



27 March 08—Samdech Akka Moha Sena Padei Techo Hun Sen with people in the Province of Kompong Cham's district of Kang Meas.

27 March 2008 (Unofficial Translation of Selected Comments)
Buddhist Achievements in Kg Cham's Kang Meas District

... It is indeed a great pleasure to be with all of our people here today. It has been a big rain that makes your traveling here a bit difficult but it is good for our dry season rice cultivation. Aside from that rain also brings water for human beings and green grass for animals in water scarce area. I would like to express my thanks and appreciation for the efforts put into making this Buddhist temple altogether.

The inaugurations have been so numerous that I could not reserve my schedule any more and my wife also has had to skip some of her presence with me because she also has too busy schedule of her own and family matters to attend to. However, I will be away for a few days in Laos for attending the Greater Sub-Mekong Region, where the six leaders from countries in the region - Cambodia, China, Laos, Myanmar, Vietnam and Thailand, meet together with the presence of the President

of the Asian Development Bank. The first meeting was indeed in 2002 in Phnom Penh, the second one was in China and this third one will be in Laos.

You may have heard already that I went recently to Pailin - a town nearby the border with Thailand, and I may recall for you that people there are also making great development and they talk about peace too. We may remember that by 1990 we still had some Khmer Rouge intruders and that's why we chose the term "tiger stripes" to refer to different sectors in the country where used to be interval actions between the Khmer Rouge and the Government forces. We now have only different political parties and religions, and freedom of press.

I am so glad that the win-win policy has been achieved so that our people could build on their achievements for the
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13 March 2008 (Unofficial Translation of Selected Comments)
2008 Directives for Ministry of Interior

In addition to the prepared text, Samdech Akka Moha Sena Padei Techo Hun Sen gave his comments on some particular issues as have been selected and translated as follows:

Post-Election Political Impasse

I wish to make this point clear. We will have a transition period after we launch the election campaign. After the election is held, in Cambodia,

unlike in Malaysia where the Cabinet line-up starts thereafter and the Prime Minister takes the swear-in ceremony, we have set for the first National Assembly meeting with 60 days after the elections. It is the transition period when the new Cabinet will take power like in 1998 and 2003. According to our experiences, we have suffered political deadlocks.

As of now we would not face
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26 March 2008 (Unofficial Translation of Selected Comments)
Reconstruction of NR 57 - Battambang Prov. & Pailin City

From NR 10 to NR 57

It is indeed a great pleasure that I have come today to meet you all at the official opening of the construction of the national road 57, formerly national 10. It is indeed my dream that we have realized today in transforming the battlefield into development zone. I am so glad that that people from all walks of life as well as friends grant their supports to the win-win policy, which put an end to armed conflict and a divided Cambodia. The NR 57 stretches a length of 103 kilometers from Battambang to the border with Thailand. It has indeed been a wish by people in Battambang as well as those in Pailin, and I myself included, because I anticipate how it can change in actuality from battlefield to market and development zone.

Other Roads

Aside for the Chinese assistance, we also have the assistance from the Republic of Korea who also provides us help in the restoration of the NR 3 from Kompot to Trapang Ropeo and the part of the same road between Kompot and Chaom Chao. The Kingdom of Thailand already contributed to the NR 48 which links the NR 4 and the provincial town of Koh Kong, the NR 67 from Chuam Sragnam to Anlong Veng and from Anlong Veng to Siemreap. In his recent visit to the Kingdom of Cambodia, the Prime Minister of Thailand, HE Samak Sundaravej, an
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with such a deadlock situation because we already have amended the Constitution from the two-third majority to 50 + 1 or simple majority to get a pass for the formation of the Royal Government. By this way any party that wins the elections would be able to get the Cabinet line-up, while room for bargaining will be there no more. If the CPP team loses the elections, they will have to leave making way for the winner.

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sake of our country's betterment. Despite what we have achieved today, naturally we still want to have more. We have the Khmer saying that goes - ten rivers could not satisfy a sea. Literally it means, human nature would keep up the need for better thing. We have a corrugated roof house today but it would not be a bad thing to have tiled roof some other time, or to move from wooden house to concrete one.

As the price of basic food commodities and particularly rice has been universally discussed, I would like to take this opportunity to bring you some updates on this situation. In Kompong Cham, as of the moment we speak, we still have a surplus of rice of 220,000 metric tons, and from here I can tell you that Cambodia is food sufficient. What has happened is because of the demand in outside markets plus some objective factors that bring about this situation of short supply of rice. Some rice mills lost its course of market tendency coupled with opportunist psychological warfare.

Thanks to immediate actions taken by the Royal Government the price of rice has gone

As I am talking about this I would like to give some advice with regard to some of the works that need to be done vigilantly. Some criminal actions have been the source of vigilance when the authority is engaged one way or another in the preparation and conducting of the elections. The case of drug making happened in Kompong Speu's Phnom Sruoch at the time we had the commune council elections. Tax evasion, illegal logging, etc. take for instance should not be allowed to take

down a bit and this trend will keep getting better because I have instructed not only rice from the state granary but also from private stocks that we have up to 300 communities. They should provide their rice into the market and from this action, hoarding rice attempts would be rebuffed. In relation to putting a provisional halt on exporting rice for a period of two months I would like to seek understanding from our people who have produce more than their consumption level for sale as this measure will bring them loss. The Royal Government has no other choice but doing so.

This action has brought about the lower price of rice a bit and 80% of the people who grow rice are unhappy with the action. But 20% who consume rice are happy. This is a hard decision to make. I also urge our people to keep rice as much as they can in their own stock for there is a high demand for rice in the regional market. At the same time I order the Minister for Agriculture, Fish and Forestry to take a counter measure to get all the fish stock community to be ready and release fish into the market, which in any way it would help reduce the price of basic food stuff...■

advantage at this time. That is why in our law, when the country is in the elections, the Royal Government has to assume power in order to see these issues through.

It is so ironical that as the CPP is getting prepared to accept the results of the elections and solemnly declares it will make way for any winning Party to form the Government, some Parties have already declared and lobbied so and so countries or community not to recognize the electoral results. Have they ever thought what if they were the one that wins the elections? I call these people the ones that get wet before plunging into the water.

Maintain Public Order and Protect National Property

Political stability, macroeconomic stability, in which efforts must be made to curb inflation, maintaining economic growth are what the Royal Government or incumbent Government will have to carry on. No one is to pack things home because s/he would not stay in the new Government. I gave this instruction once to communal elections that no commune head would be allowed to move furniture or stamp from the office for own profit. They are national property and they therefore need to be maintained.

You may be advised that if we all are keeping stability in order, we would also have some easy start as well. If other parties were to win we would be appreciated for what we had done to provide them with a smooth commencement and disciplinary startup.

I know you would say that other Parties would not think the way I do for them. At that time, they would be going on

to insult and making problems here and there. But thank God we seem to have less of these problems as most of the people who have involved in destabilizing, protesting, etc. seem to have changed their course. Protesting is their rights but we wish they respect the law. I warn any move to produce people power style like in some countries in the region or elsewhere in the world like in Ukraine, for example, or they will be rebuffed effectively.

Trafficking of Women and Children

I learned that it has been a lively discussion on the issue. In fact, thanks to numerous measures, we have scored many successes in this front, to be more specific, the trafficking of children and/or adoption of children by foreign nationals.

What has now become a problem for the authority to fix is the trafficking of human in the form of marital relationship. Because Cambodia is one of the ASEAN members and a partner to many countries involved, some of the members and partners who are very much close to Cambodia told us of many risks on this front.

One example they gave me was that a country in America organized a tour to Asia. This is quite official and legal. But when arriving in Asia they serve as sex workers. We do not have this situation yet. But we have to be vigilant with crook's tricks. In Cambodia one of the regular incidents is that young girls are tricked to come to city for works.

They were eventually cheated. Another form of cheating has been emerging

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08 March 2008 (Unofficial Translation of Selected Comments)

A Visit to Tjaret Dam in Pursat Province

I have a great pleasure to come to this huge dam of Tjaret which is under construction. HE Lim Kean Hor already told you that I was supposed to be here since May last year to look into some of the needs and suggest their solutions. But because of early flood in the water system here due to heavy rain, the visit has been rescheduled until today. As we all can see that the construction has indeed taken shape for about 62% and I would take this opportunity to express my sincere appreciation to HE Lim Kean Hor, Minister for Water Resources personally and to workers and experts who have taken their time and efforts to fix the system at the time we had a major breakup of the dam. Thanks also go to the CPP working team under the leadership of HE Suy Sem, Minister for Industry, Mines and Energy.

I ordered the study the Tjaret dam for water reservation but we did not have the resources needed to develop the system. Fortunately, in my visit to Australia last year, in signing the Mondulkiri Bauxite Exploitation Agreement, the Australian side has set aside a sum of 2.5 million US dollars for what is called “fund for social assistance” along with the agreement.

I have decided that the fund must go into building this dam and in case it is not enough we will have to use additional fund from our own budget. The same was true that when I visited the Republic of Korea in 1996, the former President Kim Young Sam told me he gave me two million dollars and I was free to choose in any form I like. I told him I would take a set of heavy machinery for construction

equivalent to the given amount. The machineries are now under the control of the military engineering team used in making roads and water canals everyday.

No matter what will happen after the signing of the agreement, the project will continue to go on. When Hun Sen decides that it is to be constructed, it has to be done and no withdrawing is to be allowed. We have learned about the benefit this project will be giving to the people here from what HE Lim Kean Hor said in his report. We already have built the Damnak Ampil irrigation, which is covering an area of 27,000 hectares of rainy season rice and between 1,500 to 1,600 hectares of dry season rice cultivations.

The area under coverage has increased also to some part of Svay Daunkeo and Neak Ta Tvea of Battambang provinces. This allows our people in the said area to swap their cultivation of floating rice to dry season rice. As we have achieved that we now are working to develop the Tjaret water dam which is projected to cultivate 11,000 hectares of rainy season rice and 3,500 hectares of dry season rice cultivations, plus 210 hectares of orchards. Because we have the dam here we could reserve higher level of water in the Pursat River so that we can mobilize our pumping machines to help people whenever they face with drought. I would say before it was our dream but as of today it will be a true possibility.

I have so many imaginations when I was young. I dreamed of walking across the Mekong River because it had taken me and everyone too long to wait

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Efforts have been made to take back the land that have been claimed illegally but what is more important is to stop further encroachment upon state owned land. I accept that the National Authority for Land Conflict Resolution has done a great job. I asked the Governor of Stoeng Treng province to act immediately on land conflict there and I do not let go the fact that the land illegally occupied has been re-taken but just to give back. Logging has been going on while bridge that has not been inaugurated has now become their way of transport across the river.

Prey Veng province seems to

be quiet because I do not hear any conflict there because land ownership has been clearly defined since 1980s.

People to Benefit from Infrastructure

It is important though that people should benefit from the project of investment through their integration in such a way that people living along the area would benefit from the infrastructure of the development zone. It is indeed important to see to projects that will create jobs for our people which will stop massive migration from rural areas for jobs in the city...■

24 March 2008 (Unofficial Translation of Selected Comments)

Congratulating 204 Buddhist Students of Suramarith School

Return the Building to Ministry of Cult

I am so glad to note that we have scored great achievement in human resource training both in the secular and Buddhist worlds. Indeed human resources from the Buddhist world have also been an important contribution for the construction of the country. The building of the Ministry of Cult and Religious Affairs was after the fall of the Khmer Rouge in 1979 used by the Ministry for Foreign Affairs. We have a group here that picked up the news from various radio channels and reported to the meeting of senior officials and to me personally. A leader without information/news could not perform one's duty. However what I wanted to say here is that because of efforts made in keeping the building in good shape that it has now been returned for cult affairs.

Buddhism - State Religion

It is worth noting that Buddhism in Cambodia has been left undeveloped and destroyed only a short period of

time in the country's history - the Pol Pot's time. However, the Kings of Cambodia have always placed a significant importance on Buddhism, though it has in the past been blended with Brahmanism. On May 18, 1955, Samdech Preah Karuna Preah Baat Samdech Preah Norodom Sihanouk ordered the construction of the College of Buddhism, which later becomes the University of Buddhism.

It is worth noting also that human resources from the Buddhist teaching curriculum also contributed for services in the secular world. Samdech Chea Sim, who at that time took over as head of the National Front from Samdech Heng Samrin, has been the one with all the merit in getting Buddhism and other religions on their feet again. Now the number of pagodas have increased and the stories behind could be anything ranging from need for pagoda closer to villagers to individual conflict, which happened

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25 March 2008 (Unofficial Translation of Selected Comments)
Buddhist Achievements in Kompong Thom's Baray District

**More Pagodas
but Less Monks**

It is indeed a great pleasure that I have the opportune moment to be with all of you to celebrate the inauguration ceremony of the Pagoda of Seila Nimet in the district of Baray in the province of Kompong Thom. I am so surprised by the report that we now have 4,300 Buddhist pagodas but we have less number of monks as we have gone down from 60,000 to lower than 55,000 and the cause could be because of less number of people wish to take monkhood. However, monks have greater number over police and soldiers.

**High Prices of
Basic Commodity**

I have a matter to inform you and it is not particularly a concern of Cambodia alone but of the whole world. In Cambodia we have noticed the increase in food and oil prices. However, the opportunists or rogue traders have cooked up a major issue to fabricate things in such a way that one arrow could kill two birds. The big bird is indeed Hun Sen.

In Kompong Cham, Prey Veng and Kandal, some say that Samdech Hun Sen will do to help farmer to increase the price of one kilogram of rice to be equally high as the price per liter of oil. In some other places they said Samdech Techo Hun Sen said that he have made the price of land high and people sold all their land without any land left for rice cultivation. These are parts of their campaigns towards the forthcoming elections.

My reactions to these rumors are, firstly, no matter what we

do, we could not make the price of rice as equally high as the price of oil. Secondly, as far as selling land and having no land left for cultivation, they should be informed that Cambodia has a size of two million hectares of rainy season rice, 400,000 hectares of dry season rice and about 700,000 hectares of farm land, together we have three million hectares. Will these lands become factory or industrialized zones? Land in demand is place where factory, enterprise, economic development park or apartment construction projects are built. One simple question is who has the money to buy the three million hectares of land in Cambodia. It is so impossible to be true. I am sure this psychic test will fail before long.

The fact is that the rice price in Cambodia has been cheaper compared to other rice producing countries. We have a situation that Malaysia needs to buy rice from Cambodia, and the Philippines mull import of Cambodian rice, whereas Vietnam and Thailand purchase rice in bulk from Cambodia as well. This means that Thailand and Vietnam could get rice at a lower price from Cambodia. The question is whether Cambodia is short of rice stock or not. In fact Cambodia is not lacking rice and one can take a look in the market there are plenty of rice. The Royal Government also reserves its stock for price and availability intervention in the market.

Some have gone far to suggest that I have to set the price tag for basic communities and I respond now that if you want me to do that we have to turn our clock in reverse starting with shutting down politi-

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for the ferry to take us from the other side to get to Kompong Cham town. This has been realized (by the construction of the Kizuna Bridge). Along with this we also have more bridges under constructions across the Sekong River at Stoeung Treng, the Mekong at Prek Tamak, which in just a few days I will be presiding the ceremony to place concrete in the first central pillar. We also have the bridges across the Tonle Sap at Prek Kdam, etc.

We have built and are going to build a length of 1000 kilometers of asphalted roads in the third term of the Royal Government. Some people came out and said there has never been a road like that passes by their places in the past. It is not an imagination anymore. It is real. As of this project here, we will continue to dig the second canal at the length of 5,500 meters as well as 34 kilometers of sub-canals with many more water ditches.

In principle I would urge the digging of canals to extend the irrigation from Kandeang to Krakor districts and to Kompong Chhnang as well. What I want back from it is that we have to foresee the extensive use of the dam potential. We have now used the Pursat River potential, the upper part of which we have developed the hydropower at Ta Tai, Russei Chrum, Cheng Reng, etc. We have called them the power battery in Pursat or we could say that finally the people in Pursat has got a huge power battery for almost the whole country because the electric current could be transmitted through wire from here to Kompong Chhnang and Phnom Penh or even back to Battambang province. We also might take

the electricity to Siemreap and other places because we have over 800 megawatts.

Just now HE Lim Kean Hor used a term in his speech "expansionism" on water issue. It is correct because we have done our best to expand the irrigation area. I have a regular report from HE Lim Kean Hor on the construction of this dam as well as in many more projects throughout the country. Each construction site have employed some workers at a cost of 10,000 Riels for a day. With the project in place, in the future we will lessen issue of migration through the establishment of new work opportunity and also in the development of agricultural opportunity. In our country resolving water issue is to provide more work to the people.

Take for instance, once we have harvested the rainy season, without irrigation advantage, our people will leave the land uncultivated and left the villages in search for work. But with water in the system, they could turn their free land into second cropping. I have just asked HE Lim Kean Hor to think of building concrete bridges so that people could cross from one side of canal to the other. Having achieved this goal we will also see the potential for local tourist visit because during the last Khmer New Year we have recorded a number of 30,000 visitors to the dam.

As today is the International Women Day I would offer my best regards to women. I would also note that in our country we have this long-standing system of women being the most important. Look we have women holding key to all incomes in every household except in one

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and quite popular now is the formation of marital relation. I learned from the Ministry of Women and Veteran Affairs that the Ministry of Commerce granted license to the company that brokers fake marriage.

I ordered the cancellation of the Ministry of Commerce's permission. I would urge all relevant institutions to be more cautious in giving your permission especially those at the grassroots level. We have to act on this matter quickly and effectively so as to prevent further cheating. I would give you a scoop of how this has gone from cheating to political issue. There has been some pressure for me to allow the opening of the Taiwanese office in Phnom Penh. Their argument is because more than half of the Cambodian women who have been married to the Taiwanese are actually living illegally, whereas some have been traded there for work in the brothels.

Implication on One China Policy

I foresee this will happen. Some politicians and civil society activists have gone so far to argue that Hun Sen does not allow the Taipei Office in Phnom Penh because he is "afraid" of mainland China. I would make it clear once again that whether China is angry or not would not be the matter here but what matters is the principle of sovereignty.

I would tell you frankly that the one who lobbied for this evolution has got a lot of money. A string of signature would bring about millions of dollars. But this is not trade issue or money but sovereignty.

Ask yourself what is our reac-

tion if for instance there is movement to separate one province of Cambodia, and/or even to become a member of the United Nations. Our answer would be no.

The case is also true when Taiwan is actually a part of China. I would remind you that before I worked with the Republic of Korea while having diplomatic relations also with the People's Democratic Republic of Korea (PDRK) because it is a different case to this matter.

The two Koreans occupy the seats at the United Nations. China is a member of the United Nations and the permanent member of the Security Council, whereas Taiwan is not. As of now we have 2,500 Cambodian women in Taiwan who we have contacted with NGOs and related agencies to get them back. We will not go through formal channel.

They may argue that Hun Sen abandons his own citizens. I deny that. We will take them back only by a different channel but not trading for the opening of Taipei Office in Phnom Penh. I also warn that they should not have illusion on the office in Phnom Penh or anywhere in Cambodia.

It is a part of the Cambodian foreign policy, in the meantime, I demand that Ministries of Interior, Foreign Affairs and International Cooperation, Women and Veteran Affairs, and Justice to jointly review the process for granting marital permission.

I also appeal to all parents, sisters, brothers, uncles and aunts to give more thought on this as their immature and information lacking decision could eventually bring negative consequences...■

25 March 2008 (Unofficial Translation of Selected Comments)

On Land Management, Urban Planning and Construction

Strengthen and Expedite Non-Systematic Approach for Conflicts

It is indeed a good thing if we can get all conflict resolved through this approach of non-systematic solution. But I warn you of what could have been a serious issue behind this concept. What I mean is that someone in making dishonest benefits from the approach because s/he may want the conflict to go on so that both sides of conflict will go to her/him for upper hand solution, whereas the mediator kept the solution within his/her reaching for more interest by not resolving it right away. What I am concerned about is the fact that some conflict that should be resolved in one year has indeed been protracted longer. This is what I see as a weak point of the approach and this could in fact have reduced our people's confidence.

Yesterday I went to Kompong Som right away because when I called by phone it was impossible to verify what has actually happened there. It was indeed a misappropriation and negligence in duty from the administration.

It has been effective though as in the case of conflict in Punnhealou where the investor as a party negotiates with the people who are landowners with the help of the authority or it could have taken the form of four-party conflict resolution effort. However, what has happened in Kompong Som could not be resolved by this approach.

Take for instance in the case in Banteay Mean Chey, I have ordered the company to move out despite the fact that development project has been

in place. As long as it is illegal or in contradiction to other legal instructions, investment will be canceled and land will be confiscated without any compensation. Like in the case of Long Cheen company (in Kandal province) the removal of the project was performed without consideration of any compensation. I ask the Minister for Land Management, Urbanization and Construction (MLMUC) to speed up the solution. I know that some people stay behind the conflict because they have their interests vested in there. If one wants to nurture those interests, one should stop working as Government official.

The mechanism to resolve land conflict has indeed been so slow and if I am not mistaken it has become a dual Government mechanism when we have put into use what is called the special operation team. They should get to work immediately and be frank in their conflict resolution approach. I would say that some of the officials have created so many issues and the finger should not be pointed at the opposition parties. I warn that an appropriate measure will be taken if these issues are not being addressed properly. As I noted that some of the cities have improved their images in one way or the other, take for instance Phnom Penh or Kompot, we should pay attention to the creation of children playgrounds so that children can have their time with their parents there.

Land Distribution

I approve that HE Deputy Prime Minister Sok An has done a great deal on this front.

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nounced the provision of Thai concessional loan of 1,400 million Baht for the construction of the NR from O Samach to Kralanh district.

Thanks and Congratulates China

I wish to take this opportune moment to express my sincere thanks to the Government of the People's Republic of China for its provision of supports and assistances to the Kingdom of Cambodia. HE Jang Kim Feng, the Ambassador of the the PRC to Cambodia said just now that it is the

fiftieth anniversary of the establishment of the Sino-Cambodian diplomatic relations and this should well be a promotion of the relations between the two countries.

In two different phases, Cambodia has been granted the amount of 300 million US dollars loan from the PRC for its projects to build the NR 8, the bridges of Prek Tamak and Prek Kadam, and two important roads - the NR 57 and the NR 62 which links between the province of Siemreap and the temple of Preah Vihear via the provin-

cial town of Preah Vihear province. For your information the Government who built so far the total length of 1,714 kilometers, 8,333 meters of concrete bridges ... Within the said 1,714 kilometers road, 880 kilometers of road and bridges over the river at Se Kong in Stoeng Treng province, the bridge of Prek Tamak and the bridge of Prek Kadam are built with the assistance from PRC. China has the longest road built with its assistance in Cambodia.

On this auspicious occasion I would like to express my sincere thanks to the leaders of the PRC, through its people's congress, in its recent session, HE Hu Jintao and HE Wen Jiabao have been re-elected the PRC's President and Premier for the new term of office. I am sure that is another progress of the PRC, which will provide a great opportunity for other developing countries as well.

The PRC's assistance to developing countries which also include Cambodia not only speeds up the socio-economic development aimed at reducing poverty of the countries but also strengthens each country's independence, sovereignty and political master-ship through the respects for their independence, sovereignty and political alternatives. I am grateful to China for such a contribution.

Win-Win Policy

This area used to be battle where the Government and the Khmer Rouge forces fought, and occupation and abandonment took turn between them. When we applied the win-win policy, Keo Pong one of the Khmer Rouge's generals defected in the area of Oral, whereas Pailin and Mealay are the following. Foreign countries

have now come to offer help because Khmer has now become a united country...

On Rice Exports

In one of the news reports I have read, the World Food Program makes an appeal for more fund for food purchase whereas in Cambodia the price of rice has been low which allows for Thailand and Vietnam's rice traders increase their imports of rice from Cambodia and we now decided to put a stop on rice export for two months. I am sure that will not bring conflict with the WTO and rice traders in Thailand and other neighboring countries.

As of March 27 hereon the authorities with competence to control the border exits will have to take drastic measures to stop all exports of rice to neighboring countries for a two month period. I also allow the rice sale as an intervention to bring down the price through the provision of supplies. I would urge the WTO to restrain their comments as this is the country's food security and not in anyway to be applied as a measure for protectionism at all...■

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They should not take it that Hun Sen is fearful of joining debate. It should be reminded that Hun Sen was a one-against-three negotiator during the period of peace negotiation. The three were the best of their kinds - Samdech Preah Norodom Sihanouk, the late Mr. Son San who was the Prime Minister in the 1960s and Mr. Khieu Sam Phan who was then the head of Democratic Kampuchea... It would be better that I have a debate with our people here as I learned from the people what they want and tell them what has been done in the country...■

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consider the visit to foreign countries. If CPP does not win, I could not go to France as well but I could do it on my personal capacity.

Since we are in the run-up the elections I would take a clear stand that if I were to lose the elections I would not hesitate in recognizing the elections results. If I were to lose I would propose the winner to set up the Government according to the Constitution, which will convene the meeting within 60 days. The power transfer will be held at the new Cabinet's office in stable political situation. I would urge that there exist free, fair and just elections - with transparency and non-violence conditions as well.

On January 31, 1985, after working for two weeks as the country's Prime Minister, I came to establish this University. I think we should discuss about new need for the RUA take for instance the multi purpose hall of common in which graduation ceremony as such could be performed in it. I think I will build the hall and HE Chan Sarun will take care of air-conditioning system. This has to be done now.

I do not believe in the idea of being elected first and building after.

I would also like to take this opportunity to express my sincere thanks to foreign friends who helped the RUA as well as agricultural sector in Cambodia as a whole. Agriculture in Cambodia has a huge potential still. I do not know from other people's opinion, but for me I learn that in Vietnam they have leveled without a single termite hill left for that purpose. In Vietnam, they have intensified their cultivation to a maximum degree that harvest and replanting process take place at the same time. Drought has indeed affected the potential that Cambodia has in reserve.

Some countries is in the crisis situation of producing just to maintain the machines or sustain human demand. Now some countries feel severe impact because of high oil prices and change of weather pattern and condition. I have to admit that some of the studies have proven correct that some places with condition unfavorable for rice cultivation should be oriented to cultivating other crops such as sugar cane, potatoes, etc...■

08 March 2008 (Unofficial Translation of Selected Comments)
Graduates from the Royal University of Agriculture

I am so glad that I could be present today with all of 955 graduates to put into use the six-classroom building built with non-interested aid from the Government of the Republic of France. I would like to take this opportunity to express my sincere thanks and appreciations to the efforts made and the success scored by the graduates with endless supports of their families and faculties involved. My wife and I feel grateful to all of our graduates who picked up agriculture as their major in life and also because it is the prioritized sector for the country economic growth.

As is noted by HE Chan Sarun, Minister for Agriculture, Forestry and Fisheries, and the Rector Chan Naret in relation to training as well as placement in workplace, there is still this point of concern about distribution of trained agriculturalists across the board as a number of demands to be met for those officials to go work in rural areas.

It is so impressed that 64.26% of the graduation theses are relating to the community and cooperative foundation, whereas 35.74% relating to works in experimental farm, experimental orchards, which belong to the Ministry of AFF, the central administration, private sector and marketing. It is worth mentioning that I did not come here in the school year 2006-2007 and my promise has not been met in terms of building roads to this side of the town.

As is mentioned by HE Kep Chuktema, the Governor of Phnom Penh, the promise has been fully addressed and we have even stretched the road to Choeung Ek and to the National Road 2 as well.

Traveling to Takeo province, one does not have to return to Phnom Penh to start from the beginning of the NR 2.

I thank the Governor of Phnom Penh and also the Royal Cambodian Armed Forces' engineering team for making the achievement possible and we will take March 18 - the day on which 38 years ago there was a coup that removed Samdech Preah Norodom from power - to inaugurate so that the sad date is being replaced as the happy one. I would also like to express my sincere thanks to the Government of the Republic of France for their provision of grant to build more buildings and I would like to remind all of us here that the French helps us in the Royal School of Administration, Laws, Medicine and Agriculture. I would like to send this gratefulness to HE Nicolas Sarkozy the President of France, who have agreed to continue to provide whatever is earmarked to be provided to Cambodia by the former President Jacques Chirac.

In the course of the two countries' relations, I have called HE Jean David who was formerly co-chairman of the Paris Peace Agreement that I would like to reschedule my visit to France at a more convenient time because Cambodia is approaching its general elections and I need to be in the country with the only exception that I will leave the country to Vientiane for the Greater Mekong Subregion meeting. After the elections, if CPP is elected and I will become the next Prime Minister, I will then see through the establishment of the new Government and wait till the new cabinet is in routine then I will

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The coup was indeed aiming not just removing a leader but to root out Constitutional monarchy in the country to its true meaning. Why? If the action was then aimed at Samdech Preah Norodom Sihanouk alone, they would have replaced Samdech by another prince from other lineage and the country could have retained the Constitutional monarchy.

But Lon Nol created the Republic Khmer... I never claim to be the best royalist but I have contributed with CPP and other leaders in restoring the Constitutional monarchy in Cambodia - we can call it the second Kingdom after the monarchy had been dead for 23 years. Samdech Preah Norodom Sihanouk took up the throne once again and HM was indeed elected in 1993 because all parties together agreed to re-establish the sec-

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as always in our history. Conflicts among Buddhist monks are always the most difficult to resolve and I think it would be more practical if I stay neutral and urge for appropriate ways for solution headed by monks of all levels... In my thesis on political science that I defended with success in 1991, I have a chapter about the role of religion in the management of society in relation to other aspects.

All religions never teach human beings to do bad actions but to be good man. Knowledge without moral has been shown in the making of bombs for use in terrorizing so and so, and those who build atomic bombs, drugs, etc. are not illiterate.

Buddhism - Social Moral Education

In the name of the Royal

ond Kingdom... This means that the second Kingdom has no dialectical connection with the previous one but is born out of the people's wish and will through the election... We have now a full-fledged Constitutional monarchy and a Constitution that guarantees the role of Head of State for life and could not be infringed upon. Whoever wants to be a real King in Cambodia has to get elected.

Infrastructure Development - Poverty Reduction

We have saved money from any sources we can for developing this bridge and with infrastructural development we will be able to move on to reduce poverty. It is also part and parcel of the equitable distribution of the economic growth, which is to transform growth into public property that people can benefit and make positive impacts on their livelihoods...■

Government of Cambodia, I would like to express my sincere thanks to the Supreme Patriarch Samdech Tep Vong and other senior monks of all hierarchical positions for their giving the attention to building up moral in our society.

I have seen that efforts are being made to solve many issues in the process of final-stage reform, take for instance the development of hierarchical position for the Buddhist monks. We have indeed taken effective measures now to get this done.

I hope that those of the monks who finished their studies at the Buddhist Teaching College should go on to the Faculty level because they could learn sciences, technology and their studies would in any way help the country in secular development world as well...■

18 March 2008 (Unofficial Translation of Selected Comments)

Phnom Penh Prek Chrey Bridge Inauguration

Welcoming People and Achievements

It is a pleasure that I have come back again to see all of our people so that together we put into official use the bridge of Prek Chrey and launch the construction of a new bridge in replacement of the old bridge at Stoeng Mean Chey in Phnom Penh city. The 105 meter concrete bridge will connect Phnom Penh on its southern exit to the national road 2 and, we also rebuild a new bridge at Stoeng Meanchey to 19.6 meter wide. We have longed for this bridge to be ready for our people traveling across the stream at the time of Prochum Ben (Buddhist traditional ceremony that people offer food to the Buddhist monks who will end their three month stay in the temple).

I wish to thank and give my appreciation to the efforts made by those who are involved and concerned in getting this project done. As the bridge of Prek Chrey and access road is done, I see two more tasks that need to be addressed. First we need to enlarge a section of the road from Stoeng Mean Chey to eleven meters wide as we still have five meters left available for this to be done. Second, electric poles and lighting has to be mounted through to the national road 2 intersection. As far as the bridge of Stoeng Mean Chey is concerned, it is indeed difficult now to travel to this part of the city so we need to enlarge the bridge's width to almost 20 meters, and the construction will take one year to finish.

Price of Land and Phnom Penh's Development

As the project completes we see that the price of land has gone high. As for building this

road and bridge, we have spent so much time because one side we have to negotiate with people to get the road straightened up a little bit to avoid tough-curve accidents, but we also have to face with the reality that it is impossible to get the soil from other places to level up the road because of the high price.

Phnom Penh has gone into its 574 year anniversary which falls on the time when Cambodia is in full peace, cooperation and development, whereas for the capital much improvement and progress have been made. In one of my audiences with HM the King, HM told of what he saw as a positive development of the Capital from the bird's eye view in HM's visit by helicopter to see the dry season rice cultivation. The lodgment construction has extended far off to Angsnuol district and more people may come out to live here because there is too much smoke in Phnom Penh.

The Coup 38 Years Ago and the Royal Palace

I was in the village of Kdol, Tunloug commune of the district of Mehmot in the province of Kompong Cham that one evening I heard over the radio the news about the coup removing Samdech Preah Norodom Sihanouk. It was 38 years ago. War were raging throughout the country. I am telling you this because I wanted you to understand that any sinful actions taken by any men would be repaid by their lives being destroyed. Our people have had to bear untold sufferings too. Whatever happened, the true victims are people and the nation and we should try to make every thing we possibly can to prevent it from recurring.

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cal parties, non-governmental organizations, arresting and handcuffing protesters, cutting off relations with ASEAN, staying out of AFTA, IMF, ADB and World Bank, etc. But this is contradictory to the law of social development. Politicians with this in mind should stop fooling around and those who are being cheated should also be alert. Remember that Cambodia is the free market economy country.

Implications of High Prices

Why does the price of rice in Cambodia go up? First we have to look at the world situation and then a reflection can be done with a focus on Cambodia. The US economic recession has been the core of the issue. It serves as the engine of growth for the world economy. Its recession affects every economies, Cambodia

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song that I recently hear they sing with the title "the heart-breaking woman whose husband holds the money." Just now the soloist Kompul Pich sung a song describing the benefit of charging no tax on land. As the campaign is approaching, politicians will come around and tell our people that if they get elected they would not levy tax on land. Our people could tell them right away that Samdech Hun Sen has not charged tax since 1979 on land. If they tell you they will build you schools, canals, etc. I am sure our people know what to say to them because they see how many schools and canals have been built by Hun Sen and the CPP teams.

This morning there was a piece of news that HE Koem Sokha, head of the Human Rights Party suggests for a

is one of them.

The US currency devalues against other strong currencies. Particularly, the exchange rate with the Cambodian Riel has been devalued from 4100 Riel to 1 US dollar to between 3,995 and 2998 Riel per 1 US dollars. Secondly, the price of oil has gone up sky high because of high cost of production and increasing demand for energy for expanding the economy. Some oil producing countries not only do not increase but also scale down their production.

The increase of energy price has impact on other basic commodity as well. Cambodia has been subsidizing in the production of electricity so that people continue to pay same prices for the electricity though the cost of production has increased...■

debate on TV among the candidates for the post of Prime Minister. I thought to myself what he suggested took the model from the United States or France where people vote for the President, and not for the political parties. In Cambodia, adopting the proportional voting system, we vote for political parties, the winning party from which will then appoint the Prime Minister.

However, in response to his challenge for the debate, I would stress that I do not see the need for me, as the incumbent Prime Minister to go into that event. My political Program has been made known and implemented to the people's knowledge and consent already. What I have said, are being implemented - take for instance the Tjaret dam...

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