek River, we

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the job of HE Sun Chan Thol, and before that HE Khy Taing Lim, Minister of Transport and Public Works because I inaugurate the roads and bridges, etc. and more. After blaming me for taking the jobs of those Ministers, at the end of the day, they said I did not do anything. It is like doing everything but nothing. I wish to respond to them that Hun Sen can do everything except stealing.

**Tapping Rubber in Chub**

I would like to take this opportunity to express my appreciation for the efforts made by the Chub Rubber Company (ChRC) for making all this possible. HE Minister Chan Sarun just mentioned that I was presiding in turning rubber plantation over the first sap tapping from the rubber trees, which is an annex of the ChRC. I have come to this place, according to my record, nine times, including this one. My presence before that had been so frequent.

We are in the process to rejuvenate the rubber plantation in Cambodia. We have had so many difficulties so far. The current solution for the housing question for the rubber workers have been more acceptable than what we did in the past. We also had difficulties in working out the salary system for them. We have in the end formulated a policy to transform the state rubber company into economy-oriented public enterprises with the permission to rejuvenate rubber plantations or to replace old trees with newly grown ones.

**Coalition or No Coalition**

I wish to introduce to you here HE Chieng Bak, member of the directing committee of the Sam Rainsy Party who defected from the SRP and I

have appointed him the Under-Secretary of State for Social and Veteran Affairs in addition to his other position as advisor to the Royal Government of Cambodia. He is from Suong district of Kompong Cham too.

It also reminds of a picture they have of me and Sam Rain Sy together and they have it in the home screen of their mobile phones. I guess they have planned it so that they could convince their supporters that they would get a deal with Hun Sen in the next term. All this is because they used to raise high their slogan - "With (Rain)Sy, No (Hun) Sen." If I were to lose the elections, I would leave for him to take over. If I were to get re-elected, there will be no (Sam Rain)Sy in the coalition only Funcinpec. If Funcinpec has a bad fate, we will see to it.

However, with 73 seats in this term, it is possible that the CPP will have more supports. And we could think of ruling alone. Now we have appointed those defected SRP members to the Government positions and some had formerly been serious critics of me. The defection has been widespread from top to bottom. I also made a wrong judgment too. I am never prepared for this scenario because usually defectors from the oppositions would create a new party...■

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the teaching career... In the time of the State of Cambodia, we had reserved the Yukunthor School as a complementary education for Government officials/staffs as well as those from provinces. They should learn about the country's situation well before making remark on education in Cambodia...■

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involved in inflicting economic inflation, oil and food hiking prices, so that we can predict what is going to happen or it will go in which direction. The prices of oil has been stated to go high never recorded in history when it reached 98 US dollars a barrel, again to 100, to 130 US dollars per barrel. I conclude that it will never come back down. It is still lucky that the price of oil has gone high but the world still has oil in reserve. There had been a time when money could not buy oil or could not buy rice. In Lon Nol time, people in Phnom Penh had money but could not purchase rice.

### Multi-Option Scenarios

Leaders have to be ahead. They must be prepared for hidden factors and must not depend on only one scenario. According to my experience we should not depend only on one option. It is very dangerous. Agricultural produces, according to the royal oxen this year have been predicted to be good because of the availability of rain, the moderate level of flooding and the fact that there might be, according to the department of meteorology, no dry season in between July and August. But we as the Royal Government and the country's leaders have to be prepared for all options - ranging from seed to water pumps and other measures necessary in preparation for flood.

Twin natural disasters in Sichuan province of China from the quake and the Nargis cyclone in Myanmar have been force majeure. We have devoted some resources to share the hardship of Myanmar. When Cambodia was badly hit by flood in 2000, Myanmar also provided us with 500 tons of rice seeds. In the time

of negotiation for political settlement of the Cambodian problem, I was always prepared in advance and guessed what other negotiators might want to raise. That is why in the course of negotiating I never lost my direction. I would urge that you as the younger generation should think of multi-option scenarios as one-option scenario is tantamount to defeat.

### Food Crises and Possible Causes

We have to continue to study the causes of food crisis in addition to what we already know such as price hiking, but we also have to look into other factors such as natural calamity in China and India, wars in some countries which not only put a stop to rice or food production but also add on the demand for food in refugee camps. Also noted as cause is the fact that some land has been transformed from traditional food crops to cultivation of crops for biofuel production. It alters both agricultural but also world economic structures.

Normally in India the harvest starts in July and August. As the harvest approaches India once again announces its readiness to re-export rice. If Bangladesh and Sri Lanka also have a good harvest, the pressure from rice shortage could be reduced. But what happens in Myanmar and China has inflicted heavy losses and damages on the potentiality of rice cultivation and that will still endanger the viability of supply.

### Re-Export 1.6 Million Tons of Rice

Cambodia has come to its moratorium on rice export that I pronounced on March 26, 2008 in Pailin that all rice export should be prohibited

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29 May 2008 (Unofficial Translation of Selected Comments)

### Handing Out Diplomas for NKG Graduate

#### No Achievements Achieved with Opposition

... It has been so absurd that some made comments that the Prime Minister never talk about jobs when he presided over the graduation ceremony. How could they be so silly? What could they expect when the men are not trained or educated? What can they do? It is important first to have them educated or trained. When the Royal Government is working hard to create job opportunity for the people and graduates, the oppositions are trying to discourage and even destroying the efforts. One can say that as of now there is no achievement on the Cambodian land that is born out of participation and contribution by the oppositions.

#### 50% Yes, 25% Probably Yes

... In every meeting for donation that helps rebuild the country, there was not a single time that the opposition collaborates. They always suggest to donors to cut aid to the country and there would not be a sense of encouragement from them at all. This is the poll results that IRI has released. In its meeting to share the poll result with HE Sok An, Deputy Prime Minister, IRI representative, also in the presence of USAID, informed us that 50% said yes to vote for CPP, 25% said probably yes and the number together makes 75%. As for the "Probably Yes" category, it would be good if we could have all, but 10% of the suggested number is also not bad

... In response to the question "if the Royal Government is on the right track," in August 2006, 60% said yes; in January 2007, 71% said yes; August 2007, 75% said yes and

February 2008, 77% said yes. The trend is picking up its curve all along. As for the question if they vote for CPP, in January 2007, 41% said yes and 36% said probably yes; in August 2007, 42% said yes and 29% said probably yes, and in February 2008, 50% said yes and 25% said probably yes. In fact IRI does not release the result because they are worried of other parties' (reactions). Whatever it is I would urge the CPP members to continue to work toward the elections as we do not depend on IRI for our victory.

#### From Primary School and Junior College to Senior College Teachers

... I have a topic that needs to be discussed and it is good to talk in the presence of the leaders of the Ministry of Education, Youth and Sports here today. Early this month, I received a proposal from the teachers of the Primary Education level requesting to transfer their payroll to the level of senior college teachers. I approved. On May 12, I recommended to organize an exam without any restriction of ages for examination takers. Some of them have already exceeded the limit of 45 years old already.

... Mr. Um Hoeung, Head of the Phnom Penh Education, Youth and Sports committee said to me that some primary school teachers also have got their bachelors. I instructed that all teachers or teaching staff of both primary and junior college are permitted to take exams in order to get transference to senior college teachers. HE Kol Pheng came to me with a figure that we have 58,776 primary education teachers and 43,000 of

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for two months. The moratorium has now come to the close. The country as of now produced 6.7 million tons of rice. Deducting the amount for food, seed and loss in the harvest process, we can export a sum of 2.3 million tons of rice. We still have the surplus of over one million tons of rice for export...

Exports of rice have been enacted as of today but they have to *channel through the state systems* and should not exceed the amount of 1.6 million tons of rice. The Ministry of Commerce has been delegated with power to examine and issue export licenses of 100 tons and over. So both state and private companies to *export 100 tons and over of rice will have to request for permission* from the Ministry of Commerce. Small scale exports along the border exits are *deemed to be registered by custom officers and other control mechanism but they do not need to request for export license* from the Ministry of Commerce.

### Oppositions Change Sides

I would like to take this opportunity to make an appeal to all political parties to carry out their activities according to the law. They should pay attention in making their party signs strong not to be too easily knocked down by wind. We have a bad example from Kenya's post elections situation which leads the country into civil unrest and massacre. Last week six parliamentary candidates of the Sam Rainsy Party (SRP) for the constituency of Kandal decided to leave the Party. Also yesterday HE Nou Sovat, the incumbent parliamentarian and candidate for the constituency of Phnom Penh in the next elections, and more, left the Party. I would declare that I

will continue to welcome those who would like to join the Royal Government of Cambodia. HE Nu Sovat requested to talk to me on phone and asked if I accepted him or not. I instructed to HE Say Chhum of the Permanent Committee of the Cambodian People's Party to allow HE Nu Sovat to join the electoral preparing team in the constituency of Phnom Penh. We also have one case of HE Phuok Sovanarit who left Funcinpec to join CPP and I accept his wish.

### A Message for Elections Contestants

We all are Cambodians and I wish to talk to you all as a Cambodian. Whatever you say, if I may, you should not talk of "regime change" because this regime is not Hun Sen's but the Constitutional Monarchy regime. You should talk about changing leaders of the Royal Government. You talk of changing Hun Sen's regime, but Hun Sen is only the Prime Minister whereas the regime is constitutional monarchy. Any changes though will have to be conducted through the elections and we will have the general elections on July 27, 2008. I will satisfy your wish of "yes to me, no to you."

They may be in the parliament but not in the Royal Government which is to be formed by 50% + 1 formula. If they win they also need not to give anything to me. CPP will take all parliamentary committees - as of now we have five out of nine already. Four more need to be fielded... As of now we have five candidates for the post of Prime Minister and some said that if s/he were to be elected, s/he would get the Americans to build factories that produce nuts and bolts for the airplanes. Some days later s/he

said to give out pigs and cows ... Some even said whatever Parties that get established they have to use influence of the United States, Europe and Western powers to put pressure on CPP. Has the CPP ever been intimidated?

### The US and the Elections in Cambodia

In the Cambodian history, what happened to those who aligned with the US? We still owe the US some hundreds of millions of US dollars because of Lon Nol. The US has returned some thirty million US dollars back to Cambodia from what Lon Nol had taken along on his escape... The main interest of the United States of America is the fight against terrorism, human and drug trafficking, and improvement of economic relations. Nothing else will be a challenge for the US to make substantial change on its policy...

### The Democratically Elected King

In our country has been elected democratically because HM is being voted by the electoral body that is voted in by the people. The people voted for communal councils, who in return voted for the members of the senate. The Senate members voted to elect the President and the Vice Presidents of the Senate, who then become them members of the Throne Council. Three more - President and (two) Vice Presidents of the National Assembly will make six members in the Council.

The seventh member is the Prime Minister. According to the Cambodian Constitution, the Prime Minister is himself the Member of the National Assembly. Two other members of the Throne Council will be the two Supreme Patriarchs of the Buddhist sects in Cambodia. No one alone

could take HM the King out of the throne. There is a clause in the Constitution that stipulates that HM the King will be Head of State for life. They should not be confused.

### Win-win Policy Unites Cambodia

What I did in the course of implementing a win-win policy for the reunification of the country has taken the Khmer Rouge soldiers back into our fold. Stripping off their uniform, putting on the Royal Government's armed forces uniforms and living by the law of the country, then we are compatriots. Japan, who hosted the meeting of the Heads of States and Governments of Africa, would very much to have me talk at the meeting on the Cambodian successes in the course of reunifying and developing the country. It was impossible to accept the invitation as I have to be present in Cambodia at this time.

### People's Congress

One thing that is yet to fulfill is the formation of the people's congress. It was possible to organize the congress of people in the field next to the Royal Palace like in the past as Cambodia was at that time the one-party state. The constitution stipulates that the congress should be convened by the Prime Minister and under the auspices of HM the King. Who are going to be invited to the congress? The Prime Minister would choose those who support him. So how do we go about formulating a law on congress participants? Are we to decide those participants according to quota as in the National Assembly? Between the congress and the National Assembly, which one has the superiority? You see, it is not a question of Hun Sen dare not convene that congress...■

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would in the future sell electricity to Thailand. This is my policy of creating a border of friendship, peace and cooperation. It could not happen in the past but it does happen now. The inauguration here is indeed a good example of the cooperative relations between Thailand and Cambodia and I wish the ties to last eternally.

### Best Suite in Koh Kong's Five Star Hotel

Last night I spent the night in the five-star suite in a hotel which is only 300 meters from the border with Thailand. It is one of the very best. We never have it before. We have it in the 21 century. I have a chance to talk to many people along the way. People are happy to have the road and bridges in place. Some are so happy because they have less worry about their

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rin - that is how our country is being governed in this segment of the long history.

Those who demand that January-7 and December-2 be removed from the Cambodian history are cowards. January 7 is enemy to no one but the genocide of Pol Pot but why they, who survived the genocide because of the event, have denied the event or Janaury-7? They also have claimed that in Cambodia now there is only one real opposition party and I would rebuke this statement that there are three real opposition parties (Funcinpec, Sam rainsy and Human Rights) - the people could chose among the three against the Cambodian People's Party. One party used to be in power in the coalition but now has become the opposition again.

I would say that if Funcinpec could not get a seat, CPP will rule alone. Some of the defect-

children who they have to go to school before by the boat. Koh Kong from now on is no longer isolated.

### New Roads Inaugurated

In the past two weeks I have taken time to put into official use 400 kilometers of the national road and that would include 198 kilometers of NR 7; 32 kilometers of NR 3; 152 kilometers of NR 48) and 6 bridges over one thousand meters. The construction of over 800 kilometers that is underway are NR 78, NR 76, NR 8, NR 57 from Battambang to Pailin and to the border with Thailand, NR 62 from Siem Reap to Preah Vihear, NR 67 between Anlong Veng and Siem Reap and the NR 3 from Phnom Penh's Cham Chao to Kompot town. We also have two bridges over the Mekong and the Tonle Sap...■

ing members of the Sam Rainsy Party have now been appointed to some Government posts. I would take the human resources but I do not take the Party because doing so is an imperialist style.

### Historical and Logical Concepts

I would summarize for you that in the course of my actions that have proven to be victorious is from the fact that we have to blend between two concepts - historical and logical - before making a decision. We have to look into its history and therefore understand the main cause.

The two concepts are primary before making decision and setting plan for the coming time. On May 29 we will organize the national conference to review the rectangular strategy and because we have to know from where we started, and then we can see what else that needs to be done...■

06 May 2008 (Unofficial Translation of Selected Comments)

### Inaugurating a Segment and Building the Rest of NR 3

*Samdech Akka Moha Sena Padei Techo Hun Sen officiated the inauguration of the NR 3 between Kompot town and Trapeang Ropov and launched the construction of the NR 3 segment from Kompot town back to Phnom Penh's Chaom Chao with the following comments.*

### Achievements by Korean-Cambodian Cooperation

Please allow me to speak mainly about the project to rebuild and enlarge the national road 3 and bridges after we launched the construction in 2004. We have conducted negotiations with the Korean side on many grounds before we reached the agreement to have the NR 3 from Phnom Penh's Cham Chao to the town of Kompot - 137.5 kilometers - rebuilt. Since 1996, I have had the chance to work with four Presidents of the Republic of Korea - HE Kim Yung-sam, HE Kim Dae-yung, HE Roh Moo-hyun and the current President elect Ly Myung-bak.

After my visits to the RoK, three projects have been initiated and implemented - firstly, the NR 3 from Kompot's Tropeang Ropeo with a number of bridges crossing the tributaries to the sea, secondly, the vocational training school, and thirdly, the information technology project. The three projects have in fact been completed and our people have actually been using them already. Not until today do we have the chance to put the road and bridges in official use.

My visit to Rok in 2006 has brought Korea and Cambodia to a new level of cooperation with more projects in hand. Firstly, we have the irrigation project Kraing Punlei to the

north of Phnom Penh with a multi-purpose facility, which provides irrigation to cultivation area in many districts of Kompong Speu, Kandal and Kompong Chhnang provinces. Secondly, we have proposed to the RoK to rebuild and enlarge the NR 3 from Phnom Penh's Chaom Chao to the provincial town of Kompot. Thirdly, we have agreed to bring the IT cooperation and assistance to the higher level.

### NR 3 - Phnom Penh-Kompot for Salt Supply

Upon the visit of HE Roh Moo-Hyun, the former President of RoK, to the Kingdom of Cambodia, I took the liberty to convince him the need for the rehabilitation of the NR 3 as it is the only link for the country's supply of salt from Kompot salt field. But also the completion of the NR 3 helps us achieve the vision of connecting the country corridor along the coast for transportation purpose all the way from Koh Kong down here, hence the connection from the NR 48 built with the assistance of the Thailand and bridges built by Oknha Ly Yong Phat.

### Greater Mekong Sub-regional Integration

The NR 3 from this part will also lead to the corridor on Vietnam side, which together form what we call the AH (ASEAN Highway) 123. The AH 123 is a line of road from Thailand through Cambodia's NR 48 and then NR 33 and then to Vietnam's Ha Tien. This also clearly shows that we have achieved internal integration in the framework of Kompot, Sihanoukville and also the Greater Mekong Sub-regional plan of integration. It is not by chance that we have

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**20 May 2008** (Unofficial Translation of Selected Comments)  
**Handing Out Diploma to Western University Graduates**

**Good Education,  
Job Demand**

I have the wish to share my joy that according to the report by the University about 75% of those taken their studies here have had jobs to do. This has indeed proven that education quality has been attained. In the world, it is so common to see that at the end of the school year, contacts have been made in every university to get the best students for their job demands. Of course having the good education and job demand is the two poles that interact on one another but also we have to put into perspective the fact that if we were to have no peace all would be good for nothing.

**Released from Death and  
Distress to Freedom**

It is to my understanding that good things have been analyzed in the report of the Rector on the three periods of Cambodia - the time of war, the time of Pol Pot genocide and the time of peace and development. Many people have involved in the three stages of the country's history.

Today is May 20 - what we call the day of hatred against the genocide. It was set as the date that aims to stop the return of the Khmer Rouge. No one ever thought that they could be released to freedom. Not only our people but also I myself, Their Majesties, who at that time were under house arrest in the Royal Palace, would all have thought the same thing. Hope has now come true. Some of us today have had negative impact from the time. A well known singer does not know who his parents are.

HE Mok Maret, Minister for Environment still has one child listed as missing, more

like Chem Sgnuong, Hor Nam Hong, Long Visalo ... Some could not even recognize own child even if they met. This tragedy should not be left unconcerned. I had the distressful feeling when my own child addressed me as uncle instead of dad. One of my children died then that I was not allowed to see for him a proper burial.

**Ilogical Denial of  
January-7 Victory**

As the election campaign is about to start, some politician have blamed the January-7 and December-2 dates and they want the people to forget those dates. How could Cambodian pin their hopes on those politicians? If we were not to observe January-7 as the victory day over the genocide, why should we then have to organize the Extraordinary Chamber in the Court of Cambodia? We always take our past glory to tell our identity - Angkor period and every generation of our beloved and famous Kings.

It is clear in the history of Cambodia that our King was under a lot of pressure in making decision for the country. Take for instance Preah Baat Ang Duong made great efforts to pass the throne to Preah Baat Samdech Preah Norodom. Facing with the fact that the country was encroached upon by both the western and eastern sides, HM had to call for help from the French. We have to cope with the truth on both counts - prosperous and declining.

It was a great example that the Heroic King Father led the crusade for independence from France. After that the country was under Lon Nol, then Pol Pot, then Heng Sam-

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come to inaugurating so many roads that link Cambodia to all its neighboring countries. I just went to Stoeng Treng to see and to put into official use the NR 7 segment between Kratie and Stoeng Treng and to the Cambodian-Lao border. We today have connected Cambodia and Thailand by this corridor that is funded by three different sources - Thailand, World Bank and RoK. As I said what remains to be completed is the NR 3 from Phnom Penh's Chaom Chao to Kompot town.

**More Projects Proposed**

In fact there have been many Governors who were assigned to take the post in the province of Kompot. The provincial town has had little development though it has taken many governors in the past. But because of the road rehabilitation and development, there have been suggestions and projects for investment in the province.

I would like to take this solemn occasion to confirm with the Ambassador of the RoK in relation to the commitment to provide Cambodia 40 million US dollars per year for a period of 3 years and the Cambodian Minister for Economy and Finance HE Keat Chhon already proposed that the loan should be used in projects to build, rebuild and rehabilitate 1) water treatment plant in Siem Reap province, 2) the NR 33 and other roads, 3) the multi-purpose dam in the river of Sangke and a number of bridges along the NR throughout the country.

**Phnom Penh-Seoul Ties**

The Ambassador of Korea has just expressed his thanks for my brilliant diplomatic decision that has brought the relations between the two countries to this level of close

friendship. I accepted that the history is this true. In return, I have to thank the Korean friends for all the efforts they have made for the bilateral relations to prosper. I have been trying in every forum and at any time I can to build up equal diplomatic relations with the two Koreas.

I then invited the Ambassador of RoK in Thailand to visit Cambodia. I had a discussion with him in Phnom Penh and proposed, though I knew it is unfair for RoK to accept it, the office of the representation of the RoK in Phnom Penh at the start. It was impossible to make decision in those days because Cambodia was under co-premier leadership, whereas one Prime Minister is against the idea of promoting diplomatic relations to ambassadorial level. I thank the RoK very much for the understanding of the matter. The RoK sent its Ambassador to present its credential to the Minister of Foreign Affairs only and work with the second Prime Minister.

I would like to express my sincere thanks to Samdech Preah Norodom Sihanouk for his acceptance of credential letter from the Ambassador of the RoK which means that Samdech supported my foreign policy. From then the relations between Cambodia and Korea have taken shape in a speedy manner like others. Up to this moment, RoK has taken its lead in eight sectors in Cambodia - investment, tourism, cultural exchange, information technology, vocational training, banking and finance, construction, and air link... While establishing relations with South Korea, Cambodia does not neglect its relations with the North. It is also in our interest that the two Koreas work peacefully together...■