



06 February 2010 — Samdech Akka Moha Sena Padei Techo Hun Sen prays for peace and prosperity for Cambodia during his visit to the temple of Preah Vihear (Photo: Kampuchea Thmei, Jei Phumipol)

06-09 February 2010 (Unofficial Translation of Selected Comments)
A Tour to North-West Provinces and Military Regions

Between February 6 and 9, Samdech Techo Hun Sen conducted visits from Siemreap city to military facilities and people in the north and northwestern provinces of Preah Vihear and Uddar Meanjei. During the course of the visits, Samdech Techo has made comments that are here selected and translated by CNV.

09 February 10
Battalion 413, Brigade 41
O Svai Coomune, Tropeang Prasat District, Uddar Meanjei Province

It is indeed my great pleasure to have come here today to preside over the inauguration of achievements in the commanding headquarters of the battalion 413, mainly fourteen new buildings. I would first of all like to express my sincere thanks and appreciation for the commitment of our senior and junior officials and soldiers for the efforts they have made and their sacrifices to overcome hardships in defense of the Cambodian national sovereignty.

The report by Gen. Nieng Khim, commander of the intervention force brigade 41 has already clarified these efforts and its bonding with the Ministry of Posts and Telecommunication, for which Minister HE So Khun has contributed a sum of 100,000 US dollars for the construction of these buildings.

There was a report in the Koh Santepheap newspaper about hardships that families of our soldiers here have had to endure. Having learned of the situation my wife contacted immediately to the battalion and the efforts have saved those in hardships for the time being. In the forthcoming phase I hope that land concession that has been planned and offered for soldiers would also help the families in hardships that the newspaper mentioned as well.

This is the last day of my four-day visit to Preah Vihear, Mom Bei, Samraong of Uddar Meanjei
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27 February 2010 (Unofficial Translation of Selected Comments)
Inaugurating Achievements at the Military Region V

Samdech Techo Hun Sen, while conducted a visit to the infantry brigade 52 to preside over the groundbreaking for a construction of 155 buildings for the military region (MR) V, military region III and those isles at our country's forefront positions, made comments that are being selected extensively as follows.

... As is recalled by General Bun Seng, commander of MR V, about three strategies and 10 activities to be fulfilled by the armed forces, which I have put out on February 6, 2010 at the intervention force division III stationing at Preah Vihear area, they are meant for no war but for enhancing our defense capability preparing for any levels or forms of invasion. However, Cambodia is ready to hold on to dialogue, whether the chance is small or big, and hopes that the border between the two countries – Thailand and Cambodia will be at peace, of friendship and cooperation and for development.

One among the three strategies has been to establish relations that would help in making the border one of peace, friendship and cooperation and for development, but any invasion under whatever level or form would not be accepted. Our position has been that not a millimeter of territory on either side would be invaded or allowed for invasion. The only best solution for the two sides is to talk to each other and to look for cooperation option.

Today we have come to you

with contributions that are donated by generous people from the rear and I would like to assure you all that behind you there is a strong force of motivation and contribution from our people, while care provided by the Royal Government, who made effort in mobilizing state institutions, and even private ones, to establish alliance with the armed forces. Last February 24, alliances between state institutions and the armed forces have been established but we still have to work out the alliance for battalions and companies that are stationing in districts along the border with Thailand.

Today I would ask Deputy Prime Minister HE Men Sam An to get to organize the alliance. Here in Battambang we have two battalions, with four companies at Sampeo Loun, Phnom Proek, Kamrieng and Samlout. As for Banteay Meanjei there have been one provincial battalion, two companies at Thmor Puok and Svai Jek, with one battalion at Poi Pet and another at Melai. In Pursath province, we have a provincial battalion and a company at the district of Veal Veng, and in Pailin province we also have a battalion under the provincial command and a company that is stationing at Sala Krao and at Pailin. In Koh
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jei and here at Tropeang Prasat before I start another visit to the military region 5. I am so happy to have been welcomed by our people and our nation should be proud about a new situation of defense and real progress in national defense development for the protection of nation, religion, King and our people within the framework of national sovereignty against any foreign aggression.

I have mentioned already that these weapons that we have are neither for fighting against people nor for invading anyone. They are for fighting enemy who infiltrates into our territory. We are developing our right of self-defense within our boundary and we do not take action against other territory but no action against us is allowed to take place in our territory too.

It is obvious that sentiments expressed by our Buddhist monks and people for the soldiers at the forefront stations shows that our national defense foundation is growing strong based on relationship between people and the army in line with a saying that goes “all for national defense and national defense for all”. Our people clearly understand that they could live in peace as long as the country is well protected from any aggression. With this in mind our people have taken their share of duties to contribute whatever they have and can for the army to fulfill their duties for nation and people.

The assistance for the army so far has been for two tiers – the army itself and their families. I have sent here some 20,000 sheets of corrugated zinc for roofing some five hundred houses. We now have buildings where beds and other necessary utensils will be provided for our soldiers. We have sufficient number of beds for this military

region but we need more for the military region 5. It is worth mentioning that what we have been doing here is for the country’s national defense development while my visit and work here is entirely Cambodian sovereignty and should not in anyway a bother for anyone.

I would like to once again appeal to our armed forces along the border to make efforts in food production ranging from raising animals to growing vegetables. I am so happy to see here that in regiment 382 here there are three ponds that they breed some ten thousand fishes. I encourage that anywhere that fish can be raised, actions must be taken to prepare for fish culture.

Today I would like to make some minor changes on issue of alliance between state institutions and the armed forces. The change is that for some of the military units such as those in military region 2 and 3, like division 70, 1, etc. such an alliance needs not be established. Some state companies that used to have alliance with the army, for example the Rubber ones, no longer belong to the state anymore as they have been privatized. In this instance I may advise HE Tia Banh, Minister of National Defense and HE Pol Saroeun, Commander-in-Chief to seek their cooperation if they would continue to serve the alliance or not.

So far we have initiated an alliance between state institutions and the military ones but we have not include such contribution from the private sector yet, while we should not forget that the private sector has made so many major contributions so far in building defense foundation. It is our pride that for Cambodia the armed forces are wholly national and they serve no political party.

I would suggest that HE Men Sam An, Deputy Prime Minister, with helps of Senior Ministers Cham Prasidh and Sun Chanthol, and maybe also Financial Secretary of State Uk Rabun and Customs Head Pen Siman, should look after this matter of alliance development. (Aside from buildings shelters and other infrastructure) now we have noticed the presence of micro-financial services in Anlong Veng, and also in Mom Bei and the village of Sen Rung Roeung.

I may have to explain why we build so many shelters here along the border. You may understand that as our urgent priority they are for our armed forces whose duty is to station here but once we have reinforcement forces to back them up, these buildings will serve as shelters for mobile units from the rear to take their turn of duty.

There was a report yesterday that the situation went back to normal when Hun Sen decided not to visit Prasat (temple) Ta Moan. I never decide to go there in the first place so why I had to take it off my schedule. In relation to reaction yesterday with Thailand, I would like to clarify once again as they tend to have thought we accepted that the 4.6 square kilometers belongs to Thailand. So I convey my message again that firstly, Cambodia never recognizes the unilaterally drawn borderline by Thailand at all, so there is not such thing as conflict zone of 4.6 square kilometers at all. Cambodia reaffirms its resolute stand that it is not in its recognition.

Whatever remains to be discussed would be the withdrawal of its aggressor troops from the Kev Sekha Kirisvarak Buddhist temple. Cambodia recognizes no such unilaterally drawn map but the map as an-

nex to the decision by the international court of justice in The Hague. Cambodia observes the map that is left by the treaty and convention between France and Siam in 1904 and 1907. To make a long story short, Cambodia hereby sounds out its stand that the issue will be solved by the international court or be brought to the Security Council of the United Nations if necessary.

In his press conference (Thai Prime Minister) Abhisit said Cambodia “expects” to get hold of the overlapping area of 4.6 square kilometers ... Why should Cambodia expect? It is Cambodian land. What needs to do for now is to get invading forces off the land by negotiation or by other means. Abhisit continued “we have in the last two years tried with a rebuttal plan” and “must explain to the World Heritage Committee that we do not recognize such unrecognized map ...”

At this point may I share with you that the response clearly suggests that they admitted they have maintained their ambition to invade us in the last two years, which is true. They have not occupied the land for real and they have just invaded us in the last two years. We have been living here all our life as of now it is 48 years and it is 46 years ago that the Thais brought their troops in, or since when Abhisit was born as he is now 45 years old. It is clearly defined on the map. Cambodia gives no recognition to the sovereignty that you have claimed.

I would like to make it clear that any meeting place must be either at the Red House on the Thai side or further in on the Cambodian side and no such meeting could be held at Wat Keo Sekhakirisvarak. I have allowed ten Thai soldiers to remain during daytime at the

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Keo Sekha Kirisvarak Buddhist pagoda for the sake of peaceful solution. Cambodia has now come to a point that it is forced to speak to the International Court of Justice and the Security Council of the United Nations. Many of our temples built by our Kings have been plundered and our Kings never took anything from anyone or country to place under their control. We do not revisit the past but we demand recognition of the current borderline as is claimed according to the treaty and convention by France and Siam in 1904 and 1907 and the Preah Vihear area needs to depend on the International Court of Justice in The Hague's decision. This is what needs to be upheld with Thailand.

With Laos and Vietnam, we use a map on a scale of 1/100,000 that was printed by the Groupe Geographique Indochine (Indochina Geography Group). We will maintain this size of land area, while we would not tolerate further encroachment by foreign forces, we also will not claim land from their sides as well. We would not fight for Surin, Si Saket, U Bun, Buri Ram, etc. I would not go for that. We may have to leave them. We recognize they belong to Thailand...©

08 February 2010

**Brigade 42, Battalion 422
Village of Prey Veng, Kok
Morn Commune,
Banteay Ampil district,
Uddar Meanjei**

My wife and I are so happy to be here to put into official use buildings of the commanding headquarters of the battalion 422 in seconding to brigade 42 together with various other achievements. On behalf of the Royal Government and people of the whole of Cambodia, I would like to warmly welcome our armed forces at the front

posts here in Uddar Meanjei province whose responsibility for the borderline with Thailand of 122 kilometers. It is a reasonably big geographical area but I think the size of troops we have here could take care and cope with any invasion situation by foreign forces.

The brigade 42, formerly station at Srei Snam district of Siemreap province, has been moved recently to Banteay Ampil district of Uddar Meanjei. I may thank the Ministry of Industry, Mines and Energy, especially its Minister HE Suy Sem, and HE Ke Ratanak, Governmental delegate in charge of electricity, for their effort to develop in full and cement alliance with the brigade.

To help solve problem of drinking water shortage, because water from drilled wells has not been adequately good for drinking, I would ask HE Ke Ratanak to consider digging ponds inside compound of the commanding headquarters, which is about 100 hectares. The Ministry of Agriculture, provincial authority and the committee in charge of housing development for families of the armed forces should study as to where there is land suitable for building new villages for families of the armed forces.

There should be one water reservoir in each commanding headquarters and at least two for each village. Water is more important because humans can go without food for a week but without water for twenty four hours they could be fatal. We now have a good road network and I would say we leave the newly leveled roads for a year so that they get stronger before we are going into asphaltting plan.

As I have said previously the civil society activists who be-

fore criticized the Royal Government have turned out to welcome my visits to the armed forces along the border. Opposition MPs, though they may have a different political thought to that of the Royal Government, have also made favorable comments too. I would say that on this issue we have a national consensus on the policy of national defense. I wish to respond to them that I thank them very much for their patriotism and love for country. We have political consensus.

The (Thais) have been ambitious because they have gone this far to push us in the chest to evict us from our land. Our forces took no threats and fought them out of Veal Intri, Phnom Troap, Pram Makara, etc. While trying to push us from our land, their intention was so perfidious. As we were in the midst of elections, any armed clashes would bring the elections to a complete disaster. We had no choice but to hold our tongue and be patient but our pain has been far too great. Once the elections completed in which the Cambodian People's Party won 90 out of 123 seats in the parliament, I have the chance to continue leading the fourth term Government.

We have adjusted our troop deployments and rearmed as well as provided them with whatever facilities they may need and we could offer. The Thai army had then come to test the resolve of our armed forces ... Our defense forces is in fact strong but not because of our arms but our patriotism, love for the people and territory. Our revered King, the heroic King Father and Queen Mother have always thoughtful of our armed forces and people along the border ... However, no matter how much support the rear could provide, if the armed forces at the front posts do not have the spirit of patriotism, it is

still a hard mission to prevent infiltration from foreign invaders.

As of this time the Thai army is conducting its military exercise and they said those trained soldiers would be on a mission to Sudan. We do not bother whatever they do in their territory but we need them to assure us that in any circumstances they should not harm our peace and territorial defense. A military group came to Phnom Penh to beg our understanding for the fact that they have mistook a target by firing into the Cambodian territory. In a meeting with me I asked them to think hard what if the targets mistaken are inside the Thai territory? It is a mistake for own benefit.

I also have warned them on that occasion not to fly their aircraft in our airspace again because we also have air defense gunship. They have requested us to inform them if/when and where there is air invasion. I stressed but I am afraid there is no time to inform them. But General Chea Tara told me after the warning they seemed to have made no more air encroachment. Cambodia does not have aircraft but we have means to get them down. I also like to urge all of our forces to train well and maximize effectiveness in using and maintaining weapons.

It seems that on the Thai side they have not had a consensus just yet on this issue. While as opposition MP, (Prime Minister) Abhisit in a parliamentary debate questioned Prime Minister Samak about the issue of Preah Vihear. The late Prime Minister Samak then responded that for 46 years the Cambodian flag stands at the site, why else? There seemed to have a clash between the red shirted and yellow shirted protestors at Ta Moan temple. As for this

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matter I have made it clear from my Cabinet meeting that I will visit Preah Vihear and Mom Bei and my visiting program ends here.

Today I have the message to respond to Bangkok and it would not be in good tone. I have stated clearly on February 6 at the commanding headquarters of division 8 that I have no intention to make any inference on Thailand. I would talk only about our strategy in developing our national defense and maintaining good relations with Thailand is a part of it. However, Bangkok has taken it so seriously that they organized a meeting of the national security council, and declared that Hun Sen must first negotiate before entering the 4.6 square kilometer area, and also they signaled to send Governor of U Bon and Chief of region II to welcome Hun Sen. Some commentators have gone too far to predict that Thaksin might also be in the delegation.

Because of all these silly remarks and comments that I am obliged to return response. I would not stop my response at all if they continue to make such comments. So far in about twenty speeches I have not made a single mention about Thailand but as I am being attacked, to keep silent means that I have accepted whatever they said as the truth. According to MCOT (a Thai information source) Abhisit said that in uniform Hun Sen visited the border area for a political interest ... Thailand never has intention to invade Cambodia as is said to the reporter by Hun Sen at all ... and will clarify whatever is said by Prime Minister of Cambodia as the area that is within the Preah Vihear temple vicinity belongs to Thailand ... and Thailand is proceeding to the World Heritage Committee on this matter in the committee's mid-

year meeting.

Responding to all this I may argue that firstly, Hun Sen is not in uniform for the first time as is said by Abhisit at all. It is he who, because he touched on my personal matter, has not fulfilled military obligation and now is known to be the Prime Minister who have not fulfilled his military duty. I am in the commando uniform and I may make it clear to you that Hun Sen served in commando forces. HM the King just promoted me to five-star general and Commander in Chief of the Cambodian armed forces. This is a real military promotion, so what is it that Abhisit wants to do here?

Secondly, according to Bangkok Post, Abhisit insists that the Thai forces never invade Cambodia as claimed by Hun Sen at all. I wonder if Abhisit would dare to swear for his life and country's existence if the Thai army did not invade Cambodia on July 15, 2008. You cannot pick me on swearing that it is not according to the norm. Swear is internationally accepted as the norm - take for instance the swearing in for the post of President or Prime Minister.

As for the report that Abhisit has used my words to reporters to clarify to World Heritage Committee, I will ask the Quick Reaction unit of the Council of Ministers to prepare a tape of my discourse in full and get it translated and ready for this. What has had my attention is when he said "the fact that Thai try to infiltrate is tantamount to a recognition that the area belongs to Thailand". Do they mean wherever they invade, the land belongs to them? I wish to hear it from the Prime Minister who has been installed and come from a minority voice. Where and what is your power base? Now you force me to

touch on your internal affairs.

Never in the Thai history has its people and nation been this deeply divided as under the leadership of Abhisit Vejjajiva and never has there been bad foreign policies towards its neighboring nations, including Cambodia, too. If whatever is quoted by the press is not what he said or meant, Abhisit should step out and clarify or else you are not a human. He blamed that I tour the border area for the sake of enhancing my popularity. Yes I need popular support, and who does not need it? You have claimed to be well taken by the Thai people. I wonder so why you don't dissolve the parliament and organize a new general election before thing gets worse.

Let me make clear here that I have no interest in involving the whole Thai population with this but I have the need to respond to the Government and the army of Thailand. In another there has been a report (by the Nation) of wrong facts that a General came to demand the 4.6 kilometers from me. There has not been such a thing as is reported at all. (Deputy Prime Minister) Mr. Suthep also was quoted as saying that what Hun Sen said about Thai invasion is not true. So as we had meal together at Ta Khmao, whatever I said to them was true or not that the Thais invaded and occupied the Buddhist temple of Keo Sekhakirisvarak. If that is not true, I may go vanishing but if it is true, the effect should be vice versa.

In Hua Hin, Mr. Suthep came to see me with Mr. Prawit, Thai Defense Minister, on October 24, after I announced my appointment of Thaksin as my advisor. He brought up a question to me why there has not been an agreement on how to call Preah Vihear (in Khmer it

is called Preah Vihear while in Thai it has been known to be Khao Prah Viham). My response was how I could know when the Thais demanded it to be called that way ...©

07 February 2010
**Intervention Forces
Brigade 9**

**The Village of O Junh, Toek
Kraham Commune,
Juum Khsan District, Preah
Vihear Province**

It is a great pleasure for us all to have come to visit and inaugurate buildings and achievements for the intervention force brigade 9, which is composed of land border defense regiments 105, 702, 793, 794 and 905. Besides from the commanding headquarters building, we will declare today the groundbreaking to build a 181.5 kilometers road, where 67 kilometers is from the village of Ro Ponh to the commune of Kompong Sralao, 56 kilometers is from Kampong Sralao I to the district of Thala Borivat and 56.5 is from the commune of Kampong Sralao to Tcheb. We also have a third event that is to continue to build seven villages, in which for the special intervention force brigade 9 there are the village of Sen Rung Roeung I, II, III, IV and V. Two other village are called Tecldho Morkot and Sen Techeah. These are the villages that will combine together national defense with socio-economic development.

While the brigade was at its training and composing stage, the construction of its base started with the fund I have got from my visit to Kuwait. This fact stays afresh in my mind because I have thought that I would not leave commanders, officers and soldiers in dilapidated shelters at all. It was because of this that I have raised

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 some 2 million US dollars from businessmen together with my own to build this military base. Of course, when the brigade arrives there buildings were not yet ready. We then had provided some 63,780 sheets of corrugated zinc for the construction of some 721 houses. Now a development committee will administer a project to build some 626 houses and other necessary infrastructure such as roads as I have mentioned earlier.

I have asked HE Kep Chuk Tema, Governor of Phnom Penh to be an alliance partner with the intervention force brigade 9 and I hope you two (General Kul Wai and HE Kep Chuk Tema) could do a good job and not to make this newly established brigade disappointed. With the road construction project that links to Stoeung Treng province, I am sure the brigade will not be in isolation. Though it has not yet completed, but I am so happy to see that my vision has taken shape. It is in fact the basis of the national defense policy of the Royal Government but to be frank it originates from the national defense policy of the Cambodian People's Party (CPP).

Today I would like to stress a very important message to all of our armed forces that if it were without the people's participation, we would not have a chance to do whatever we are actually doing now. Toppling the Khmer Rouge genocide, implementing the win-win policy while uniting and reconciling our nation, and now building a new defense capacity against the foreign invasion are all proofs of that. The CPP policy on national defense has always been a people's defense foundation in which everyone is for national defense and national defense is for all. It is now

becoming a reality along the border here.

It is a special feature of the Cambodian armed forces that you have seen here that soldiers coming from Kompong Cham and Prey Veng to make up the intervention force brigade 9 have brought with them the whole family and their pets. When we had this situation that the Thai troops invaded the Buddhist pagoda of Keo Sekhakisvarak and the vicinity of Preah Vihear, our people have shown their powerful movement full of pride as we can see that though they are not armed soldiers but they are proving to be one because they contribute their hearty and physical strengths as well as other materials to the fronts.

Our Buddhist monks in the country have also expressed their concern and visited our armed forces at the fronts too. HM the King, our Samdech Ov (King-Father) and Samdech Me (Queen-Mother) have all place great attention on the matter. Leaders of the Parliament and Senate, and MPs, no matter how different are our opinions, with common Khmer blood, we have a unanimous view in the national defense effort. State institutions and authorities in the whole country have brought to the border their assistances, some more than one time. Peace at the border, in our belief, would eventually bring peace to inner part of country.

So if our people are not in secure and peaceful life because of foreign invasion and if the armed forces are not capable of defending the nation and lacking our people's support, what kind of future do we have for our country? Have you seen what happened elsewhere when the military illegally took Government out of office, where they later have national

fragility because of people's anger, with the case Haiti being an example? We also had our story, nearly forty years ago on March 18, 1970, when the military conducted a coup and took down our lawful Head of State, Samdech Preah Norodom Sihanouk. What happened to them? The Lon Nol army fell quickly into isolation despite the fact that have had been propped up by the United States of America and the South Vietnamese regime.

Because they were army in isolation so they could not survive any longer no matter how modern their war machines were. At the longest they had come to was five years and one month. Look what happened to Pol Pot when he disconnected the army with people. As for Pol Pot, he stayed in power for just 3 years 8 months 20 days. They are histories and we should learn them well. In its effort to mobilize those compatriots who survived the killings to establish the armed forces (for fighting against the Polpotists) CPP has had people as its backing and then as our base for fighting against the return of the Pol Pot's genocide.

General Kul Vai is one of those soldiers under my command 32 years ago and he must have sufficient experience from this issue. Once there is no people's support, the army is promptly isolated. The army that is going against the people's interest, they would not get people's cooperation in return at all, let alone foodstuff, not to mention recruit. So who are soldiers? They are people and their children. So people are inexhaustible sources of army recruits, food supply and financial support for the army because people pay tax.

Today I have seen that there are a few underage soldiers and they may become a subject of

false propaganda that the Royal Government recruits the underage as soldiers. We have had more than enough soldiers. The fact that those kids you saw yesterday are orphans wearing uniform. They are school children. What can we do? Soldiers and their whole families are living together, so they all are wearing uniforms. We do not have the need for more soldiers and in fact we may think of bringing the number down a bit further but we will think about this later.

Ambition to invade our territory has not ended yet so we must get ready and fight against whatever aggression we may face. We are ready now for peaceful solution within bilateral framework and we do not want any use of force or arms but we must reserve our right to hold up arms and fight enemy who may come in our territory. My visit to the border has brought turbulence in Bangkok. Why is that so? In fact it is none of their business as to where I would go. They said Hun Sen's visit caused diplomatic tension and one princess has come out and said that the visit would further aggravate diplomatic conflict between the two countries after Thaksin's appointment (as Cambodian Government advisor).

I may reply to the princess that my visit to my armed forces has nothing to do with tense or better diplomatic relations and I would seek ASEAN and other international community to understand that the Cambodian-Thai conflict is not happening because of Cambodia but because of the fact that Thai troops have invaded Cambodia. Cambodia never bothers to challenge Thailand and if the Thai armed forces are withdrawn from our territory, matter will be resolved and Thaksin should not be brought up as an

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issue here.

I am here waiting for your comments. If you care to rebut I will return the favor and it will be on and on. I do not want to make any comments in relation to this but they brought up the issue first. Your plan has failed in fact. (Prime Minister) Abhisit said that before Prime Minister Hun Sen can visit the 4.6 kilometer area, there must be a negotiation prior to that. I already visited it yesterday. Secondly, Suthep said he would send Governor of Si Saket and Thai army commander of the region II to host me at the Buddhist pagoda of Keo Sekhakirisvarak. That also has failed.

I have not been tricked by this but I have permitted you to enter my territory as I said to them “You are welcome for coming to Cambodian territory and Preah Vihear temple.” They tried to gain an edge saying that “Suthep would wish to come and welcome the Prime Minister but he could not make it because of timing ...” and I replied “no, Suthep does not have any right to welcome me here but it is I who has full right to do so to Suthep. Please tell him if he’d like to come I will get Tia Banh to welcome him.” And they said the visit happens not at an appropriate time. Why else has my visit to be at their appropriate time? My appropriate time is whether my wife could join me for the visit or not.

I should advise them to try solving their internal issues like demonstration, etc. and not to bring a fight to others. Have you ever thought of the fact that your country cannot be put under control and has divided but you have come out and lectured me for the visit that I actually do in my country for my army and my people. Don’t cause too many issues and I

would invite the national and international public to see that the small never dares threaten the big but it is really a vice versa fact.

06 February 2010
**Intervention Force
Division 3
The Commune of Yieng,
Juam Khsan District
Preh Vihear Province**

I am so happy today that we all are here to put into official use the commanding headquarters of division 3 of the intervention forces which consists of 52 buildings provided by Deputy Prime Minister HE Sok An, Lok Chumteav and other generous fellows and 144 buildings provided my wife and I. In the framework of military region IV as a whole we have now up to 413 buildings ... We are here at this time to put into use some of the achievements that we have invested so far some 100 million US dollars not only for the military capacity building but also for building infrastructure and supporting socio-economic development program in combination with national defense

Aside from these buildings we have some 241 drilled wells and 21 water reservoirs to start with and I am sure that is a short step in a long distance that we need to reach As for housing we need some 30,000 beds since we already have some 8,000 already. So I may seek assistance from our people who may want to provide bed for the soldiers. I also wish to express my sincere thanks to the engineering teams of the Royal Cambodian Armed Forces, the Ministry of National Defense and the Techo engineering for building many long roads, some asphalted and some laterite covered I have brought with me today some 600,000 dollars worth of 15,000 sheets of corrugated

zinc for our soldiers to build their houses for their families.

I have the need to thank some of our friends from abroad who did a lot to help us and also two TV stations (CTN and Bayon) for their actions to help with providing medicament, food and clothing but also building infrastructure such as the road to Ta Moan and Preah Vihear temples. Also I have the duty to thank my wife for everything what she has done for our armed forces. Two weeks after the Thai invasion, my wife and wives of other leaders have gone to the Preah Vihear temple while some Generals have not got up there yet by that time. In fact she completed her tour in 2006 to all military regions – on land and at sea.

She has been my great assistant and never interfere in my command. She ordered immediately medicament for snakebite for our troops as soon as she knew of this incident, and also bought raincoats for soldiers at the front while I was just ordering. Now our soldiers and commanders are using same raincoats and jackets for cold.

I may now brief you – soldiers, Buddhist monks and people throughout the country, of three strategies as followed:

1. *To continue to implement vision of turning former battlefields into development areas, markets, and dangerous places to tourist destinations.* This in fact is our strategy that was formulated in 1996 or fourteen years ago. As Cambodia now has become a unified country with complete peace, what remains to be done is to get this vision implemented to the full.

2. *To build a borderline of peace, friendship, cooperation and development with neighboring countries.* We have it started with Vietnam

and Laos already, and we are making efforts to get it fulfilled with Thailand too. We hope that this vision will be realized on the basis of mutual understanding, respect, cooperation, and peaceful resolution, while nature of invasion and using force to resolve issue should be ruled out.

3. *To redistribute social labor for the sake of socio-economic development but also for national defense.*

In order to achieve these objectives, there are ten tasks to be implemented.

1. *Readjust arrangements of our armed forces as has been done so far in fortifying our fortresses.*

We have repositioned the division 12, which was before 70 kilometers away from here to come to this position and has transformed into division III of intervention forces with three brigades (7, 8 and 9) in a range of operation from Preah Vihear area up to the point where the borderlines of the three countries (Cambodia, Laos and Thailand) meet.

Divisions 41, 42, 51, 52 all stretched along the border to Tassan and Samlot with division II of intervention forces backing them up. Divisions 14, 21, 11 and 911 are all backup forces with my bodyguard unit whose size is bigger than a division and equipped with BM 21 is multi-prong intervention forces. We have more brigades and less number of divisions, but we also have more divisions of intervention forces too.

To be a division, one may not think only about its number and symbol as it needs to have its complete structure ranging from commanding headquarters to communication line, which I order that they must have a VDO conference facility

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and a certain commanding system. A division status should be attained when the forces are equipped with tanks, armored vehicles, heavy artilleries, and various other facilities and ammunitions.

So our strategy is to create more brigades whereas fortification of our fortresses and commanding headquarters are the points here. The range of operation for a battalion would be roughly 100 hectares or about one square kilometer, or smaller according to the geographical condition. With this setup we would have like a size of 500 hectares for a brigade of five battalions. These lands must be reserved for building military infrastructure thereto. As of now a battalion has just achieved some 16 residential buildings, while our needs are still much more.

2. *Develop road networks and infrastructure for development and national defense.* We have built so many roads, with many access points, to bring us to the temple of Preah Vihear – we have those coming from the province of Kompong Thom province, which is under construction, to Tbeng Meanjei of Preah Vihear province, and to Sa Em and down to Koh Ker, from where it serves as another access point to the temple. Another access is when we build a road from Siemreap province to Anlong Veng (road 67) and continue on road 171 to Sa Em, with the total length of 158 km.

Also a road line along the border that is a junction of national road 5 that is running to Melai, Pailin and other roads networks in Battambang and Banteay Menajei will also serve our purpose of national defense and development purposes. I have just ordered the construction of a road to Stoeung Treng province from here, where the Techo Engineering Team will take my order to see that done from the Mom Bei point to Thala

Borivat, whereas effort is underway to raise fund for completing the inside segment between the district of Chheb to Kompong Sralao, and also a bridge over the Mekong there need to be build to facilitate our communication.

3. *Build, structure and organize new villages and homes for families of soldiers, while provide concessional land for them and for truly landless people.* Not far from here, Techo Nature Village development project is underway with houses have been built for those whose homes were on fire because of invasion incident.

We also have built close to a thousand homes at division 9 and 8 aside from these projected homes. Each division and regiment must request for land for building homes for families of their soldiers, and this is in fact a long term project of the Royal Government. Take for example, when roads are built they are not only for the army but for our people as a whole.

4. *Provide water sources like wells, reservoirs, irrigation system for both drinking and cultivation.* The key point for human to survive and for cultivation is water. The Ministry of Water Resources and Meteorology and concerned institutions must strive to solve this issue. I also urge the Ministry of Industry, Mines and Energy who has its technical expertise in inspecting and analyzing water quality to oversee this point. If possible, the Phnom Penh Autonomous State-Authority Water Supply should see about setting up water lines in all military facilities, and-or in villages.

5. *Continue to make effort in de-mining and retrieving UXOs.* CMAC (Cambodian Mines Action Committee) and specialized agencies concerned, the military engineering team is

also included, should take this task at heart. We should try the best we can to evade such life maimed or fatal incident from happening to our people in general, and to family members of our soldiers.

6. *Provide structure and services of hospitals, schools, Buddhist pagodas, markets, tourist facilities and other services.* The Ministry of Health should see to the need for hospital and medical stuff, medicament included and expertise for that matter. I have provided some schools already and I urge that where there is village there must be primary school and junior high school thereof where there are need.

7. *Set up radio and TV relay broadcast system.* I learned that there is now this relay transmission of 99 Mhz Radio from Phnom Penh and more will come with Bayon radio and station. I am grateful and thank them very much as their efforts have brought to our soldiers and people living this far news and other programs.

8. *Telecommunication system, both mobile and non-mobile, should provide the best possible services.* I would order HE Tia Banh, Deputy Prime Minister and Minister of National Defense, and HE So Khun, Senior Minister and Minister of Telecommunication to map out and implement a project of running fiber optic cable of Metfone Company here, which I think would complement better services on radio and wireless technology. We should not depend only on one facility.

9. *Initiate and see through implementation of micro financial program.* We must go fast on this front as some initiatives have been taken but studies have not yet brought us anywhere in Anlong Veng and Tropeang Prasat, and now the same project has come to Mom Bei. We should come up with a

clear answer that how to provide micro financial assistance to families of the soldiers and-or handicraft skills in the area.

10. *Protect and preserve temples, especially Preah Vihear temple and newly discovered architectures, while preserving forests and suppress illegal loggers.* I would order that a master plan for the protection and preservation of the temple must be brought up with attention to detail. Deputy Prime Minister HE Sok An, who - acting on my behalf, is responsible for this matter - has reported to me recently of a newly discovered spot at Prei Mlu, where there is proof that it was a former weapons production in time of border war in the old days.

In his report, he assured me of the findings that there was this Akka Moha Sena Badei Sangkream (a rank of military commander offered by HM the King) from the eleventh century or about a thousand years ago. As you can see that this is not by chance but two incidental events for the defense of the country's border areas. I have ordered for an immediate finding and conserving mission and alternating road project to a different direction, whereas the spot will be protected, conserved and preserved.

Also I would urge for all armed forces to defend forests as we are here to defend our country from foreign invasion but not to chop of trees. All military commands must include this point into their emulations, where the merit for winner is who protect well the forest and other resources in their areas of operation. The army should take part also in combating and putting to an end illegal logging.

My speech has been a bit long but I have the need to make another point in relation to solv-

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ing the border issue. It is our commitment and resolve that the border issue must be resolved by negotiation and peaceful means, refraining from use of force. We will use force only when there is a need to self-defend and protect our land. This is an irreversible principle that is here taken by the Royal Government. We will not step in our neighbor's land but would not allow them to come in to ours too. We want no bloodshed whether it would be Thai or Khmer. We want peace, friendship and cooperation with neighboring countries.

I would like to take this opportune moment to declare the position of the Royal Government of Cambodia that Cambodia wants the situation to go back to before July 15, 2008 and nothing more. I also would like to send my message to Thai people in Si Saket, U Bun, etc. I know they have been unhappy with the situation and what happened, so if the situation returns to that before July 15, 2008, when the Thai army invaded our Buddhist temple of Keo Sekhakirisvara, I would order for an opening of the border gate for tourists to come visit the temple as before. So it all depends on the Bangkok government. The temple belongs to Cambodia who may close or open it as it deems necessary.

We have tried to evade armed clashes and military confrontations and we have done certain things for the sake of confidence building with our neighbors such as organizing cultural and sport events with each other. I believe fighting is not a good thing to do and communicating is better, however this does not depend on Cambodia alone and more so it depends on that of the Government in Bangkok. There have been many remarks coming from Bangkok yesterday.

Though I have intended to make no comments about our Thai neighbor during this visit, because of those comments and remarks by Bangkok, I have the duty to respond.

Prime Minister Abhisit yesterday said before (my) visit the 4.6 kilometer area, there must be a negotiation with Thailand. I may want to ask him in return as to where is the 4.6 square kilometer area. We do not know where it is because we never accept for once the unilaterally drawn map by Thais. The so-called overlap 4.6 square kilometer area does not exist in our term. For us there has only been an area where the Thai army has invaded. Cambodia observes the maps that are enclosed with the convention and treaty by France and Siam in 1904 and 1907, and the annex of the decision by the International Court of Justice in The Hague.

Why we should have to negotiate first when I never have a map dispute with anyone and if there needs to be a negotiation, it must be a negotiation for you to withdraw your troops and I have no obligation to do so. Also, Deputy Prime Minister Suthep said and is reported by many Thai media that they will send Governor of Si Saket and Commander of military region II to welcome Prime Minister Hun Sen. I think it is a shame that I make a tour in my country and they wish to send a provincial governor and commander to welcome and provide me with hospitality.

I may make it clear to them that I have my governor of Preah Vihear province and military commanders in the region IV here with me. I do not need the hospitality from anyone on my land at all. Have you not thought that I know full well that hosting me at the Buddhist temple of Keo Sekhakirisvara would cater for your intended agenda of justifying that you

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Kong there is a battalion under the provincial command and two companies that are stationing at the district of Mondul Seima. In Preah Vihear, there is a battalion under the provincial command and the same is applied for Uddar Meanjei, and some districts with companies that are to go into such alliances.

Because Preah Vihear and Uddar Meanjei are the most resource-limited I would recommend the battalion, i.e. two companies, go into alliance with the Ministry of Water Resources and Meteorology. As for companies of the district from the two provinces I would suggest that they could go into

own or co-own the property? Some media in Bangkok said the visit is taking place in an inappropriate time. Why could they make such a remark since I am the Prime Minister of a sovereign and independent Cambodia? If I were a Thai Prime Minister, you may make such a remark, but I am not. I may go wherever and whenever I want in my country and my schedule does not have to be appropriate to anyone.

I suggest Prime Minister Abhisit withdraw the ten unarmed soldiers sent in and out on a daily basis to and from Keo Sekhakirisvara and we will reopen the border pass for tourist activity. Well, doing it or not is up to you. I will take it after you. They said it is inappropriate because there is a tense situation inside Thailand for the pressure from the red shirted protestors (pro-Thaksin group), while Hun Sen is putting pressure on the border area. I am here not to put pressure on you and I am here to make friends. But because you make stern comment yesterday on me, I have the need to clarify in return ...◎

alliance with provincial institutions and maybe it is possible to look for help from a private company, a local one perhaps, unless it is impossible to get one, then we should send one from Phnom Penh. I also urge for the same solution in the province of Siemreap and perhaps HE Sieng Nam is to establish an alliance with the battalion which is under the provincial command.

I have a consent that after the foreign invasion on July 15, 2008, a national defense movement has become the greatest compared to every stages of my involvement in the armed forces and I must approve that there has never been anytime that the defense movement has been this great. What makes this so? It was because in those periods, they were the fights between Khmers. Let's take for example, in the fight at Pailin, where Ee Chhien was in command (on the former Khmer Rouge's side), Pol Saroeun (on the Government's side) was ordered to withdraw. The reason is because Ee Chhien is also a Khmer. It is because we did not want to spill the Khmer blood that we had to withdraw as soon as there was a military confrontation ...

I am not digging out the past but I wanted to stress the importance of a win-win policy and its effect in bringing about of national unity, allowing our nation to put a complete end to the war. As for this area, Samlout, not only in the war of 1970, even before the time, no one could have access to the area. By 1998 we have reunited the country – the whole country, frustrating any foreign ambition to grab our land. Thanks to the effort, we now have unified armed forces that defend our nation and people under the motto of nation, religion and king ...◎