

27 December 2006 (Unofficial Translation of Selected Comments)
Inaugurating NR 67 Segments in Anlong Veng District



04 December 06—Samdech Hun Sen with Former US President Bill Clinton during the Latter's Visit to Phnom Penh on HIV/AIDS Project (Reuters).

... I would like to give my respect to our people who have joined us in the inauguration of a road segment and the groundbreaking ceremony for constructing another segment of the NR 67. I have a great pleasure to be able to return to Anlong Veng district once again after my first visit on January 19, 2001 to put into use a 104 km road from Banteay Srey to the district of Anlong Veng.

Again it is a great pleasure to be with all of the Ambassador of Thailand and our people in the district of Anlong Veng to put into use another 18 km road segment which connects our border at Choam Srongam to the district of Anlong Veng, which is built under the grant from the people and the Royal Government of Thailand.

We also take this solemn occasion to officiate the groundbreaking of 131 km segment of NR 67 which will connect Anlong Veng to the NR 6

under the low interest loan from the Royal Government of Thailand.

I would like to take this opportunity moment to express through the Ambassador of Thailand our appreciation and thanks to the people and Royal Government of Thailand for such a great assistance to the people and Royal Government of Cambodia. HE Sun Chan Thol, Minister for Transports and Public Works has already mentioned how HE Ambassador of Thailand has been active in expediting the provision of assistance and contributing to making further assistances to Cambodia.

Of course, the assistance will be of great benefit for the people of Cambodia but also for bilateral relations of the two countries. The achievement in front of us to be inaugurated today has never existed before in the history of Cambodia. If we were to look back, this
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23 December 2006 (Unofficial Translation of Selected Comments)
At the Constructing Site of a New Monivong Bridge

... Please allow me to offer my appreciation to the Governor of Phnom Penh, HE Kep Chutema as well as his colleagues in the Municipality of Phnom Penh, the Office of Transports and related sections who collaborate with a private company in the development of the Pich (Diamond) Island - an important part of the Agreement has stipulated the construction of several bridges. According to plan the company will have to build three bridges over the Bassac River - one of them is the new Monivong Bridge that its construction is officiated today.

Two more bridges to be built are to connect the city from the river's western bank to the Pich Island including also the concrete pavement of the bank itself. This is a creative effort that was proposed in gradual procedure to me by the Municipality of Phnom Penh.

As we all know about the Pich Island - before it was a place where there was a sinking ship and since then silt has settled and developed the place into an island. We had also another island which before was a place where a US warship
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20 December 2006 (Unofficial Translation of Selected Comments)
Inaugurating SOS Children Village in Battambang

... Once again, with Mr Helmut Kutin, the Head of the SOS Children Village, I am here to put into use officially the Children Village in Battambang province. It is indeed a new achievement for our nation, especially in response to the need of orphans, abandoned ones as well as those from poor families who are actually waiting for assistance to be provided from the Royal Government and those from charitable persons. As is said by HE Ith Samheng, Minister for Social Affairs, we already have the Children Village in Phnom Penh, in Siemreap and today in Battambang. Taking this joyous occasion I would like to take this opportunity to express my sincere appreciation and thanks to Mr. Helmut Kutin as well as others from Norway, the United States of America for their sharing ef-

forts in making these achievements possible for Cambodia.

I wish to also thank the Ministry for Social and Veteran Affairs and Youth Rehabilitation for having resolved all problems related, especially land area, for the project to take place. I wish to also give the appreciation and thanks to the authority of Battambang for taking part in making this achievement realized according to plan. I may ask Mr. Helmut Kutin for his understanding on the fact that it has been late in resolving land issue here. As we all know
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road 67 has never been anything other than an elephant path. If we were to recall from 1970, the war that ended in 1998, within the 28 years of fighting, nothing was done to improve the situation. After integration of the former forces of Democratic Kampuchea into the country's fold the state of being isolated or called internal border has been taken away. Cambodia becomes once and for all a country under one rule.

Traveling from Anlong Veng to Siemreap would require one or two night breaks on the way. I have ordered the military engineering team to get to work immediately to restore its condition from the elephant path to a passable road from Banteay Srey to Sre Noi, to Bai Tab in face of serious obstacle such as malaria. From the helicopter I asked HE Hor Namhong, Tia Banh, Keo Puth Rasmey and Cham Prasad to look at a thick forest underneath and I said if we were to continue fighting the war would not be stoppable even in fifty year's time.

This area was the last to be re-integrated but because I was in mourning over the death of my mother, I ordered HE Tia Banh who is now Senior Minister and Minister for National Defense to be my representative in 1998.

Today we have a lot of people coming to observe the event but also to get familiar with the place as it is the first time that we have made this condition possible for the area.

We all are happy. It is different from before that any meeting like this would be impossible for artillery shelling because the country was at war. I am glad that our people, the Royal Government's employees, and

the armed forces have all accepted with pleasure my policy of leaving no one to lose while putting an end to the war. We have had more than enough sufferings as many of our people died in the war. This should be a point that unites us to build peace and national reconciliation while evading national division.

A small country like Cambodia that was broken into more than two ruling factions was a bitter experience. We had from the French colonial era many Cambodian factions coloring themselves blue, red, pink, white, etc. In between 1970 to 1975, Cambodia was under two factions and there was genocide in between 1975 and 1979. From 1979 to 1993, Cambodia was under four ruling factions and again under two factions between 1993 and 1998.

What is the most important thing here is that once the war is over, we do not leave this area in poverty which would lead to further the gap. I would therefore give its special consideration on issue of improving infrastructure, which road is one of them as I say where there is a road there is hope.

I wish to thank the company and those institutions involved in realizing the achievement today. We have slightly changed the road map of the previous project for the sake of evading the vibration from heavy traffic to temples and also the clogging traffic in Siemreap. Thanks to serious study we have diverted the problems by re-directing the road to meet the NR 6 at the district of Bakomng, at the point of Angkrong commune about 15 kilometers from Siemreap town.

I am glad for this wise idea and this is what I called a consideration that ponders all re-

lated factors or is a look into a whole forest while singling out a tree. This road will serve as an important route for transport but also aim to avert damages in relation to historic heritages of our nation. If we were to let the road go through Banteay Srey, it will have to run through Angkor area, which to the expert opinion would cause vibration on the ground.

As the project here is underway there is also another project from Koh Kong also funded by the Thai financial assistance. The road of 152 km that connects the provincial town of Koh Kong to the NR 4 with four major bridges is being implemented 61,36 % and it would be completed next year. I would meet with HE Surayuth Chulanont, the Prime Minister of Thailand in Cebu, the Philippines and I would request for further help in building another 113 km from O Smach to Kralanh.

We have road access to Thailand in many points - NR 68 at Si Saket, Surin in Oddor Mean Chey and Chuam Srangam at Anlong Veng. We also are looking for financial help in building the NR 10 from the border with Thailand at Poi Pet to Battambang and one more road on the coastline from Koh Kong to NR 4. We could think of more connections out of necessary.

On the Vietnamese side we have connected NR 1, NR 2 and more roads are being built like NR 78 and NR 8. We are in the process of speeding up the construction of the NR 7 to the border with Laos. All these should serve our country's interest internally as well as regionally.

Two factors that allow our country to prosper are - first, internal condition, which requires peace, political stability,

law, democracy, human rights, etc. and second, good neighborly relations and foreign relations - of the two, the first factor is the determinant one. If the Cambodians were to fight one another, foreign nations also are in divided stands as one would go to this side, while the other would go to that faction.

In relation to Thailand, Vietnam and Laos, I do not refer just to planting the border markers but to make the border areas a place of development along with our conception of transforming from war to peace and development. Those people residing along the border are not just poor but fear of eventual fighting. I would like to transform these areas into development and safe places to reside. We have done in Phnom Proeuk, Melai, Sampeo Loun, Kamreang all the way to Pailin.

I wish that we extend our microfinance project to these areas so as to promote farming and animal husbandry activities. We should have a vision of there being factories, markets, and special economic zones. On the Vietnamese side, areas where used to be artillery units in the war between 1970 and 1979 have all turned into factories, markets, etc. I want the same thing to happen in all border areas with neighboring countries.

An incident of war in one country would lead to difficulty to its neighbors - take for instance a General of the Karen forces died in a Thai hospital. Before we have many sites Khao I Dang, Site B, Site Two, etc. and they caused a lot of trouble to Thailand. When the Cambodians are united, this makes Thailand feel better as well. HE Ambassador talked about more assistance to Anlong Veng and also

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previously the project needs a different plot of land but due to the fact that that piece of land is engaged with another Cambodian-Japan project, the Royal Government has instead decided to provide a sum of 140,000 US dollars to purchase the plot on which we celebrate the SOS Children Village today.

As we can see here that the building is a long lasting facility and the cost of building has amounted to 1.5 million US dollars. The same is true for the case of Phnom Penh where Mr. Helmut Kutin requested for a piece of land to build a school, for which we have taken quite some time before the issue is resolved and HE Deputy Prime Minister has on my behalf officiated the groundbreaking ceremony recently. As for the area behind this platform where it used to be a warehouse of weapons and ammunition, which blasted last year, I wish to declare to MR. Helmut Kutin and other generous fellows that this plot of land is to be given to you for the purpose of building a school. It will be a benefit for those children in the Village as well as those from the area around.

It is indeed a pity for those children whose parents have passed away then become orphans. It is indeed the Royal Government's wish for them to be well taken care of throughout the country, in SOS Children Village as well as in other types of assistance centre. As of now the Royal Government and non-governmental organizations have collaborated in providing such care and assistance for about 9000 orphans and/or abandoned children and we have more to count because some are still living with their grandparents or supervisors in difficult condition. We have in the last years children

whose parents died of HIV/AIDS, who are left with and without HIV continue to be living in their grandparents' or relatives' supervisions.

As far as I know the SOS Children Village has globalized its assistance in 132 countries already and as I said earlier Cambodia has enjoyed three of its assistance already. I wish that this influential organization is increasing its efforts to add more centers of this kind in Cambodia take for instance to the province of Prey Veng, Kompong Cham, Kompot, etc. HE Sar Kheng heads the (CPP) working group in Battambang as well as in Prey Veng. The SOS Children Village in Battambang could offer help to Pailin, Banteay Mean Chey and Pursat. While in Prey Veng, SOS Children Village could offer help to Prey Veng, Svay Rieng and a part of Kompong Cham. I wish that Deputy Prime Minister HE Sar Kheng take the lead in finding a plot of land there for them.

I wish to have your attention that no one will help us if we do not help ourselves. Mr. Helmut Kutin is not doing these efforts for his children to study here but for the Cambodian children themselves. Once again as a token of our gratefulness, on behalf of the Royal Government of Cambodian, the Cambodia orphans and abandoned ones as well as those from other causes, I would like to express once again my sincere appreciation and thanks to the SOS Children Village, especially for the generous fellows who have contributed for the Village to take place.

In 1979, after the fall of the Pol Pot's genocide regime we had so many orphans and we were able to save them from death and to provide them with care and education and some of

them are now in their 30's. They have now become husbands and wives and some of them have now children of ten years and below. We thought that the problem of orphans left from the genocide was over but it was not true as we came to face another cause of orphans - HIV/AIDS. In fact it has been more dangerous as it left us more orphans than the war did. After 1979, the war continued for sometime but less children died or maimed by the war than the explosion of HIV/AIDS in the recent years. I therefore would like to take this opportune moment to re-appeal our people not to take risk with HIV/AIDS as any risk in this front would lead to a loss of family's livelihood and one's own action causes vulnerability for everyone in the family. At last it would become a tragedy for the whole nation.

A few weeks ago I met with the former President of the United States of America Mr. Bill Clinton. We signed an Agreement to seek cooperation on issue related to HIV/AIDS - life extension is also an issue included. It is just extension and not full recovering from the disease itself. There is no cure for this. We have to go on doing more campaigns irrespective of HIV/AIDS patients or non HIV or AIDS patients.

In Battambang there is one point I wish to make my impression. Since 1986, I came along the market from the Airport I noticed houses with their windows made from weed sheets. As of today there are many good houses and along the roads there were more hotels and guesthouses. It was indeed a positive sign of the issue of land ownership and entitlement given to the people. As of this year in Battambang they have registered 81,416 tourists within the first

nine months of this year. We are facing a situation that the number of tourists are on the increase whereas there are only 684 rooms in 16 hotels and 200 rooms in 12 guesthouses. Pailin and Battambang - which used to be battle fields - are no longer fighting fronts as we have said earlier that the weapon and ammunition warehouse is to be given for school construction. The win-win policy would leave no one in losing situation and no one is to be the sole winner. At last the people of Cambodia become the only winner.

This is high time for construction of the country. We have demolished about 200,000 rifles. We built more is better than we built less and to build less is better than to built none. To help one child is better than to help none. It is an action to be taken by all. Again, with HIV/AIDS I warn you there is no one to win but to lose only. As of now according to HE Prach Chan, the Governor of Battambang, people have harvested a sum of 70% of their rice cultivation. They harvest their rainy season rice (highland rice) while the dry season rice (low-land rice) is to start. Battambang, as the biggest rice pocket of Cambodia, people cultivated 102.52% of plan or exceeding the plan. Almost all provinces throughout the country, we are likely to have no food problem. There are families and regions where rice is cultivated in excess of plan or according to plan.

It is indeed difficult to understand some parliamentarians who seem to be unpredictable. Farmers want their rice to have a high price. When the farmers are happy with their rice's price, those living in the city are unhappy because rice's price is high. They said because the Royal Government is incompetent that the price of

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rice is high. They instigate people for demonstration. When the rice's price went down, the opposition returns to their reversal tactic of instigating farmers. I have raised this issue with Prime Minister of Vietnam who was on an official tour to Cambodia, Laos and Thailand. I proposed to him, to convey my message to other rice producing countries along the Mekong River to set up an Organization of Rice Exporting Countries (OREC) like OPEC (oil producing and export countries).

Vietnam exported between 4 and 5 million metric tons of (milled) rice per annum, while Thailand exported between 5 and 6 million metric tons per year. Cambodia exported between 1.5 and 2 million metric

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nies have to have a contract with concerned authorities so that their offenses would be punished.

As far as sand is concerned I have a report that there are companies that pump sand up from the river plateau and they do not give a damn about environmental problem, let alone the river shore erosion. In Lovea Em district, people are unhappy with this and HE Dul Koen informed me about it. I instructed HE Gen. Police Head Hok Lundy to oversee and they captured about 30 pieces of equipments. Land erosion is dangerous and it could further threaten the NR 1 in the future. There are many Deputy Governors in each province and they should be delegated with real works and responsibilities.

From now on we have to make use of our potentials to build infrastructure - which means water, road, electricity and human resources. Our country is in peace and we sent our troops to Sudan in the UN

tons last year. Laos and Myanmar each exported a sum of one million tons. The five countries together exported between 10 and 13 million metric tons of rice or about 50% of rice in the world market. It is not worthwhile for each of the five countries or all of them to compete with one another for price which leads to a fall of price altogether after all. When we purchase oil from OPEC, the price of oil is high as OPEC has a strong cooperation that no one member is to subsidize the price. But OREC would be a counterbalance force when OPEC needs rice from us. We could negotiate rice for oil at a reasonable compromising price. It was the Cambodian initiative and the Prime Minister of Vietnam agreed on it...■

mission in keeping peace out there. In 1979, the NR 1 had a different kind of difficulty as the width of the road was between six or seven meters. We now planned to enlarge it to between 14 meters and 29 meters. It will be the widest road in Cambodia. The segment between Phnom Penh and Neak Loeung will be the widest road. In other places we enlarged them from six or seven meters to eleven meters but we still have problem of congestion. In 1979, roads of six or seven meters width was not at all narrow as there was no vehicle. But now we have a high rate of incidents - ranking number two after HIV/AIDS. We have used most of the blood donated by generous people from the blood bank for those injured by traffic accidents.

The same is true for waste management. In 1979 there were no waste in Phnom Penh because there was nothing to eat. In Phnom Penh now, if they were to leave the rubbish uncollected for two or three days, the city is full of waste

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Heroic King Father in the past by Lon Nol, he did break the country but he could not unite it. Sometime I say there is nothing more difficult than luring the Khmer Rouge out of the jungle. As of now many countries are still at war and some were countries that never experience wars before.

Uniting is a difficult art. Being unable to unite a party how could one unite or reconcile the country? When it is impossible to reconcile one's own family members, how could one claim to be reconciling the country? Anyone may be a Prime Minister. But who could get the country united?

Lon Nol replaced our Heroic King Father and broke the country. Some people were good at speaking but later did nothing when in power. Pol Pot entered Phnom Penh with flower bouquets for them by the people on 17 April, 1975. Once in Phnom Penh, they threw our people out of the city. This is not a campaign but a truth that one has to learn about.

With HE the French Ambassador here I would like to express my sincere thanks to the French Government and the President of the Republic for realizing what we have discussed in 1999.

In my visit to France in 2005 I met the President of the Republic again. I wish to take this joyous moment to express my sincere appreciation to those graduates of bachelors and high diplomas conferment - both scholarship and fee-paying students.

material. In 1979 there were no heavy trucks that damage the roads too. As of today some trucks damaged our roads at its 50 ton load...■

Making efforts to achieve one's study is different from achieving direct assistance of materials like money, water pump, etc. Knowledge cannot be provided by means of giving or putting into one's head. Students have to make efforts and continue to strive hard in their studies.

We are in a globalization world and human resources are subject to need not only inside the country but also in foreign market demand. We have now sent some of our staff to work in the ASEAN Secretariat and some ASEAN countries as well. WFP also recruits staff from Cambodia for their work elsewhere in the world.

Today you graduate but you should go on with research. I am proud that Cambodia these days is making progress and its people have become more intelligent. I watched a TVK environment debate program and I find it very lively and knowledgeable based upon what they have debated in the program. It is so impressive to see that those groups in the debate came up with strong supporting and opposing arguments, which meant they did their researches. They do not make any political implication, unlike those debates in the parliament in which speakers try to benefit politically from their arguments.

With regard to diploma conferment I wish to recommend the Institute's management to take care of its sustainability because it is usually more difficult than to get the Institute's building up and running. Students admitted scholarly or non-scholarly to the program should be aware of difficulties to be taken by their parents and family members so that they can pursue their studies...■

25 December 2006 (Unofficial Translation of Selected Comments)

Diploma Conferment at the National Institute of Business

... My wife and I today are happy to be with all of you in officiating two events - the conferment of diploma for 3107 graduates and the inauguration of new buildings of the National Institute of Business (NIB) in sangkat/commune Stoeung Mean Chey.

I may add further to what has been reporting to you by the director of NIB on the cause for the relocation of this institute from the former Lycée of Descartes in Phnom Penh to this place. During one of my visits to France, I discussed this issue with the President of the Republic of France - Mr. Jacques Chirac because the school was a state property and we have decided to return it to France.

I called at that time to the former Mayor of Phnom Penh HE Chea Sophara to search for a place in preparation for the construction of the Institute. The French Government offered us one million French francs for the construction.

Even if the French Government did not offer its contribution for the construction of the Institute, the Royal Government would still build this institute and return the former Lycée Descartes back to the French Government. It is indeed our fortune though that the French is generous enough to give Cambodian one million French francs - an equivalent to 200,000 US dollars.

This is a matter of state inheritance and it has to be returned as we have done with all the foreign embassies in Phnom Penh, take for instance we have returned the French embassy to France in 1988-89. It was then used as the Phnom Penh military commanding post.

The Cambodian Embassy and the Cambodian Student's House in France have all been returned to Cambodian ownership and management. We have tried to put together this institute with an additional amount of about 1 million US dollars on top of what has been offered by the French Government. I wish to take this opportune moment to give my appreciation and thanks to the Phnom Penh Municipality for its efforts in resolving the need for land for the construction.

The land was before the orphanage Kolab (Rose) III and which afterward left unattended. The orphanage has now become a beautifully looking institute. I thank the Ministry of Economy and Finance for financial disbursement in a timely manner for the Institute to be built ready. I wish to also thank the Ministry of Education, Youth and Sports for its efforts in helping this institute before it is transferred to the Ministry of Labors and Vocational Training, which is established in the third-term legislature Royal Government.

In relation to this development I just wish to reiterate what Senior Minister HE Keat Chhon (of Economy and Finance) has to say - the sun rises even if the cock does not crow. Some people said that this development takes place after the Paris Peace Agreement or political settlement in 1993.

One could ask if there was no January 7, 1979, would there be a Peace Agreement? Those signatories of the Agreement would have been dead already. This would not exclude our Heroic King father who in the last few days wrote that Janu-

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pen at a similar time with the stage 3. I remembered requesting the construction of the Neak Loeung Bridge to former Prime Minister HE Koizumi in 2001 at the Cambodia's Consultative Group Meeting in Tokyo. The whole length of requested road has been 56 Kilometers between Phnom penh and Neak Loeung. Because of a sincere understanding of the Cambodian hardship, the Government of Japan decided to provide this bridge of Neak Loeung as non-interest assistance. Thank you very much Your Excellency the Ambassador for making this known to us today.

First we have planned to inaugurate these bridges on December 18 but because of the rescheduling of the ASEAN Summit and East Asia Summit in the Philippines we have also advanced it to December 16 so that I could host the visit of the Prime Minister of Vietnam on December 18 instead. According to the previous schedule, the Prime Minister of Japan, Shinzo Abe could have informed me about this decision if we were to meet according to plan in Cebu, the Philippines. But now we do not have to wait as the Ambassador of Japan HE Takahashi Fumiaki chose to make it known to us all today. We welcome this news with great enthusiasm and joyfulness.

The NR 1 - as far as Cambodia is concerned - connects the eastern part of the country which is divided by the Mekong River to the western part of Cambodia at the connecting point of Prey Veng and Kandal provinces. Prior to this, we have the Kizuna Bridge at Kompong Cham province which does the same function up north between the two sides of the river. For the Mekong Sub-region it is impor-

tant as it connects countries along the Mekong or as in Asia. HE the Ambassador said it would not allow Tokyo to get to Bulgaria and Turkey on land due to the missing chain. That is why Cambodia has a share in this connecting effort so as to speed up integrating it internally and also facilitating Cambodia's economics while integrating it in the framework of the Mekong Sub-region as a Highway in Asia that connects from Japan through to Turkey.

Let me now turn to the two bridges. During the time of flood in 2000, HE Lim Kean Hor and HE Khim Bo (Governor of Kandal) could have remembered that we cut open this road or else Phnom Penh would risk being flooded because the flood took a high speed and the dyke that protects Phnom Penh from the north was not yet done. We also had the threat, if not from the northern dyke of Phnom Penh, from the fact that flood could overflow the capital from before the Royal Palace. It is learned at that very time that the flood current was clogged at this point and I had ordered for the cut-open of the system here. On the NR 2, we also had flood from the western part of Phnom Penh, where it run through the Prek Ataing canal. I ordered HE Lim Kean Hor Minister of Water Resources to cut-open another segment of the NR 2. There is now at that place a bridge instead of the reconstruction of the road.

The bridges have indeed two important functions - 1) to improve traffic circulation because of its width of 14 meters and 2) to serve as a water outlet system which brings silt and water to the lower part, this is to mention also current that brings baby fish to natural reservoirs on the other side. We have indeed a lot of

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told us that HRH Princess Mahachakri Siridhorn of Thailand has more projects of development for Ratanakiri and Mondulakiri.

I would appeal to HRH Princess to orientate those projects to helping improve the well being of people along the border areas. In the name of the Royal Government of Cambodia and its people, I support all projects that HRH Princess initiated in the Kingdom of Cambodia and would cooperate for development.

The win-win policy, a success story about Cambodia, was initiated by the Cambodians and there were no pressure from external forces. We wanted to put an end to generations of war and replace them with development. I am glad to see that we have been able to do reconciliations on both levels - senior leadership and lower rank and file. In some countries, like Sudan, it is possible to get a consensus on the top level, but their rank and file is to leave no room for reconciliation. We have demined and discovered 979 anti-human and 129 anti-tank mines, 129 UXOs over an area of 7,592,559 square kilometers. Destroying mines is still the priority of the Royal Government of Cambodia and partnering donors.

I encourage our people to refrain from logging and the provincial authority has to survey for an area where it can be used as social concession land for our people so that they no longer do the logging without knowledge and illegally. We have to develop areas where there is no forest and we should give more land to people who are lacking of land for cultivation. Efforts should be made to get investment in farming sugarcanes, potatoes, etc. But I warn against defor-

esting to get land for sale. Anlong Veng and Pailin before were named autonomous regions and now they are not those anymore. We have only one nationality, one law, tax policy, etc. Elsewhere has problem of autonomy, and while Dalai Lama said the other day he would want Tibet to stay with the People's Republic of China. Here we do not have issue of autonomy. Cambodian problem has to be solved by Cambodians themselves.

As I said before I never work on a map for fighting at all but a map for peace in Cambodia. I do not deny that I ordered troops to fight in Anlong Veng at all. I did that in 1994 and retreated immediately. I think HE Nhek Bun Chhai was here to. Also in 1994, I ordered a military strive in Pailin and (Y) Chhean launched the counter-attack. But we all are together and happily laughing now. This is the Khmer style of resolving the conflict. The other day I met with the Prime Minister of Sri Lanka and I told him that what is done by the Cambodian could not be a replication to other countries.

Funcinpec and CPP should continue to work together to maintain what we have already achieved. In 1997, when we had a coalition in Phnom Penh, HE Nhek Bunchai of Funcinpec secretly hold a negotiation here in Anlong Veng and I warn it not to happen for the second time or third time. In the first coalition, they secretly negotiated in Anlong Veng.

In the second coalition they sided with the opposition and again they want to try one more time. I do not care old or new leader of Funcinpec, I just cooperate with Funcinpec and Hun Sen would take it into a coalition though it wins no seats...■

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baby fish that are bred in the upper part of the river. The fish eggs flowed with the flood current to Vietnam for our system could not capture them all. They are all dead once they arrived in Vietnam as the sea water current meets with the Mekong part there. I suggest that HE Fumiaki informed the tax-payers in Japan that the two bridges plus two canals have brought about changes to our ways of life especially fish catch.

I wish to thank all the construction companies from Japan for their efforts to get their plan implemented in a speedy manner. They have planned for a longer but always completed them in a shorter period. I also thank our people, the local authority, the Ministries of Public Works and Transports as well as the Committee bearing the responsibilities to resolve all issues concerned along the road headed by HE Nhean Leng for their cooperation and the relocation of the people's residences with appropriate compensation. I would not believe at all for a development without first concentrating on infrastructure. We have two infrastructures to think of - 1) hard and soft. The hard infrastructure includes bridge, road, canal, school, hospital, etc. 2) soft one is legal framework, norms, etc.

It is important to inform you all that we have to provide counterpart fund though the project is to be implemented either with grant or with loan. Japan has projected a sum of 68 million US dollars for the construction of the road and bridges but the Royal Government also shared its counterpart fund in resolving projected areas along the road.

As far as road maintenance is concerned we have planned

twice the budget from last year (last year 40 billion Riels) because we have longer road to maintain. I once organized a Cabinet meeting on a bus along the NR 1 so we all could see how bad it was. The same has been planned for the NR 6A and I learned that they have done repairing it now. The most important factor in reducing the damages of NR is that we have to start with overloaded trucks and not with the system of weighting the trucks. I would urge companies or institutions with heavy trucks - civil, army and police - to respect the rules for transportation. An action to be taken is any trucks overload limit must be dealt with closing down the companies themselves. I saw a report from HE Sun Chan Thol that the fine from overloading trucks has come to 300 million Riels. What can we do with this money? The amount is too small to fix our roads. I warn all companies - the Mong Rithy Company also included. We should not care about the 500 Companies heads but the 14 million populations.

We have here Senators Kong Triv and Men Sarun and they have trucks. If their trucks are to be verified as overload, their Companies would be closed down as an example to others. I warned them not to seek intervention as I would not allow it absolutely. I also warned of actions that lower rank officials collect money for senior ones. The road is first of all damaged by overloaded trucks and we understand if it is damaged by natural disaster. I urge all ministries concerned to look into this matter. It is indeed impressed that we have a boom of construction of lodgment and apartments but overloaded trucks with sand also put our road in wearing-out condition as well. All transport compa-

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sank. Fortunately we were able to pump sand and silt out to get rid of the island. With the development for Koh Pich we have brought a term that those residents of the Koh have agreed in exchange for the land to be developed. What is the most important for us though is the fact that we have this new bridge of Monivong constructed and two others. If the development project of Boeung Snao is shaping up, it is possible to bridge it with Koh Pich. I have recommended to a Korean company with its project to develop Boeung Snao to build a bridge and with the company that develops Koh Pich I think the two could work together to get the two parts connected to one another. What is important is that we could solve problem of traffic from this side of the NR 1 to Phnom Penh.

The Monivong Bridge in place was first built in 1929 in the reign of Preah Baat Sisivath Monivong under the protectorate of France and here today we also have the presence of HE the Ambassador of France. It was then a steel bridge called the bridge of Chroy A Aok. Under the supreme leadership of Samdech Head of State Norodom Sihanouk of Cambodia it was renamed the Bridge of Monivong. It is indeed a precious heritage left for us from the time of Sangkum Reastr Niyum. By the increase in volume of transportation in and out of the city and issue of population coupled with the effort in making the NR 1 a standard ASEAN highway, which is to be a road connection from Tokyo through to Turkey, we have to adapt this bridge to a new situation.

I met with a Japanese delegation headed by Vice Minister for Foreign Affairs and Vice Minister for Trade yesterday.

They jointly affirmed the provision of grant for the construction of the Neak Loeng Bridge and the road will be enlarged to a standard that is the largest from Chbar Ampeo to Neak Loeng as some parts will be about 29 meters wide. In Phnom Penh, we have a registration of 120,000 motorcars and 600,000 motorcycles. In this situation the old bridge could no longer support traffic and it means that we have to build a new one. We have come to a solution that the city will have to make income that will lead to building the bridges or in this instance to rent out Koh Pich for the construction of the bridges. Entry to the city will continue to be on old bridge whereas the new one will be a lane for exit. When there is this water festival, the traffic on the two bridges is so impossible.

How do we go about the name of this bridge? One side is Chbar Ampeo and on another is Kbal Thnol or (the Start of the Road). HE Chutema asked me about naming this bridge and the old one is named by the Heroic King Father after the former King of Cambodia as Monivong Bridge, and as a token of respect to our Kings I would suggest that we continue to call this bridge Monivong Them (new Monivong Bridge) and I have requested through HE Samdech Kong Sam Ol for a permission from the Heroic King Father who instructed in French in the letter that reads "To Samdech Hun Sen, Head of the Royal Government of Cambodia, thanks and appreciations from me, the Heroic King Father, the Heroic Queen Mother and HM the King Sihanouk". This means that HM agreed that the bridge is called New Monivong from now.

What is left to be done is that the Sino-Pacific Company

which is one among 8 companies that joined in bidding for the project with a consultant company from Hong Kong to guarantee the quality of the bridge for long-term use. This year HE Lim Kean Hor of the Water Resource and Meteorology is gathering speed of preparing for the January 7 road and dyke project. I wish to see more roads built in Phnom Penh and I thank very much the people in Phnom Penh for their cooperation with the Municipality Project of 50% + 50% at the allowance from the Royal Government in road renovation or construction in the city.

To the north of Phnom Penh we have the flood bunker at Kob Srov which is used as both road and flood protection. We still have difficult problem to the southern part of Phnom Penh. We will soon have the January-7 dam. It is supposed to help divert traffic from one side of Phnom Penh to another without having to cut through the city. This can happen because of the cooperation between Cambodian People's Party and Funcinpec. I would give no heed to what some opposition say about us - they criticize us for not doing and also for doing still. In the Cabinet meeting of December 22, 2006 I revealed someone with his name and threatened to expose documents. I am to get along with that.

As January 7 approaches and it reminds us of the day when we entered Phnom Penh... If we did not have December 2, we would not have January 7, without January 7 we would not have today. The Koh Santepheap newspaper published a piece of news on December 23 that "from the website of Samdech Preah Moha Virak Khsatr (the Heroic King Father) on December 18, 2006 Samdech wrote in French ... that some dignities of the CPP

have recalled the January 7, 1979 because without January 7, me and HM the King Sihanouk and Samdech the Heroic Queen Mother Monineath Sihanouk could have died in the hands of the Khmer Rouge's Pol Pot. It is a historic reality. I wish to express my respect and gratitude to Samdech Heng Samrin, Samdech Chea Sim, Samdech Hun Sen and their armed forces and the Socialist Republic of Vietnam and its army. It is obvious that if it were not because of them, Democratic Kampuchea would have led Cambodia further to hell.

In Cambodia, who could be more patriotic or politically mature than the Heroic King Father? HM accepts the reality again and again and always writes something before January 7 event. Cambodia today has been blamed by some as poorer and poorer and I would ask in what state could Cambodia be poorer than January 7, 1979? I would not hesitate to resign if the country is poorer than 1979. Yesterday I have requested Japan, who gives us a large grant to build Neak Loeng Bridge, to provide Cambodia with more low interest loan - like 0.01%. I said Japan could think that Cambodia would be unable to repay but he immediately responded that Cambodia is able to pay back and they said that soon Cambodia will be rich and will no longer need Japan.

I said to them if Cambodia is rich, Cambodia will follow Japanese example, which means that Cambodia will look after poorer countries as Japan did. HE Keat Chhon, Senior Minister for Economics and Finance reported that GDP per capita has gone up to 500 US dollars from 448 US dollars. In this sense, I wish we all greet the anniversary of January 7 in the coming year 2007...■

16 December 2006 (Unofficial Translation of Selected Comments)

Constructing Road Segment - Kiensvay and Neak Loeng

... Once again I wish to give my sincere thanks and appreciation for the people of the Kandal province for taking their time to be present here today. Once again, the Japanese Ambassador HE Takahashi Fumiaki and I are present here to officially put into use the two bridges that were started to build on December 6, 2005 or one year and 20 days after the groundbreaking ceremony. We also preside over the groundbreaking ceremony to build another segment of 42 Kilometers of the national road 1 - the second stage NR 1 construction between the district of Kien Svay and Neak Loeng (the ferry cross at the lower Mekong River on the part of Cambodia that is connecting to the other part of the road on the eastern side of the river). I wish to take this opportune moment to express to the people and Government of Japan for their generous assistance to the people and the Royal Government of the Kingdom of Cambodia. HE Ambassador just mentioned for your information about the Japanese assistance to Cambodia from 1993.

In just one year and 20 days I have together with HE Fumiaki inaugurated and officiated groundbreaking of nine projects - 1) on December 6, 2005 we were here to officiate the two bridge constructions, 2) on February 21, 2006, we inaugurated JICA's office in Cambodia at the Royal University of Phnom Penh, 3) on March 09, 2006, we inaugurated the water reservoir at Tropeang Thmor in the province of Banteay Mean Chey, 4) on March 27, 2006 we inaugurated the Clean Water System in Siemreap province, 5) on March 28, 2006 we inaugurated Phnom Penh Technical School of Medical Care, 6) on April 26, 2006 we inaugurated

the segment of 51 kilometers of the NR 2 from Takeo to Phnom Den at the border with Vietnam, 7) on May 1, 2006 we officiated the construction of the one-stop service office in the Sihanoukville Sea Port, 8) on June 15, 2006 we officiated the construction of a Referral Hospital at Mongkul Borei and 9) is the today's event.

There are also many other projects that the HE the Japanese Ambassador have officiated with other Cambodian leaders. It is therefore reasonable to say that Japan is the biggest donor in relation to development and poverty reduction for the Kingdom of Cambodia. Today for instance we put into use officially the bridges in Samraong Thom commune of Kien Svay district. As far as the NR 1 is concerned we have planned for a three stage construction - the part that was done between Neak Loeng and the border with Vietnam in the province of Svay Rieng, the part that is being done of the 42 Kilometers between Kien Svay and Neak Loeng and the third part to be implemented is another 13 kilometers from Kien Svay to the Bridge of Munivong - the entrance to Phnom Penh.

I would like to quote what HE Fumiaki Takahashi has just said: "I have the privilege to join with Samdech, Excellencies, Ladies and Gentlemen and honorable guests with happy news that the Government of Japan has decided to grant Cambodia's request for the construction of the Neak Loeng Bridge over the Mekong River." I could say that the three stage development is now complete and we have now come to the fourth one. I hope the fourth stage will hap-

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ary 7 had saved him, his children and grandchildren from death under Pol Pot. Our Heroic King Father is one of the signatory of the Paris Peace Agreement in his capacity as the President of the Supreme National Council.

When did the Institute take place? It took place since 1979 though training activities in those days were infrequent. But we have to be accountable to the truth and we should not try to evade or distort the truth of the history. In the period after 1979, training activities had been three, six or 12 months. In 1985, it was named the Trade Expertise School. In 1994, the school was given to the Ministry of Education, Youth and Sports and in 2001 we have upgraded it to the Institute of Trade. In 2004, after the establishment of the Ministry of Labors and Vocational Training, the institute's management has been placed under the latter's management.

According to the statistics given by the Director Ieng Sophal, the Institute has recorded a graduation of 11,066 students. It was no different if we put health workers in this context. In 1980 we have mobilized all physicians and pharmacists throughout the country to put together a school of medicine which has now become the Faculty of Health Science.

There used to be a problem regarding where to put the Institute as to have it in the southern part of Phnom Penh would be a long distance for those in the northern part of the city. But because of efforts to put in place asphalted roads in the city, students would have no trouble anymore in going to study wherever the Faculty might be located.

But attention must continue to

be paid as to how to respond to issue of geographical set-up for students in the primary and secondary levels of education. We should have a master plan of the geographical set-up as to which school could absorb what number of students and from which region. We also have to ponder about where else to put more libraries - as we already have a big one at the Royal University of Phnom Penh, another in the High School of Boeung Trabek. As we have seen that Cambodia is on its course of development and in a few days to come we will celebrate the 28th anniversary of the January-7 victory. I may count that I have been in political struggle for about 37 years as of now and my leadership has been advancing Cambodia forward.

If we were to move backward as they said we would not be able to topple Pol Pot. The point is that we survive and prosper. That is why HE Keat Chhon said even if the cock does not crow, the sun would still rise.

The win-win policy has brought Cambodia from four political factions to one Cambodia with two factions (the Royal Government of Cambodia and the Democratic Kampuchea) in between 1979 and 1993, and to one country under one rule from 1998 to the present. I will go to Anlong Veng in the next two days to officiate the ceremony to build bitumen road helped by Thailand. These are achievements that we have attained and we are free to learn whatever we want according to law.

To be a Prime Minister is easy but to be a PM that unites is difficult. If PM knows how to break, PM has to know how to unite. Take for instance, after the coup against HM the

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