



Samdech Akka Moha Sena Padei Techo Hun Sen at the Inauguration of Phase I Power Generation at Komjai Hydropower Station with HE PRC Ambassador to Cambodia (Photo: Kampuchea Thmei)

07 December 2009 (Unofficial Translation of Selected Comments)
Komjai Hydropower's Initial 10 MW Generation

I am so happy to have come to the hydro-electric power construction site here in Komjai of Kompot province after I cancelled last month my schedule to preside over the blocking the last segment of the hydro dam when we had this effect and aftermath from Ketsana typhoon. My visit here today is for one part to inspect the construction activities and for another to symbolically press a button for initial power generation of 10 mgw.

I am so happy that I am welcomed here by Deputy Prime Minister HE Keat Chhon and other leaders with whom I recalled what my theory has been – water, road, electricity and human resources. We have all been doing what we can so far to achieve the four objectives. They have become our objectives since 1987 or about 22 years now. They are still responsive to our situation – which means, we still need to resolve water for irrigation, road for transportation, electricity for over all development and human resources.

As far as Kompot province is concerned, many road projects are underway, one of which the Na-

tional Road 3 that is linking this part between Kompot city to Phnom Penh. We already put into use road and bridges from Kompot city to Tropeang Ropov and the NR 31 to the border with Vietnam. We have dam projects in Tomnob Konsat, Tomnob Mlij and some other roads too. Schools have been constructed in large number as well for human resources development. Gen Meas Sophea of the General Staff in charge of infantry force is putting thought on building a University somewhere between Takeo and Kompot provinces.

Here we are at the hydro power station which means that we are putting efforts on issue of electricity. As you can see and hear these are the four priorities that the Royal Government has given to Kompot province like elsewhere in the country. Kompot could also do

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(Unofficial Translation of Selected Comments)
A Get-Together of the Hun's Family
28 December 09

Today we, the children, grandchildren and great-grand children – more than 100 of us including in-laws - of the great father Hun Nieng, are so happy to be able to celebrate a party so that everyone in the family is properly introduced to our beloved father, grand father and great grandfather. It is indeed the first ever get-together of its kind in the history of the Hun's family that, after so many partings and separations in the past, but together with the people of Cambodia, has risen to take its presence in the Cambodian People's Party as a significant part of the process for national advancement over the past more than 30 years.

Dear members of the Hun's family, be they my nephews, nieces, and in-laws, those who have grown to be adults and those who might not yet have been able to understand what I am saying today, I have a strong hope that you all maintain and protect the honor and fidelity of the Hun's family for our nation, while refraining from inappropriately misusing influence or power and causing hardship or trouble for the people.

What has concerned me the most is relating to irregularities to be caused by anyone in the Hun's family - be it one of their sons, nephews, grandsons, in matter of those of the above. I would seek your understanding that if anyone of us could not do to help our people, you all should absolutely prevent yourselves from using power that is vested in someone in the Hun's family for purposes that might cause displeasure or trouble to our people at all.

In response to this, from our kinship as your uncle or great uncle and in my capacity as the Prime Minister, I would not tolerate any wrongdoings that are to be disguised under my power, while forgoing legal actions to be taken against you at all.

This evening get-together could be seen indeed as a serious instruction among those of us in the Hun's family and I would warn you of my decision and never to be disappointed that I, your uncle and great uncle, is going to be so decisive and would give no care to those relatives who would be jailed for wrongdoings or offenses. In Khmer we have a saying that goes "(if one) grants favors to relatives, (one would) part away from legal authority." The saying has delivered a message that is so simple and clear enough for anyone to understand what it really means.

Our beloved father, grandfather and great grandfather Hun Nieng, in his birthday anniversary of 87 years old, for whom I am talking on his behalf, would want nothing more than good actions and behaviors from us all. That is no different from what I want either. The Hun's family must strive for regularly good behaviors and treating conducts within the framework of the Hun's family.

I wish that you all – my nephews and nieces, their in-laws – memorize those points. Having learned experiences of leaders in the world, not only in Cambodia but also in other countries, misuse of power/authority and misconducts could cause future consequences. Those past and present experiences in Cambodia should be avoided by the Hun's family. We all must get ourselves ready to help our nation, as much as you can, especially at this

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something that other province could not do and that is the production of salt.

HE Suy Sem, Minister of Industry, Mines and Energy, correctly told you that this project at Komjai has indeed been our people's wish for a long time. Under the Sangkum Reastrniyum, the former Soviet Union sent in their engineers to conduct feasibility studies. But because of wars, the project could never get off the ground. Kirirom hydropower station was in operation then but was destroyed later in the time of war in 1970. Later, the Chinese company invested and put back the project at Kirirom I into operation. They are working on the project of Kirirom III.

Komjai has taken us longer time because it is a bigger project. Still it is better than we had to abandon it for 40 years because of wars. That is why I urge for debate and verbal exchange but not war because that would bring about destruction for the country.

If in those days Samdech Preah Norodom Sihanouk was not ousted from power, war would not have flared up and we do not have to come back here again for groundbreaking at all as it would be in place already. As soon as the country enjoys peace we have fully engaged again starting with international bidding and finally SinoHydro is the company that wins the bidding.

HE Wen Jiabao and I have presided over the groundbreaking from the Cabinet office in Phnom Penh, and there have been many coordination and lobbies involved. We should hail SinoHydro for its efforts in construction phase of the project though it has had to weather impacts from world financial crisis, at the time that some countries could not even assure the operation of own country's projects, not to mention of bringing capital to outside the country. None of the Chinese companies operating in Cambodia, despite those difficulties, withdraws from their commitments.

The ASEAN Summit at Hua Hin

has recorded Chinese commitment of 1.7 billion US dollars and many projects have to be prepared with this pledge. I would like to take this opportune moment to express my sincere thanks to the Government of the People's Republic of China who, through the Ambassador to Cambodia, has facilitated a good cooperation for investment in Cambodia. The Government of PRC has shown through its provision of loan, especially increasing financial support for investors, which could be considered a form of support for capital outflow to help other developing countries.

I also take this time to express my sincere thanks and appreciation to those state institutions involved because this sort of investment requires support not only from the Royal Government but also from the legislation since within 45 years, more than one government will be changed. A guarantee by the National Assembly is a must and a management of political risk needs to be assured. Aside from the executive and legislative assurance, there also has been participation and cooperation by concerned local level authorities.

There have been proposal for purchase of rock for quarry purpose. I have turned the suggestion away because firstly we need those blasted rocks for own construction, secondly, most of our rock basis is still young, and thirdly, many rock bases need to be protected for its historical position, for example some rock bases lie with mountains where they used to be hiding places of former Kings of Cambodia or tourist destinations.

So I warn officials to think no more of selling rock. In reality some provinces of ours have had to bring in construction materials such as blasted rock for construction or laterite from elsewhere, for instance Svai Rieng, these materials have to be brought in from either Prey Veng's Tchoeu Kaj or from Vietnam.

It is grateful that the SinoHydro of PRC has built a road for the sake of delivering blasted rocks from two

mountains and it would also be a plus, after the construction is over, if the company would asphalt the road since it will be staying here for another forty years. I also thank our military engineering team for their good work here, according Deputy Prime Minister HE Keat Chhon, in clearing mines and UXOs for a size of 17.5 million square meters for the cost of 13 million Riels.

Because Cambodia went through a long time war, for every construction project, we have a de-mining and UXOs removing component work to do. Our effort in de-mining is not active only in Cambodia, but we have done it in Sudan as well. According to the report by HE Prak Sokhonn, Minister attached to the Prime Minister, upon his return from the meeting in Columbia, no country objects to the proposition that Cambodia will hosts in 2011 the summit of county members of Ottawa Treaty. Cambodia has had good experiences in de-mining.

I would give some recommendations that HE Mok Maret, Minister for Environment, is jointly in charge jointly with the Ministry of Agriculture, Forestry and Fisheries, on the work to remove trees from area before the dam. As we block the dam, water will definitely flood the area that could either suffocate those trees to death and logs would flow into turbines of the station. There needs to be clearance but I must have your attention here that clearance must be in proper procedure with bidding process if necessary. I would not accept uncontrollable and unmanageable logging here.

I also urge for a smooth cooperation by local authorities and our people with concerned institutions in wiring transmission from Komjai station linking to Kompot city and on to Takeo province. It will be connected to the main gridline from Vietnam. On the other side we also link from Kompot to Preah Sihanouk province to the line that is carrying power from 200 mw clean coal energized power production with another 700 mw of power.

I may need to clarify that we have so many projects these days and if we are talking about hydropower, we have ten projects that are either under construction or study. We have the hydropower station of Komjai which is producing 193 mw, the Chinese companies is prepared for the construction four other stations in Pursat province – Stoeung Atai, 120 mw; Stoeung Ta Tai, 246 mw; Russejum Kraom, 338 mw; and Stoeng Jiey Aren, 108 mw. So from Pursat province, which I used to say that it will become a battery source for Cambodia, we will have 900 mw of power that can be provided to Phnom Penh, to Battambang province and on to Banteay Mean Chey and Siemreap because we already have our gridline there already.

Nine other hydropower stations under study are Se San Kraom I, 90 mw; Se San Kraom II, 400 mw; Se San Kraom III, 180 mw; Prek Laang I, 64 mw; Prek Laang II, 64 mw; Sre Pork Kraom III, 330 mw; Sre Pork IV, 235 mw; Stoeng Treng, 980 mw; Sambo, 260 mw. Particularly, Se San Kraom II would be under construction soon. We are in the process of price discussion and bidding for wire transmission linking from Phnom Penh to Kompong Cham, and from the border with Laos to Stoeung Treng and on to Kratie with financial sources from India. So the whole country will secure its demand of electricity with gridlines from many electric generation sources.

Because we have here the presence of communal councils and district councils, I would like to stress what HE Suy Sem has said about impact of the project on normal natural condition. Despite these controllable impacts, we have benefited from a production of 193 mw of electricity, managing flood and filling waterway at Tchou permanently in both rainy and dry seasons. It can be beneficial for both tourist and cultivation purposes. Beneficial of all perhaps is the fact that we will have water for use in the city of Kompot for free. So I hope that the price of portable water

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28 December 2009 (Unofficial Translation of Selected Comments)
Inaugurating Segments of NR 5&6, Culverts & Bridges on 56 & 68

I have a great pleasure to be able to join with all of you in officially putting into use two road segments on National Road (NR) 5 and 6 of 145 kilometers in total length that links the province of Siemreap to Poi Pet on the border with Thailand in Banteay Meanchey province. It has taken a long time to get the roads into shape. As is said by HE Tram Iv Toeuk, Minister for Public Works and Transports, the road is the last segment that makes our road link attempt around the Great Lake of Tonle Sap complete.

I was here in November 19, 2005, for the groundbreaking ceremony to build this road and at the same time I inaugurated the road segment of 368 kilometers that was financed by the Asian Development Bank, which includes the NR 5 from Kompong Chhnang to Sisophon – 268 kilometers, and the NR 6 from Skun to Prey Romeas, 100 kilometers.

History of involvement in the renovation of this road has given us bad feelings many times. Many companies came in and expressed their interest but in the end left the project

unaccomplished. I would take this moment to urge officials of the Ministry of Public Works and Transports to pay attention to this matter and take all measures necessary that expression of investment interest that cannot be verified as such should not be allowed happening again.

We also include in this kind of uncertain investment interest a project to build the second bridge at Jroy Jangva across the Tonl Sap River. While the feasibility study of the bridge under the Chinese loan of about 30 million US dollars is in progress, there has been at the same time a request for BOT investment from other sources with a credit rate of up to 58 million US dollars. That has created us a conflict of interest. As far as this road construction is concerned, I also urge that the experience must be studied with great heed as our people have been waiting to get out of hardship from road inaccessibility for a long time.

One day I presided over a ceremony in Siemreap province and officials who were to attend the

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very moment that the poor throughout the country need to be assisted. You may read my lips not only that we must not trouble our people but help them with.

I would have you all pondering on one fact that at the time when Hun Sen leaves power, and in the case that you ignore my advice today, you could become targets of attack. You may have learned from our country's history that children of former Generals under Lon Nol could never make it abroad when the regime collapsed. Vengeance took place. Soldiers of the Khmer Rouge could not verify in fact who from whom, but people who disliked them for many reasons were giving them no safety as they told the Khmer Rouge soldiers of those people's bad behaviors in their time of power.

At the same time, by contrast, some relatives of the former leaders under Lon Nol have been protected and fostered for the good they did. They have survived up to now. So I would warn you of any wrongdoings and misconducts as you have now an uncle or great uncle sitting in power. You all must understand that once the power is gone, and because of your negligence of the fact I mentioned above, all you have left would be nothing but people's anger.

I would like to take this opportunity to express my sincere thanks and appreciation to my children and their cousins for taking initiative and time to get this party organized in celebrating the birthday party for our beloved father, grandfather and great grandfather Hun Nieng at the end of 2009 and at the start of 2010...©

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no use of force to resolve conflict as before. Take for instance ASEAN will soon operate its ASEAN Free Trade Area agreement, whereby old ASEAN members will commence in 2010 and new ASEAN member states will follow suit in 2015. By 2010, both old and new groups of countries in ASEAN will enjoy free flow of goods and services, no barrier is anticipated. So our policy here is not to close the border or cut off trade and transportation between one another since they are keys for diplomatic relations. In the framework agreements under ASEAN as well as ACMECS, considering as barrier is not only physical obstacle on road but also intercommunication of laws and regulations, etc.

Therefore, policy that is contrary to promotion of integration is outdated and unjustifiable. It is in this belief that Cambodia has proposed initiatives to actively participate with all countries, including also its neighbors, in furthering integration in all sectors, be it road, water, rail and air infrastructure. As you can see now that no one is to benefit from game of creating obstacles in relation of transport and service flow at all. Cambodia therefore continues to support and promote the initiatives within the ASEAN integration and ACMECS. Symbolically, national road 68 here is not serving interest of the people of Cambodia in Siemreap and Uddar Mean Chey alone but for the whole of Cambodia as well as that of Cambodia and Thailand, particularly between people of Surin and Uddar Mean Chey and Siemreap provinces.

My vision has been to change battlefields into development areas. Win-win policy has brought about peace in which our people, no matter to what political tendency they may belong, have reunited under the Constitution and our beloved and respected HM the King. Secondly, transform border

areas with neighboring countries into border of peace, cooperation and development. We have put into operation some special economic zones along the border with Vietnam and Thailand, and effort has been made to go for one with Laos. During the visit of HE Prime Minister of Laos in Cambodia lately, our negotiation focuses on how to go about setting up a wholesale market along the border in particular, and seek for economic development options in general.

Cambodia's wish for integration does not stop at setting up cooperation on one part with Laos and on the other with Thailand, but for a triangular relations – Cambodia-Laos-Thailand, for which the Ministers of Foreign Affairs of the three countries have agreed to have a summit in Thailand in 2010 to take stock of project development. Personally, at the three-country border, I want a 27-hole golf field, where each country has nine holes and golfers do not have to ask for visa.

We already have a development site of Cambodia-Vietnam-Laos, which enjoys a great deal of support from Japan. I believe friendly-neighborliness policy would create opportunity for people. I may be ambitious but I wish that usually and constantly poor and fearful people at the border become resourceful, free from fear and want, because of good cooperation between Cambodia and its neighbors. Cambodia has done a great deal of that with Vietnam and Laos and a major part with Thailand.

No one will benefit from war and/or sealing off border. In the recent meeting at Pataya of Thailand, Deputy Prime Minister and Defense Minister of Cambodia, HE Tia Banh, and Defense Minister of Thailand HE Prawit, both agreed to promote cooperation ... I also have instructed HE Tia Banh and HE Ly Yong Phat to see through the matter of authorization for fish-

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 event had to travel from day till midnight from Samraong district to get to Kralanh district. Some of our people have also made a wordplay in this matter that the Royal Government practiced thrifty measures that it build no roads but let people walk on rice field levee. It is a shame. It would have been so ridiculous if we were to leave a town like Siemreap then be what it was without roads and infrastructure, while influx of tourists became a reality.

We could not afford to wait for approved projects from Asian Development Bank or World Bank for that matter. It is not a criticism but a reminder of what has happened involving the reconstruction of the road here. Damages caused by Ketsana typhoon on some of the roads and infrastructure in Siemreap, no feasibility study needed to be done as it might consume time and money. I authorized Governor Su Phirin's request immediately to get them rehabilitated. Bitumen is now almost done.

I would like to take this opportunity to express my sincere thanks to the Asian Development Bank (ADB) for the provision of funding, which as I have said earlier was signed in 2003. I told my people in the district of Preah Net Prah at the time I was there that they would have a road at their disposal within two years. It turned out that the consultancy service took us till October 2005 to officially conduct the groundbreaking ceremony.

However, I wish to thank ADB for helping Cambodia realize this road project, and the Ministry of Finance and Economy, who from its part made a counterpart fund of up to 16.7 million US dollars.

The amount has been recorded to have 13 million US dollars in cash, 250,000 US dollars in de-mining, two million US dollars in compensation for private property expropriation for 2881 families, and for the construction of three markets along the newly constructed road. For every project, the Royal Government of Cambodia has had to

record its counterpart fund between 20% and 30% of the whole project cost.

I also would like to thank our people who have had to bear impact from the concerned project area. Thanks also go the authorities of the provinces of Siemreap and Uddar Mean Chey. They all have made the construction of the road and electric poles mounting underway in a smooth manner. As you can see, building roads, mounting and wiring electric poles, etc. are in fact the process of national development. The road here facilitates traveling to and fro between Poi Pet and Siemreap province, be they goods or tourists, in a shorter time.

I also would like to thank HE Kiet Chhon for his enduring efforts in providing his understanding in relevant factors of the project and the Thai construction company - SPT Civil Group, Ltd, PART who tendered 58 million US dollars for the project that includes one part the construction of the road from Siemreap to Poi Pet and another for the construction of concrete box and pipe culverts along the national road 56 and 68 that links three districts together - Svai Jek, Thmor Puok and Samraong.

The groundbreaking ceremony for the construction of NR 56 would soon be held and I have suggested to the ADB country representative that consultation process and technical study be expedited so that we do not have to spend over two years for just that like what happened to this road. I compared the process to a pregnant elephant as it has taken us too long to get it delivered. We expect that this time it will not be the elephant that is pregnant.

The NR 56 and 68 meet each other at the city of Samraong of Uddar Mean Chey. NR 56 starts at Serei Sophon at the juncture of NR 5 and 6 to Svai Jek and Thmor Puok districts and then to the city of Samraong, and from there back to Kralanh district of Siemreap province on NR 6 by 68. Since culverts of all kinds - concrete boxes and pipe have been built already on NR 68, the cost of building this road has gone down. For 68 million US

dollars that we spent here, we get a 145.4 kilometer road plus bridges and culverts that are along the NR 56 and 68.

I would like to take this opportune moment to share with our people that according to the report by HE Deputy Prime Minister Keat Chhon, we have ten construction projects underway and eleven projects more to get started soon. Already under construction is the 1,173 kilometer road whereas the next one or two years another 800 kilometers will be underway. As far as this area is concerned, we already have the NR 67 constructed and was inaugurated with the presence of HE Suthep Thaugsuban, Deputy Prime Minister of the Kingdom of Thailand. It runs from Siemreap to Anlong Veng district and to Juam Sra Ngam pass.

Today we officially put into use another segment of road that has been improved - a part of NR 5 and a part of NR 6, which, at its meeting point, the NR 5 continues to Poi Pet at the border with Thailand. As far as NR 68 is concerned, the groundbreaking ceremony has been done already for the part of road that is between O Smaj and Kralanh district, which consists of three parts - 40 kilometers between Kralanh and O Jik, 35 kilometers between O Jik and Samraong and 42 kilometers between O Smaj and Uddar Mean Chey.

Having come this far I would like to have your attention that to the border with Thailand we have three main roads built - the NR 6 which links to the NR 5 to Poi Pet, the NR 67 between Siemreap to Juam Sra Ngam and NR 68 between Siemreap province and O Smaj. We have plan for internal links that the groundbreaking for NR 56 from Si Sophon to Samraong is to take place, and I would like the Ministry of Public Works and Transport take note in the map that is given to me also the roads that is locally funded and not just the roads that are externally funded.

We have locally funded roads such as the 131 kilometers from Samraong to Sa Em. We have a three-digit road of 171 kilometers from

the village of Kirivoan to Samraong city, from the NR 68 to the district of Anlong Veng for 51 kilometers, and the 80 kilometer road between Anlong Veng and Sa Em, which is under the process of asphaltting. From Sa Em to Tbeng Mean Jey and to Kompong Thom, I will preside over the groundbreaking ceremony on January 27, 2010, whereas negotiation with our Chinese friend has brought about its assistance as the road between Koh Ker and Preah Vihear, and back to Tbeng Mean Jey are already under construction.

We also are prepared to get the construction started for the road between O Kaun Damrei, Sampeo Loun and Pailin. (For detail please visit www.cnv.org.kh)

As you can see now we have ten projects and two big bridges underway. The bridges of Prek Tamak and Prek Kadam would be ready before the Khmer New Year in 2010. At the same time we are prepared to get eleven more projects started (For detail please visit www.cnv.org.kh).

As far as BOT issue is concerned, let me point out the case of a project proposed by TNG group, which has been passed to me by the Cambodia Development Council. They have proposed a construction of a bridge from the city garden of Hun Sen to Jroi Jangva (which is opposite the Royal Palace) and I have instructed to get it back and talk to the municipal of Phnom Penh. How could they suggest this bridge in the middle of the city? How could CDC approve that? The bridge would set the city into two parts and what sort of impact that has on our people from taking away their only spot for exercises in the city? Heavy trucks would also be booming along this road and bridge? Why else they do not go and build in other places available?

Now let me have your attention here that the longer road we build the heavier our burden to maintain it. Our choice to build the road has evolved from long in distance to lasting longer. However, no matter how strong it would be, the road
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to west of the country, Sam Rainsy went on to pulled out border poles used for demarcation purpose at border to east of the country. How do you define this act?

I wish that our people have a close look at this individual and officials in this party. Here is the article I got from the Nation and Sam Rainsy may want to deal with them. When those in Bangkok commented the judicial decision on Siwarak as a farce, Sam Rainsy also says it is a farce. How could you make others believe it is a coincidence? I have no reason to let Sam Rainsy go free on this issue of border pole pulling out and maybe the Thais would like him to formulate his activities there. That can be done and I should not be reprimanded for welcoming Thaksin in Cambodia. What have you done in Hua Hin? NGOs that Cambodia did not consent and Son Chai, the opposition MP were there. I told them if the MP is still there, I will not stay and my absence would fail ASEAN effort. You have left no stone untuned and pressed me to my last resolve.

Thaksin has requested twice to come to Cambodia. His first request was in January and I have asked him to accept my apology. Secondly, he just asked me for a refueling stopover on his way to Papua New Guinea, I also asked him for an understanding. Finally I could not abandon friend but to respond reasonably to his call. It is not a play of Thaksin's trick at all but it is a clear message that you have turned from being opposition to government, so it is appropriate to work on a governmental basis. When Abhisit was in Phnom Penh, Kasit Phiromya, Minister for Foreign Affairs planned to meet the opposition in Phnom Penh. I gave an urgent message then that if that was going to happen, it would be an opportunity for Hun Sen to work with Thaksin and Pheu Thai in Bangkok. They left the plan unfulfilled. But they later forget and I have to reciprocate in kind.

Thirdly, they said information that was collected was from open source. Now they talked about open

source. I know why you need information of that sort from Cambodia and the need for you to abuse Cambodian sovereignty. However, though in the company that you have ordered for information has got Thai citizen working there, you have no rights to access information for your own sake at all. Remember, the company is under the Cambodian law in the form of BCT (Build-Cooperate-Transfer) so it is not entitled to providing information to a third party at all.

You may understand that if we did not discover that in time perhaps at this moment Thaksin is dead already or now in Thai jail. Instruction with regard to Thaksin's flight schedule and itinerary was issued as urgent matters whereas, according to information obtained here and also presented by the red-shirted protestors, they have F16 fighters ready along the Thai-Cambodian border and even identified positions of the Cambodian anti aircraft system. They even listed here what sort of weapons Cambodia's anti aircraft system possesses. According to this if Thaksin were to get killed or arrested and jailed in Thailand, I would have become a man of no virtue.

Leaders in Bangkok may have to think it through. If it were not for such a conspiracy, why else it was necessary to expel Kam Rak from Cambodia and had Siwarak arrested, investigated? It is indeed open source information, but only is open for those under Cambodian authority and not for anyone to use it for evil intention at all.

They even said that we have fooled with the procedure. Maybe I should assure Chuan Leekpai and Abhisit that I know full well Cambodian legal procedure, which after a court decision there needs to have thirty days before the matter could be brought to the attention of the Court of Appeal. From the day that Siwarak was released, there are 26 more days to get there. But did they want Siwarak to stay on in jail? Could you please verify that to the Thai public and people? As far as legal issue is concerned, take the case of Sam Rainsy about border

pole out-pulling, if he were to be convicted, he has to serve two-third of his jail term. We could not repeat the procedure in 1998 for the case of Samdech Krom Preah Norodom Ranaridh, because of national reconciliation urgency and the Siwarak's case.

As far as I know there has a foreign diplomat who, I could not pull myself to understand how dangerous and deceptive they could be, suggested a version of the story that it was another person who pulled out the pole whereas Sam Rainsy stood witnessing it. So they do not care who would be jailed instead. So if you have doubt on procedure, I wish to get back to you on that. We have confirmation from Siwarak's mother that she would not go to the court of appeal or revise the case. Siwarak's mother had here hands on her chest and asked for mercy from the Prime Minister and HM the King. That is what a mother should be, and why can't Bangkok understand that? I said yesterday that if we were to do as Chuan Leekpai said, Siwarak would be in jail several years, because going to appeal court it would take another six months to one year before its hearing. He would need to be there another six months to one year for the case to be processed at the Supreme Court. So it would have taken him two years in jail which a royal pardon would not be necessary.

How could they accuse us interfering into Thai affairs? What had Chuan done in the past on Cambodia? In 1998, in Hanoi, Cambodia was to be admitted as an ASEAN member, after the formation of the Royal Government according to one of its three angles of the triangular strategy, which was to integrate Cambodia quickly into international community. Seven days later Cambodia reoccupies the Cambodian seat at the United Nations and we were heading to become ASEAN member, after Cambodian membership was frozen in 2007. Chuan was the one to create obstacle for a consensus on ground that Cambodia did not yet have the Senate, which is totally

internal affairs of Cambodia. The Chuan's government took that position because Noun Chea and other leaders of the Khmer Rouge were still at large. Until all of them returned to the national fold from Thai territory that they agreed to let us be.

This has led me to understand that whenever the Democrats in Thailand come to power, the two country's relations would be difficult. That is one way of saying it. Looking into history of the Democrats in power, it seems they never have sufficient support of their own. In 1997, the elections brought Chaovait Yongchaiyuth's New Aspiration Party to power. Demonstrations forced him to step away. As a minority party, Chuan harnessed supports from other smaller parties, some in the New Aspiration Party also included, to set up a Government. Again, after two successive terms in office, Thaksin's Thai Rak Thai majority (76%) was overthrown to be followed by the military-led Government. A year later, the elections were conducted. The People's Power Party, combined forces between those with Samak Sundavej and former Thak Rak Thai party, won the elections. Prime Minister Samak finally backed off for a legal case just because he hosted a cooking program in a TV station.

Somchai, a brother-in-law to Thaksin, was then voted in to take over the post. He had faced with demonstrators who occupied the Cabinet's office and then the two airports of the country. On December 2, the Constitutional Court issued a decision to dissolve the People's Power Party, after which Somchai said he has become once again a citizen. It was in that situation that the former PPP's forces was broken and a group led by Newin Chidchob had joined hands with the Democrats, whose ties then brings about the formation of the current Government. So ask yourself if you ever have a majority to form a government.

In the course of our discussion, we

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have agreed to exchange criminals. Cambodia has agreed and did already return two Thai criminals connected with terrorist case of Hambaly, but the Thais have not yet returned to Cambodia the two female criminals convicted of being drug related and are facing lethal court decision in Thailand. How can we do business with each other in this case? Maybe Mr Sam Rainsy could do something to help us get the two Cambodians back and I would be thankful to his action. I would not be consumed with jealousy like that way the Thai Government does with Pheu Thai at all.

Concerning Thai-Cambodian relations, in a letter sent to me by Abhisit on December 1 relating to the loan of 1.4 billion Baht, he had phrased that our relations could go back to normal like before October 23, 2009 if there has no cooperation to be rendered by Samdech. October 23, at Hua Hin, I declared appointing Thaksin my advisor. In my letter in return I said that our relations would not go back to normal as before July 15, 2008, if the registration of Preah Vihear in the world heritage list continues to be obstacle in our relations.

I wanted to say it would not happen as long as you keep aggression on us, sending in troops to Keo Sekha Kirisvarak Buddhist monastery and showing discontent through the yellow-shirt demonstrators, who in fact are the ones to put you in power. Don't fool everyone that Thaksin's appointment is the cause.

If you claim this is Thaksin's issue, why did you specify only what happened on October 23, 2009? Why don't you mention about the coup on September 19, 2006? There was or there was not a coup? If you really think you are popular among the Thai people, why are you afraid of throwing a new election and accepting whatever result that may come out?

I wish to let you know that I am resolved to sit on and wait for the new comers. I have canceled the loan to be rendered by Thai Gov-

ernment and because there has been a confirmation that the College of Kompong Choeteal (in Kompong Thom province of Cambodia) is not involving Thai Government and belongs exclusively to Princess Maha Chakri Sirindhom, I have given my consent for students to take entry test.

Well, what I have said and elaborated is for the sake of self-defense and protecting the Cambodian honor, mine also included. We dream for good relations with neighboring countries but it would be impossible if they don't want it.

Now my thanks and appreciation go to the University of Cambodia that HE Chancellor Kao Kim Huon has said in his report about accepting students into the program of Samdech Techo Hun Sen – Haruhisa Handa Scholarship, which has started since 2007. I am sure that the University of Cambodia, one among many others in Cambodia, will be playing crucial role in human resource development for the country. I would urge those who have won the scholarships every succeeding year to do your utmost in your study in response to trust and generosity of providers. I am sure providers would want nothing but your proven might in your studies, which is no different to the wish of your parents, society, and the Royal Government of Cambodia.

I am so glad that the screening process has been conducted that 500 students have been successfully selected from 10,211 contestants. My congratulation to all winners and I am so happy to see a sense of participation in our society, while contributions by our friends from near and far, private person, private or humanitarian organizations have been well noticed. For this year, of the 1,335 scholarships provided to me by various universities, in days to come, orphans from ASPECA will be given a priority to contest for it.

Providing assistance once in a while does indeed help reduce our hardship but real assistance remains in human resource development.

With knowledge everyone has key to advance which would make the whole society advance as well. We are living in knowledge economy whereas competition for development of intelligence in a society is a major issue and important for us all.

Now that we are almost 31 years away from the day when the country is liberated from the regime of Pol Pot genocide, our situation has parted quite far from starting point, when our city was so empty. I met a person who first came to Phnom Penh after the liberation and worked at the International Red Cross. He told me with tear in his eyes about those scenes that he could recall – empty streets and deadly silent ambience. Now we have a heavy traffic everywhere and everyday I see people, since I have come to live in the city of Phnom Penh again, exercising in the gardens.

As we are here to benefit from scholarship provided by a Japanese dignitary, my son, Hun Manet, and a group of young people are in Japan for a working visit. Last month I went to Japan for the Summit of the Japan-Mekong countries and in our negotiation, HE Hatoyama, Prime Minister of Japan offered to invite Hun Manet, Head of Special Anti-terrorist Department and Commander of Special Anti-terrorist Forces to visit Japan. It was a surprise as the invitation was extended in the course of formal negotiation. I responded and requested to HE Prime Minister that when my son happens to be in Japan, I wish that he would have met with his son.

I learned that his grandson refused to go to kindergarten for his father, HE Hatoyama's son, was not there with him but was in Russia to help the Russian Prime Minister HE Vladimir Putin on traffic issue. It threw me another surprise yesterday that HE Hatoyama received my son himself. I take it that Japan is paying attention to younger intellectuals whereas Dr. Haruhisa Handa is also making this a reality here in Cambodia.

The scholarship students of this sort

have been admitted since 2007. maybe it is a good idea to name each intake by something like those in the Royal School of Administration, where they name each intake after main event of the year like the Peace Generation Intake, Rectangular Strategy Intake, etc. For instance because we have our Preah Vihear temple registered in 2008 as the world heritage, maybe we could call the intake scholarship students by this name, whereas the first intake in 2007 should be called the Angkor Generation Intake...

Taking this opportune moment I wish to share news with our Buddhist monks whose leaders, Samdech Supreme Patriarchs and the monk assembly, have signed and sent to me a letter on issue of Buddhist study. I have given my instruction to HE Keat Chhon, Lok Chumteav Men Sam An, HE Min Khin and HE Im Sethi to sit down and discuss this matter.

As far as this matter is concerned, in order to realize a sustainable Buddhist studying process, I would like to suggest that we should apply the general state education system for those who pursue education through Buddhist studying system. Teachers are salaried staff and they also have per diem while supervising examination. Samdech Non Nget, Samdech Luas Lay, Samdech Nay Jreok and Samdech Am Lim Heng have informed that because of some financial reduction by the Ministry of Economy and Finance, they have gone into debt of about one billion Riels already.

Let's see that education in the Buddhist system helps us absorb students who have become monks because of family's difficulties into schooling. After finishing primary education, they have chance to go on to secondary and university levels. Now they have two universities.

So I would like that this matter be studied and rearranged that it will function with program and benefit like those of the formal state/secular schools since they learn not just to memorize Pali or sermon but also

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in Kompot will be lower than at present since the water supply station will not have to pay for pumping water anymore.

Our effort in generating electricity with hydropower aims to reduce our dependency on consumption of fossil fuel as the price of which is going higher in the world market. Increasing price of fossil fuel leads to increasing electric price in Phnom Penh year after year.

The state has been compensating for the loss of electric production for people in Phnom Penh and hopes that the electricity from hydropower stations will bring the price down too. For instance, the company will sell electricity to Cambodia at a price like 8 cent per kilowatt and from Phnom Penh sale could go up to ten cents per kilowatt. So we would have to suffer impacts such as flooding in some twenty square kilometers but we could mitigate impacts on environment that would otherwise be created by emission

Finally I would like to answer to your concern on the health condition of Samdech Akka Moha Dhamma Pothisal Chea Sim. I do not want anyone to use this situation and falsify it for their sake. Samdech Dhmma Pothisal was sick indeed from high blood pressure and later was sent to Singapore for urgent medical attention. I was with him from the time that I had the information at about 20 pm and returned home at about 01 am the following day.

Finally we had an urgent medical flight coming in from Singapore and got him off for medical attention. Now he is doing better and normal. I just want it confirmed as I do not want this to be a political twist by anyone...©

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literature, geography, biology, chemistry, mathematics and even computing. I wish that this issue be looked at as a human resource development as a whole and not an issue of training secular students on the one hand and Buddhist practi-

05 December 2009 (Unofficial Translation of Selected Comments)
Groundbreaking NR 68—Kralanh to O Smaj

I am so glad that I could make it to Uddar Mean Chey once again after my presence here on January 20, 2009 to put into use the provincial office building. Again I am here for the groundbreaking ceremony for the construction of National Road 68 from Kralanh district of Siemreap via Uddar Mean Chey and on to the border with Thailand ...

We have broken the road length into three segments, of which 40 kilometers from Kralanh to O Jik at the border between Siemreap and Uddar Mean Chey, to be implemented by the Samdech Techo Hun Sen Engineering Team for Siemreap area; 35 kilometers from O Jik to Samraong to be implemented by Road and Heavy Construction Department and Office of Public Works and Transports of Uddar Mean Chey, and the last 42 Kilometers from Samraong to O Smaj at the border between Cambodia and Thailand by the Military Engineering Team of the General Staff of the Royal Cambodia Armed Forces. Total length is 117 Kilometers.

Bridges, particularly on the part of road between Kralanh and the city of Uddar Mean Chey, have all been built by ADB operated project where 21 bridges of 687 meters, five places of pipe culverts of 108 meters, and box culverts of 17 places of 2,424 meters. The part between Uddar Mean Chey city and O Smaj, which is 42 kilometers, 18 more bridges of 270 meters, pipe culverts of 2991 meters and box culverts of 250 meters need to be built ... Considering its urgency based on political and financial aspects, people's anticipation also included, I have decided that we will get this job done.

In all we have 150 construction machinery from three construction units in order to get Hun Sen's resolve become a reality. This is how Hun Sen respond to

the call of duty asked for by people who have voted in overwhelming majority for the Cambodian People's Party.

The road will be eleven meters in width in which seven meters in the middle part will be thick asphalt and 1.5 meters on either side will be less thick. The system will allow us at the later stage when we have money to bitumen to road.

As far as its role is concerned, the road will serve as a major link in local integration. I said more than one time that if we were to not integrate locally, how can integration with the region or foreign countries be done? As you know, this part of the country used to be disconnected in many parts because of war that continued to 1998, whereby some of the former forces of Ta Mok, and some from Nhek Bun Chhay's, engaged in the conflict. Now we have peace. No more blue or red colors painted on so and so. That is the fruit of win-win policy.

For a country at peace, there is a need to do more than just political and administrative integration. All sectors have to be integrated and infrastructure is an essential factor ... With help from Thailand we have a road built from Juam Srangam to Anlong Veng and from Anlong Veng to Siemreap, which Deputy Prime Minister of Thailand HE Suthep Thaugsuban joined me in officially putting it into use on July 4, 2009.

At present we are working on some more road projects whose role will be to integrate not only inside Cambodia but also with neighboring nations. For north-west, west and north of the country, we have, for example, road 48 from Sre Ambel to Koh Kong and on to the border with Thailand. It serves our purpose of integrating locally between Koh Kong people and those in the plain area of the country but

also a close link to Vietnam at Prek Jak from Thailand for transportation purpose. Another road under construction is road 57, formerly national road 10, from Battambang to Pailin and onto the border with Thailand also serves local integration while connection to Thai's port at Trat is a closer link too.

On the National Road 6, we have the truncation 68 built and I will preside over the inauguration ceremony soon. It also serves the purpose of local integration but also connection with Surin province of Thailand, whereas the national road 67 that connects Siemreap to Anlong Veng and Juam Sragam al together. This has made Uddar Mean Chey a province of two international exits – O Smaj and Juam Sragam. These are our roads that are built for local integration but also for reaching out to Thailand.

On the part with Vietnam, aside from roads that are already in place – national road 1, national road 2, national road 7, more roads that are under construction that serve our purpose of integration with Vietnam are national road 78 from Steong Treng to Ratanakiri and onto the border with Vietnam, which is being built in two sections – one by Vietnamese and the other by Chinese loan. Another road, national road 76, will stretch from Snuol of Kratie to the city of Sen Monorom of Mondulkiiri and onto Dak Dam at the border with Vietnam. Another road which is completely new is the national road 8 ...

When we have poor infrastructure, not only that it makes life hard for us that equitable distribution of growth could not be properly administered, also we will have a burdensome difficulty in promoting investment projects ... Now is the time of regionalization and globalization as far as trade is concerned. We are not in the time of sanction or economic embargo so there is

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16 December 2009 (Unofficial Translation of Selected Comments)
Samdech Techo Hun Sen-Haruhisa Handa Scholarships for 5000

I have a great joy today to be able to join with all of you in providing Samdech Techo Hun Sen-Haruhisa Handa National Scholarships 2009 to 500 students by Dr Haruhisa Handa, Chairman and Founder of the International Foundation for Arts and Culture in Japan, through World Mate since 2007. Students who have received and continued their studies with this scholarship have now reached 1,500, with a total cost of 3.9 million US dollars, which means among our participants here would benefit from over one million US dollars for your studies in the next four years.

I would like in this opportune moment to express my deepest thanks to Dr Handa for his generosity and care for poor-resource students of Cambodia in the passing periods and I hope that he would continue to do so in the future. It is indeed a pride to have such a good friend and I would also like to inform that besides his tasks as Chairman of World Mate, Chancellor of the University of Cambodia, Dr Haruhisa Handa is also my personal advisor too. So appointing foreign citizens as my advisors is nothing bizarre to me. It should be the same for HE Thaksin's appointment as well. I also used to have HE Lee Myung-bak, currently President of Republic of South Korea, as my economic advisor too.

Please allow me to take this time, dear friends and fellow countrymen, to clarify what the Thais say about eavesdropping phone conversation. Cambodia is a rule of law country and no company is allowed to eavesdrop or record telephone conversation at all. Those who make comments in Bangkok should be pondering before speaking that there is this incident. Any call will have to be recorded by the service provider so that they could keep track of time on line that they will charge users for the service used. And this is a normal procedure that is applied by all phone companies. Look we have here the receipt of Mr Kham Rak, the first

secretary of the Thai Embassy. His phone number is 011 827070 and he had called on that day 5 times and there had a record of 42 calls to his number. Maybe phone company in your country do the same. They may collect receipts from 016 and 011 companies in Cambodia and compare them with those recorded in Bangkok. Please do not say thing that would make the problem more complicated and bigger.

Secondly, they said that the act of releasing Siwarak Chotipong, the Thai engineer, arrested and tried for his provision of information on Thaksin's flight to Bangkok, is just a farce. Siwarak and his mother have all said how on earth that a mother sets up a farce for his son to get jailed? Maybe leaders in Bangkok should reconsider their statements. Maybe they could set up a farce and send their children to jail. Have you the courage to do so? This is an affront on the both of them – mother and son, on the Royal Government of Cambodia and on HE Chaovalit Yongchaiyuth and Thaksin. If it was a farce, why don't you let out an actor, Mr Kham Rak?

To be frank, I know that Kham Rak is a good man as he had cooperated with my son, Manet, in preparing my trip to Hua Hin. But he had to take order. What I have noticed is that whatever is said on the issue of Siwarak by Bangkok, Sam Rainsy said the same. On 15 December, the Nation issued an article that Sam Rainsy described issue of spy as a farce with advance preparation for Hun Sen's political interest. I wish to send a message to members and leaders of Sam Rainsy Party that individual Sam Rainsy has truly served the interest of the Abhisit's government. Sam Rainsy never condemns Thai aggression on Preah Vihear area or at least appeal for the Abhisit's government to not abuse to the extreme our citizen, for instance killings at the border. When we are busy solving problem along our border

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could not stand the various damaging factors, in which overweight transportation is the main reason. Another reason for damage is the fact that there are not enough waterways to let flood water from one side to the other.

It was proposed for this inauguration of the road on October 2, 2009. I disagreed because by that time we had the Ketsana aftermath and flood to deal with. Kompong Thom, Siemreap, Uddar Mean Chey and Preah Vihear have all been affected because flood water that used to run over the lower level of national roads, as we have raised our road to higher level and not enough waterways have been reserved, the flood from Ketsana heavy downpour was caught on one side of the road from being flowing into the Tonle Sap lake.

Last year we have spent 136 billion Riels for roads and bridges maintenance and this year we will increase it to 150 billion Riels, which is managed by the Ministry of Public Works and Transports and the Ministry of Economy and Finance. I would once again in this instance to make an appeal to all concerned actors to take notice of the land traffic law. I have said it once when I visited the Prek Kadam bridge construction site on September 14, 2009. I have instructed to investigate and take action against those long and upgraded compartment vehicles that are not in conformity with the law, which cause high risks for commuters, and not least, damage our road because of its constant and concentrated weight.

I would order for a firm respect of the traffic law and those vehicles must be held accountable to serious measures to be implemented by relevant institutions. Those trucks with extended length and upgrading loading capacity are by no means allowed by law and they have to be verified through to the companies because road checking would only let them pass with bribes.

Even with the weight measuring equipment along the road, I still

doubt how that is going to get rid of those irregularities since they all are being operated by human beings. There is an urgent need for us to maintain our roads.

I would instruct Governors of the province who are also heads of Technical Committees at the sub-national level to take the lead in road maintenance campaign so as to get rid of challenges of road damaging and to reduce cost of maintenance that is going high year after year...◎

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ing by Thais as they could not fish and we lost our income for some days now.

We do not believe in confrontation and all conflicts should be resolved by peaceful means and friendly and constructive negotiation. Policy based on threat and/or force under whatever form is by far outdated as well as in contradiction to the interest of the two peoples. The understanding reached between HE Tia Banh and HE Prawit Wongsowan and what happens on ground at the border have been encouraging.

I would like to take this time to inform you that in military region IV, within a span of one year, we have built 322 houses and four schools in concrete at the total cost of 9.82 million US dollars as contribution from generous fellows and/or institutions. The setup is not for fighting but we also are ready to defend our territory to the best we can.

I also warn our people not to encroach upon their territory to log whereby suffering consequences of being caught and killed or jailed. We also would not allow theirs from doing the same to us but I beg you not to wither kill or maim them.

We should base our action on law and whereby possible tell them to return because people would not know where the borderline would be...◎