



08 March 2010 — Samdech Akka Moha Sena Padei Techo Hun Sen and Madame Visit Handicapped Soldiers at the Military Handicap Development Zone Taken Kohsla (Photo: Kampuchea Thmei)

08 March 2010 (Unofficial Translation of Selected Comments)
Visiting Ta Ken Koh Sla Military Handicap Development Project

My wife and I are so happy to have come on the 99th anniversary of the International Women Day to visit the Military Handicap Development Zone (MHDZ) after they have moved from the center at Kien Svay. Last year I came on April 4 which was my official birthday but because the schedule for April this year has been too tight I have decided that my visit this year should take place at this time. In fact moving the schedule a bit earlier is so practical indeed as it gives me time to help solve the needs here as I learned that there have been things that need to be addressed urgently.

I would like to take this opportune moment to express my sincere thanks to HE Kit Peng Long for the report he made just

now in relation to progress made by our soldiers. I am sure I agree with what has been said and accept that they are on the right path and will produce a long-term effect too. Back at Kien Svay centre, I have come to a big question as to how our handicapped soldiers could deal with their family issues depending solely on their supplied regime. They have many children and they have had nothing to give out to them when they are growing adult. It was with this thought that I have initiated to set up this region of military handicap development, where each family of handicapped soldier would receive a house and a 1.5 hectare of homestead.

As is said in his report, Gen. Kit Peng Long clarifies that in 23 months, which is still a short time for our heavily handicapped soldiers, progress has been visible, though some may depend on personal effort and handicap condition as well. We have given out a priority for
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15 March 2010 (Unofficial Translation of Selected Comments)
Graduation and Diploma Presentation for PIU

My wife and I are so happy today to have joined with all of our graduates of Bachelors and Masters of the Phnom Penh International University (PIU) and I would like to thank the rector for the report on UPI progress in making a contribution for human resource development. I also would like to take this opportune moment to express my sincere appreciation for students who have graduated and would like to share the joy and pride with their families.

I hope that our graduates will make use of the knowledge for a good course and first of all for their family. As long as a good course is being done in the family, there will be positive repercussion to the society. It is in this belief that each and everyone's action, as well as each and every family's, will provide the best interest for the whole nation, whereas the newly graduates are the new human resources which will contribute further national constructions.

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18 March 2010 (Unofficial Translation of Selected Comments)
Inaugurating NR 78 Segment from Baan Lung to O Yadao

It is indeed a great pleasure that I have the chance to participate with our people here in celebrating the inauguration of the national road 78, 70 kilometers from Baan Lung city to O Yadao at the border with Vietnam, with the presence of the Deputy Prime Minister HE Truong Vinh Trong of Vietnam, after our presence here together in 2007 to celebrate the groundbreaking event. This road serves as the most important access, as is expressed by the Minister of Transports and Public Works, HE Tram Iv Toeuk and His Excellency the Deputy Prime Minister of Vietnam, between Cambodia and Vietnam for the two countries' bilateral relations. And my stress is that it serves a unique role in Cambodian integration.

has yet become a developed nation and is a country that is still asking for ODA and financial assistance from donors, but giving importance on the significance and aspect that the road is in fact connecting the two countries – Cambodia and Vietnam, the Government of Vietnam has decided to provide a credit of almost 26 million US dollars for the construction of the road.

Let me go back to when and how this road is happening. In 1999, I have proposed an initiative to create what is called triangular development region for Cambodia, Vietnam and Laos. I got a strong backing from HE Pham Van Khai, then Prime Minister of Vietnam and the former Prime Minister of Laos, HE Sisovath Keobunphan. The first meeting was held in Laos and the second meeting was in Vietnam. Our
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I would like to express my sincere thanks and appreciation to the Government of the Socialist Republic of Vietnam, though it

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those heavily handicapped soldiers to live close to hospital and for those who have minor handicap condition have to get their chance by ballots. I am so glad to hear that some of the produces do not have to travel to the market but traders have come in and bought them from here. I also thank those merchants for coming to fetch these produces to the market.

It is also a good thing to see that the Administration for Forest and Fisheries have made great efforts in providing trees and fish breeding techniques to our handicapped soldiers' families. We have a major problem here for water as this is a place not for rice cultivation but for legume and fruit tree cultivation.

I would take a moment to talk about the case of soldier Chan Aun. It was about 12 years now that the fake Chan Aun died and the real one survives. Because of difficult life the real Chan Aun decided to sell his regime logbook to someone but the fake one died not long ago and now the real Chan Aun has taken back his logbook to claim his regime at the Ministry of Social and Veteran Affairs. I met Chan Aun at one of my visits to Sihanoukville province.

Having learned that I ordered for the reinstatement of his regime with the Ministry of Social and Veteran Affairs and Chan Aun has then been admitted into this program and sent to living here. I am sure there are more cases like that of Chan Aun and I would urge those who have bought regime logbooks from the handicapped soldiers to return them so they could make use of them to claim for their regimes.

As you see that these are issues that have been left from the war in 1970s as if it were not for that war, there would not be such

social problems to be resolved today. That is why I have mentioned and I will go on mentioning that peace in this country is so precious that no war would allow happening again at all cost.

Here is a handicap soldier development zone whereby all handicapped soldiers are being mobilized by the Ministry of National Defense. We also have more of these at Kulen mountain range in Siemriep province, where each project consists also land concession for handicapped and deceased soldiers' families.

Getting a project of this sort done is costly and would require a lot of thoughtful management and resources so as to achieve utmost aim that each family would have a better and appropriate living condition and will be able to pass some of their properties on their children.

Now that I have ordered the agro-machinery team of my bodyguard unit, which used to help till the land here, to go help at new villages created at Preah Vihear province. I have decided to provide two major tractors of John Deer type for the Brigade 31, which is to eventually take the unit's place in helping our people here.

I would also ask Gen. Kit Peng Long to go contact with the company that produces sugar to figure out if our people here could opt for growing sugarcanes to supply to the factory. Oknha Ly Yong Phat has got a project to start a sugar factory in Kompong Speu and I think if we could get our people to start growing them prior to the factory's operation, it would be an ideal situation.

I learned also that the factory has had contacts with those sugarcane farmers in Koh

Kong's Sre Ambel, Kompot and the Sihanoukville provinces as well.

I think they should start doing it right away as rain will be coming soon. As far as the need for water is concerned, I think it is rather a major issue here because with or without rain, we have to have water. I have a memory that in 1994-95, we had a severe drought whereby it was hard to find water even for animals in some provinces. It seemed that advance rain does not seem to come any time now so I would urge well drilling team to come back again and check to see why there are no water available for some wells. It would be a good think to see if the drilling did not reach to the water deposit underground.

Our solders at Koh Wai have had so much difficulty with regard to water availability. No one would say that we could drill a well at Koh Wai at all and what they did was to gather rainwater and store it in tanks for use in the dry season. However, upon my wife visit, she initiated for well drilling and it has up to now proved that there is continuing water availability from wells.

As for this place, for immediate need, as we also have here a hospital, school and pagoda, I would order for increasing hour in pumping water to meet their demands. I have also a suggestion here that more water supplying systems need to be in place and also reservation systems. I would suggest the Ministry of Industry, Mines and Energy to take care of supplying systems, and as for the tank and reservation systems I would urge the engineering team of the Ministry of National Defense to look into it.

Taking this opportune moment I would like to make some comments on what has been

said by the Secretary General of ASEAN concerning Cambodia's exercise of live ammunition firing. Cambodia never conducted any acts of instigation on any country but why has this General Secretary of ASEAN been so irritated about?

The Prime Minister and Deputy Prime Minister of Thailand did not react to this but why the General Secretary of ASEAN did and expressed a feeling that the region is not secure because Cambodia test fires its BM 21 rockets. Last year Thai conducted military exercise and its rockets landed on to Cambodian territory more than one time. Though they sent me a letter requesting my forgiveness for that incident I brought to their attention and warned them not to have further wrong-target firing into Cambodian territory anymore. What if Cambodia neglected and fired on accidental targets in Thai territory?

Why else the ASEAN Secretary General, who formerly was also Foreign Minister of Thailand, bothers about Cambodian test-firing its rockets and deemed it as an act to destabilize the region, while some countries are in the state of infighting and even some street bomb explosions. Have not they a cause of concern for that matter? I do not have intention to bring issue on anyone but I could not let such a remark goes unverified ...

HE Hor Nam Hong, Deputy Prime Minister and Minister for Foreign Affairs and International Cooperation has had a letter written and sent already but as a head of Government of one of the ASEAN member nations, I would add that for making such a comment, he is not fit for the job that requires the person to be neutral ...◎

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It is true that before attaining full quality one must have to achieve a certain level of quantity to answer to the demand and for a more sophisticated globalization it is important to search for quality in education. I also would like to give my appreciation to PIU for making efforts since 2006 from stage to stage until it has come to this much progress. In front of us there is this building of eight floors that consist of 32 classrooms, with another building of 15 floors with 247 classrooms is growing up.

As for this matter I would like to make a small note here that Phnom Penh is now making its vertical extension for many skyscraper buildings. As far as the report I have here, there are about 190 buildings of more than ten and lower than twenty floors, and nine buildings of more than twenty floors in Phnom Penh. It is to make us all see that construction has played a significant and remarkable role in building our nation. As we all know by the time our country was plunged into war in 1970s, the tallest building we had at the time was ten-floor high.

This has proven a constructive contribution from the part of private sector to the field of education. I may take three examples where universities were built without using the state budget – the University in Svay Rieng province built by the late HE Hok Lundy, the University at the province of Banteay Meanjei, that was built by Deputy Prime Minister HE Ke Kim Yan and the University at Battambang province built by Deputy Prime Minister Sar Kheng. And many more have been built without financial help from the state.

It has been quite a long time in

the past that school is being built by the local community whereas the state will provide teaching staff. I used to compare what was done in the past to what is being done now. I also had two songs composed. One is about life and fate of rice farmers and another about thinking of a rice field. My father used to be helping Mr Kuy Po (an MP) in searching for votes but when he got elected, he never appeared when we needed him most. Our rice field was devastated either by drought or flood, but we could call for no one's help, after we gave him our votes.

Based on this practical experience, one of my conditions in appointing a government official has been how much he does to help the people. It is my measuring tool. I would not accept the one with the tie on sitting in his bureau because they would not understand the people's hardships. So the difference now for our people in the rural area is that where formerly the state provided teaching staff and their salary, while the community had to provide school building, now the state provides them all, school buildings, teaching staff and their salary, all in one.

The other day I was at the Royal Phnom Penh University (RPPU) and I have noted that the number of fee-paying students is much bigger than those on state scholarships. Again this has proven that the whole society is making non-formal investment in education. Therefore I would wish at this moment that those students who are pursuing their studies to make further efforts to achieve expected result of higher quality education. I would warn you that a diploma is not what we all need. Sitting right before each other, what you have to say makes everyone judge your

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slander the meaning of this effort.

On another issue I want to make some comments on issue of a fake map and a fake Ruom Rith (pen name of an unidentified person). There has been explanation and clarification by concerned officials already on issue of the so called map (that alleged territorial losses) that has been proclaimed by some politicians, and in order to defend its reputation the Royal Government has had to file a legal suit on concerned parties for falsifying a public document.

The issue of a fake Ruom Rith, my children has tried to tape his/her voice from a radio that is new and recently established in the United States of America. I may make a remark here that the true "Ruom Rith" never speaks but this one does. I have waited for any reaction from Samdech Ov, the great King Father on this matter if he knows about this or not. I withhold all my comments. Now Samdech Ov has denied it and made it clear that that Ruom Rith is a fake. The local Reasmeay Kampuchea newspaper also had an article that Samdech Ov apparently denied presence of Ruom Rith. So what are we going to do when we have both a falsified or fake map and a fake personality?

The grand father (true) Ruom Rith has silenced since April 4, 2005, when I strongly reacted from Kompong Cham. This fake Ruom Rith has appeared on a radio broadcast in the United States of America ... If there were to have a confirmation that the Ruom Rith was a fake one, what can we infer about a radio station that is broadcasting from the country that values freedom? More so, the fake Ruom Rith has been making comments and support-

ing a fake (Cambodian) map, too.

This is best for me since the Constitution of the Kingdom of Cambodia clearly defines our national map at a scale of 1/100,000 and printed by the Indochina Geography Group to be the one, which has been used with Laos and Vietnam. Where else could I get a different map from? Moreover, it is the copy that has been placed by Samdech Preah Norodom Sihanouk, then head of state, in 1964 at the United Nations. We based on this map to sort out differences with Vietnam and Laos on border issues, whereas on the western border we depend on map that is attached with the French-Siamese 1904-1907 convention and treaty, and particularly for Preah Vihear area we depend on the map and annexes that are attached to the decision of the International Court of Justice in the Hague.

While the whole country is busy sorting out border issue on the western front, is it constructive to create issue on the eastern border area? As for me I would call that an act of treason ...

This year we are working on demarcation on a 500 kilometer length within the 1270 kilometers starting from Mom Bei point where the border of Cambodia, Laos and Vietnam meets. During the visit of the Prime Minister of Laos to Cambodia, we have come to the agreement on some remaining issues where only about 12% of the matter that needs to be worked out. The Royal Government has no right whatsoever to give any part of its territory to any country. If anyone said so I may say s/he should be tantamount to committing treacherous act ... ©

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knowledge and comprehension. This is even so when diplomacy is to be given as example for that matter.

Sometimes a diplomat started by saying a few things here and there. By doing that they also measure if their dialogue partners understand or have a sense of what they are talking about or not. Like the other day there was this Foreign Minister and envoy of the President of Sudan came to see me. The President has written me a letter describing the case that as incumbent President he has an arrest warrant issued by international criminal court, which is in fact a move to destroy peace process in that country.

I have taken the internal issue of Sudan as that of Cambodia before we attained full peace. There is this quadruple party conflict in Sudan – the Khar-toum Government, the Front on the South (of Sudan), the Front on the East (of Sudan) and the Darfur regional movement. Cambodia was before divided into four parties and I was telling a bit about our win-win policy and strategy. They tested us if we know anything about Sudan and its problem there. How could we not know when we sent our troops? We have studied the nature of conflict there before we sent our troops. Well that is what I mean that our competency is to be judged by what we actually do and not by our diploma alone.

I would like to take this opportune moment to advise that it seems the temperature for this year is higher and there had been fires in some places in Phnom Penh and places like the market in Kompong Thom province as well. I would therefore warn our authority and people everywhere to beware of fire. It may have been the climate change effect that the tem-

perature has been increasingly high. Some countries where there used to be no snow now have snow. As the flood has been more frequent in some countries, others are being affected by drought.

I would urge that everyone must be on high alert especially every family must have their precautionary and preventive measures to go free from such fire disaster. I also urge the authorities of all levels to make more efforts in preventing and dealing with eventual fire disasters.

But first and foremost, each person must be careful with incense burning, electric wiring and their cigarette butts. These are advised of good intentions and hopefully our people will take them as reminders to their actions in this state of high temperature hazard.

I would like to also take this opportune moment to give a few remarks on the news that has been going on for about once a month now about Thaksin's presence in Cambodia. In my visit to the border in February there was this news that Thaksin was also there with me and last Saturday there has been this news again that Thaksin has arrived in Cambodia's Siemreap province. HE Thaksin has denied this.

I would make it clear that Cambodia has nothing to hide and if Thaksin was in Cambodia, we would have it on TV. So they should not be worried about Thaksin's presence here in Cambodia. If he were to be here we would have him on TV right away.

I used to tell the Thai leaders that their intelligence service is not working well and if I were the Thai leader I would have dismissed them for the mistakes they would have committed –

1) their information would lead to wrong decision by leaders, and 2) such a mistake would harm bilateral relations between our two nations. Thaksin was not in Cambodia but they kept saying he was here. So I invited him in and had it on TV right away. So this is what I am saying Thaksin is not in Cambodia.

Secondly, yesterday protestors in Bangkok issued an ultimatum for the Government of Thailand to dissolve the House of Representatives and according to the news we have here by 9:00 am today they will rally at the infantry regiment 11.

Well, what I wanted to say here is that this is the Thai internal issue and I would appeal to the Cambodian armed forces stationing along the Thai-Cambodian border to maintain good relations with the Thai army and authorities. And, if it is not necessary, no troop mobilization should be ordered at this time so as to avoid creating any misunderstanding from the Thai part.

Cambodia affirms that no Thai internal situation would be exploited for the sake of launching actions along the Thai-Cambodian border at all. The Cambodian troops are ordered to refrain from actions that might cause instability between the two countries. It is not a good method that we instigate border issue at the time when our neighbors are engaging in internal difficulties. This matter must be given utmost attention.

Thirdly, I would like to appeal to the Cambodian citizens who are actually working in Thailand, legal or illegal for that matter, to refrain from participating in any protests in Thailand. Those who have relatives going and working in Thailand, if they could, please contact them and warn them not to join in any protest or they would

turn to be victim for exercising illegal rights on a foreign land.

I brought this matter up because there has been this information that foreigners working in Thailand have also participated in the demonstration. What I wanted to make clear is if they infer to Khmer, Myanmar or Lao citizens.

Finally, in this specific circumstance, I would urge trade activities to go on as usual but for traveling to and from Bangkok. If our citizens could postpone or reschedule it to another date, they may do so after calm and normalcy return to the city.

Today is also a remarkable day that we are also approaching the day that 40 years ago war broke out in Cambodia ...

We now have larger roads and we are conducting a study to asphalt provincial and rural roads because leaving them in such a state is more difficult and costly to maintain. So 40 years ago war broke out, and now, development has started. Taking this opportunity I would like to bring you good news as it would be less than a month that we will celebrate the Khmer New Year on April 14 through to 16. We have two new presents for our people this year – first, the bridges of Prek Kadam will allow for use on April 10 and inauguration ceremony will be followed at a suitable date.

Secondly, for those to travel across the Mekong at Prek Tamak, though the bridge has yet to finish the construction, but for the Khmer New Year Celebration, the bridge would be open for five days, after which it is closed again so that the finishing touch of the bridge will resume to a completion by May or June. I would seek our people acceptance that the two bridges are the New Year presents for our people ...◎

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vision has been clear that until the road 78 is built, Cambodia could not connect itself to the triangular development zone. This has prompted us to seek for financial assistance for cooperation in the said region.

We have this forum specially set up for Prime Ministers of the three countries Cambodia, Vietnam and Laos with Prime Minister of Japan. Since 2004, Japan has become the main support for the initiative. This road segment is indeed important that I have to overcome all sorts of difficulties to get it constructed because as long as Cambodia is not internally integrated, Cambodia could not fully benefit from regional integration. After we have achieved peace and launched fully political internal integration of the former Khmer Rouge forces in some areas in 1996, I have put out my vision that political and administrative integrations are not adequate but there is a need for an all-out integration.

Infrastructure for communication and transports is a necessity as the second, third and fourth terms Royal Government have scored great success in connecting and integrating internally and with friendly nations. In 1988, if I may recall, I came to celebrate the 7 January ninth anniversary here. In the whole city there had been only one concrete building, which has been proposed now to be the library of Hun Sen. 28 years later, as is said by many it is hard to recognize the city as it has developed from its simplicity where there are now more asphalted roads around and the O Jum Hydropower Plant.

I also would like to express my sincere thanks to HE Bou Thang, member of the permanent committee of the Central Committee of the Cambodian People's Party, who, when he

was Deputy Prime Minister and Minister for National Defense, led the north-east development team and is still leading it now. His vision at the time has brought about a master plan in which there are main roads in the province of Ratanakiri, which I might say in the whole nation, Ratanakiri province has reserved larger space for roads. And if I am not mistaken I have noticed that the province of Uddar Meanjei is also following this track. I would say that this road we inaugurated today is in fact like his child.

I have persuaded Vietnam to the point that HE Pham Van Khai had to admit to my argument that there would not be any connectivity if this road were not to be constructed. It used to take us between one and two days to go from here to Vietnam and vice versa. Only if you help me out with that then our two nations are well connected here. Cambodia may need to send its produce to the port at Qui Nhon and you also have difficulty to access Stoeung Treng of Cambodia too.

To make a long story short, the vision to build this road started in 1990. As we are now in 2010, it has taken us twenty years to get it fulfilled. We already fulfilled a road line which is connected from Phnom Penh to Kompong Cham, to Kratie, to Stoeung Treng and on to the border with Laos via a bridge over the Sekong River. As for the NR 78, a juncture of NR 7 at O Pong Moan of Stroung Treng to the border with Vietnam at O Yadao, today we have a part of 70 kilometers inaugurated between Baan Lung and O Yadao, while 123 kilometers between Baan Lung city to O Pong Moan is under construction, starting in November 2009. I am sure by 2012, the road will complete.

I would say such integration

characterizes local and regional integration all together within the framework of Greater Mekong Sub-region and especially the triangular development zone—Cambodia, Vietnam and Laos. I used to compare this part of our country to the tail of a dragon, whereas its head lies down at Sihanoukville and its body lies in the central plain of the country. With this road achievement we have the dragon's head and tail well connected together now. We also have a road junction 76 that links Sen Monorom of Mondulakiri province to the NR 7 too. Because of its setup, where there are larger roads, etc, I would say Ratanakiri is on track to make its miracle that I have foreseen it to be the fourth economic pole for the country after 2015.

As you know we already have three major economic poles—Phnom Penh, Sihanoukville and Siemrap provinces. I would invite diplomats from friendly countries who are present here—Singapore, Myanmar, Cuba and others—to see with your eyes that this part of Cambodia is a fertile area, where there are also various mine deposits such as bauxite and iron, and hydropower potential as one of Cambodia's battery. Will it not be a potentially fourth economic pole of Cambodia? Cambodia is now importing electricity from Laos and Vietnam for use. But Cambodia has the potential to produce for local use and sell a part of it to Vietnam.

I would like to take this opportunity moment to express my sincere thanks to the Government and people of Vietnam for providing Cambodia a chance to realize this road which is in fact facilitating its effort to resolve issues relating to production and supply for this remote province. It is a potential province but a remote and difficult one too.

HE Tram Iv Toeuk, Minister for Transports and Public Works has now registered into the plan for 2011 budget, the asphalted of the road from Baan Lung to the Hydropower station of O Jum. The best way to equally distribute the economic benefit is to build up infrastructure, which should be in the purpose of narrowing down the gap between the rural and urban, alleviating poverty, and therefore reducing people's difficulties.

Because we have a meeting going on between Foreign Ministers of Cambodia, Vietnam and Laos, and Ratanakiri is playing its role as a host, I would say a few more things about triangular development zone. Vietnam has planned for five of its provinces to be part of the triangular development zone, whereas Laos would have four of its provinces. Cambodia also has proposed four of its provinces Stoeung Treng, Kratie, Ratanakiri and Mondulakiri. So the NR 78 plays a strategic role not only for the development on the part of Cambodia but also for other neighboring nations. I would also suggest that we are continuing the NR 76, which has come from Snoul to Dak Dam but also from Mondulakiri to Ratanakiri too.

In 2009, we have asphalted some three roads of 365 kilometers, are asphalted some 12 roads of 1,213 kilometers and for the period between 2010 and 2011, a study is being conducted for another 779 kilometers. We soon will have the NR 8 connected to Vietnam as well. I would like to thank HE Kep Chuktema, governor of Phnom Penh for building Ratanakiri province a theatre hall which is now being used as a venue for ministerial meeting on triangular development project.

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It would not be difficult to increase two-way trade to a size of two billion US dollars in 2010 as is said by HE Truong Tan Trong. As I have noticed the current momentum of trade we have gone beyond that point already. More than that border trade has never gone into book-keeping for example a lot of rice sold from Cambodia to Vietnam and fertilizer, cement, steel, etc. are being sold from Vietnam to Cambodia. That is why I am sure that trade between our two countries is fact more than two billion US dollars.

On March 18, 1970 or forty years ago today, the war broke out in Cambodia after the Lon Nol group ousted Samdech Sihanouk, the legitimate head of state, from power. About two million tons of bombs had been dropped in Cambodia under the pretext of fighting Vietnam from another prong. The war spilled out from Vietnam and bombardments started in 1969. There had also been war in Laos. However, the whole Indochina was at war on March 18, 1970, the time when Cambodia evolved from an island of peace into war and destruction zone. There had been many casualties. It should also be noted as a starting point for Cambodia to be fallen into genocide, after the victory in 1975 was plundered from Samdech Preah Norodom Sihanouk.

It is a part of history that needs to be remembered. The fact that I have chosen this date as the day for the inauguration of the roads is not by chance. My intention has been to show to the world and local public opinions of the fact that the situations in Cambodia forty years ago and today are totally different development.

I also wanted to send a message to the Cambodian and international communities that it was

forty years ago today that war broke out and brought about devastation for Cambodia, and a starting point for Cambodia to move into genocide in between 1975 and 1979.

However, in the last forty years, Cambodia has stood firm and survived, while rising from ashes and with bare hands, we liberated and defended this country with our lives. We have gradually changed the country to a completely new face, from a not less-than two divided rules to a unified country that has not been recorded in the country's contemporary history.

Cambodia used to be divided and was under so many different rulers. Until 1998, with the participatory approach by our people in implementing my win-win policy, Cambodia has unified and opportunity for us to build and develop our nation is within our reach. We have also had a chance to integrate internal politics and administrations, while setting out integration of communication and other sectors.

Today is also the fortieth anniversary that at the age of 18 years old I asked myself where to go and what to do. It was indeed the time that I decided to go into politics. Forty years now, Hun Sen has proven to be Prime Minister for 25 years and 31 years' work in Government. It has also proven that those who betrayed and destroyed the country on our people's blood could not survive any longer, take for instance, the coup leader Lon Nol.

In the here and now, Samdech Preah Norodom Sihanouk and Samdech Mae (Monineath Sihanouk), though retired they have been, are still with us in their greatest titles as the Heroic King Father and the Heroic Queen Mother of the Khmer nation. Those who performed

ill-actions died and those who have performed merit for the country survive.

His Majesty King Norodom Sihanoni is now on the throne of the Kingdom of Cambodia. Only a few days ago, His Majesty has been presented with the title of member of the French Republic Academy and it is the first King in the world has ever had such honor to become a member of this academy. The fact that the Cambodian monarchy revives after 23 years is quite unique. The Cambodian monarchy had been destroyed in 1970 and has revived in 1993. We had spent twenty three years in order to unite our territory, putting a complete end to the political and military organization of Pol Pot.

Having said so, please allow me, on behalf of the Royal Government and people of Cambodia, to express my heartfelt thanks for the voluntary army of the Government and people of Vietnam for offering help in liberating the people of Cambodia from the Pol Pot genocide. It was true that Cambodia was building a troop of its own then but the size of army we had at that time could not shoulder the task of liberating the country in a short time at all. It was in that urgent mission that we requested for the presence of the Vietnamese voluntary armed forces to help us end the genocidal rule to save our people the soonest we could. That was not a strange thing to do.

In 1970s the US army and the South Vietnamese troops invaded Cambodia in absence of such a necessity to be there. At the request of the National United Front of Kampuchea, Vietnam sent its forces in to help us deal with foreign invaders at the time. That is why history of the three Indochinese

countries – Cambodia, Vietnam and Laos – has been the closest ones and they have fought shoulder to shoulder against foreign invasions and also against the regime of genocide of Pol Pot. I would like to also inform our people here that the trial of Duch, former Head of Khmer Rouge's Tuol Sleng prison, has completed and waited for the final court's decision only. The case 0001 has come to a close and the new case of 0002 will proceed according to the rule of court.

If there were no Pol Pot and his genocide regime, would there be necessary a struggle by HE Bou Thang, Hun Sen, Chea Sim, Heng Samrin, Say Phou Thang, and other leaders? It would not be so and there would not be a need for requesting help from Vietnam and its forces. But because there was this genocide it required for a struggle to liberate our territory from Pol Pot, while Vietnam, because it helped Cambodia had had to suffer economic embargo too. Cambodia needs to be liberated while Vietnam needs to develop its country. I had made repeated request for Vietnam to help Cambodia but my requests were all turned down. September 27, 1977, if one goes back and looks at it, one will see that Vietnam does not have intention to come into our help.

In sum, if there not to be March 18, 1970, there would not be 17 April, 1975 (Phnom Penh fell to Khmer Rouge's Pol Pot) and more so the January 7. So this is how all events are inter-related. Millions of tons of bombs fell on whose heads in those days. Had they then thought of human rights in our country?

To make a simple statement, if these events did not happen in such a way I would not have lost one of my eyes and injured five times at all ...◎

24 February 2010 (Unofficial Translation of Selected Comments)
Diploma Presentation at the RUPP

... HE Im Sethi, Minister of Education, Youth and Sports has just mentioned that Cambodia has 1,798 kindergartens, 6,565 primary schools, 1,112 junior secondary schools, 349 senior secondary schools and 77 state and private universities throughout the whole country. We have over three million students, which makes our country one out of every four citizens is in school...

Some people have come to advise us on many things and some of them have had no knowledge of what past we had. The worst time for Cambodia was in 1979 and before we have come this far, which according to a report by the Governor of Phnom Penh to me we have now more than 182 buildings that are higher than ten floors, a lot of unquestionable difficulties have been removed or overcome in our path. From a country that has never had a ten floor building, we now have up to 182 buildings. Don't even think they are falling from the sky.

This year our economy has recovered a bit after it has suffered the impact from international financial crisis and economic downturn. Cambodia surely has got down to the bed and has now taken its upturn. According to the latest statistics, there has been an increase of purchase of motorcycles and autos. In 2007-8 there was this saying that goes "selling land to buy steel (cars)" and at this juncture our people order their purchase because they have harvested good crops ...

... This afternoon there will be a meeting between the armed forces and state and private institutions. There will be 34 battalions of border police, and 17 of them along the Cambodian-Thai border. Because there has been a problem on map

used by the military and the police, at the recent Cabinet meeting we have come to an agreement that we need to integrate the two maps together. On a military map, usually there are signs for military region, division, brigade, regiment, battalion, companies, etc. There is also a sign for those at the battle front, too.

On February 27, as is reported in the Cambodia Daily, I will visit the armed forces in the military region V and other units like the armored division and artillery units and a part of the armed forces in the military region III will also be present. Over the past few days since there has not been remark by some people on me I also do not have to pick on him. When I was at Preah Vihear, they attacked me, so I have no choice but reciprocate in kind. My reciprocation is not the sort to be pronounced by a homo but a military commander.

My visit to the armed forces in my capacity as the Prime Minister is a normal procedure. My visit will be to see how life is like for my armed forces and I would instruct HE Jia Sophara that those houses that have been built for the armed forces be allowed for our forces to settle in. Our students who would like to visit Mom Bei at the three countries' border – Cambodia, Laos and Thailand, or to Preah Vihear, may do so. You do not have to go for a hotel or a guest-house but rent the house from families of our soldiers. They are so nice and natural as they are built along the Dang Rek mountain rein.

At Mom Bei, our armed forces have a good cooperation with Lao armed forces. I am grateful for that. I did send some refreshments and foodstuffs to

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urge the local authority to take serious actions on these parlors along with full implementation of the campaign against trafficking of women and children, while the real chieftains conducting this business need to be singled out, no matter whose interventions would there be.

I understand the difficulty of our police and military police forces through to the court because of interventions. However I would clarify today that no matter how high the intervention may come from, on this issue I will not let them get off with it. They will have to be reprimanded. I have had the complains from our court officials and police forces and I would appeal to all leaders, no matter what political parties they maybe to uphold law enforcement so as to preserve our society and national values.

I also would take this moment to express my sincere thank for HE the Ambassador of the United States of America who has done a great deal to help us on this matter, especially relating to those from the US who have conducted crimes here.

The US always demand Cambodia to send the convicted for trial in the US, where their punishment would be imprisonment of up to 15 or 20 years, while in Cambodia the charge would be five years. I never hesitate to instruct the Ministry of Interior to send those criminals to serve trials and sentences abroad at all. It was done with braveness.

As head of the executive, I am so sorry that some VIPs have intervened in judicial institutions and with legal enforcement officers. I would order all provinces with hotels and parlors take drastic measures to look into issue of trafficking of women and children along with

the issue of drug trafficking. I would add that if because of intervention some commanders of metropolitan police and military police dare not perform their duties, they may have to resign. Also this matter must be verified and all governor of Khan (district) in Phnom Penh, etc. must be ascertained if they have no knowledge of that or they ignore.

We have already taken measure to close down what was before slot machines, lottery, and cock fight. I would urge teachers or anyone who has the knowledge of such activities to send information to the prime Minister's cabinet or directly to my wife if you can. Last time she called the governor of Jamkar Mon and later they rounded those culprits up. That is why when this report by Minister Ung Kuntha Phavi about youngsters evading schools, we should probe further as to where do they go.

I wish to see that 2010 will become the campaign to put an end to brothels and illegal gambling. The report has mentioned about discrimination, violence and trafficking against/of women, and I would add that this should not be seen only as a suffering of the women alone, but of the whole family and community as it will bear tragic consequences on our society and national economics too. I think we should do at all cost.

We have no necessity for tolerating with any intervention at all as what they are doing are in fact destroying the future of women and youth through numerous ways. We have to take serious actions to monitor what we have started in accordance with the recommendation at the meeting of the National Council for Women last February ...©

04 March 2010 (Unofficial Translation of Selected Comments)
Celebrating International Women's Day

I would like to take this opportune moment to express my high evaluation on the efforts made by the Ministry of Women Affairs for choosing this topic of “together promoting the women and youth potential for national development” to discuss as they have inter-related impact on one another and also is a challenge of the time. I wish to make some comments on this topic and it should serve as my appeal to the whole society to pay heed to the topic.

However, before I go into this topic, please allow me to inform all of you about the success that Cambodia test-fired live ammo of BM 21 rockets at between 8:00 and 8:30 this morning. In half an hour we have test-launched 15 rockets with no technical problems and/or accidents from the firing. Earlier I have allowed for the launch of only ten rockets at a distance of 17.5 kilometers. But at a later stage I agreed to the launch of 15 rockets for three distances – 20 km, 30 km and 40 km. May I make it clear here that the test-launch is not a show of military muscle of any kind but a normal military preparation for national defense. In the whole wide world there is no country that does not have weapons yet. I would like to take this opportune moment to express my sincere thanks for the Ministry of National Defense, the Chief of General Staff of the Royal Cambodian Armed Forces and officials and soldiers for their efforts in this training.

I also would like to take this opportunity to express my sincere thanks for the authority of Kompong Chhnang province and the people of the area for their cooperation and acceptance to have their business in the area interrupted for a while for the test, though we have

made sure that the test range and target is free from human access. We have used troops to go into deep forests to look for humans and also the helicopter to inform them of the exercise. Also after such a test, still if anyone has the business to go back into the area, I would urge them to wait and stay away for a while as we will send in a group of technicians to check for the shells if they all have exploded.

I may need to inform diplomats here that this type of weapons Cambodia has had it since the 1980s but we have kept them in the warehouse for too long. Now it is time to get them out and test them. The fact that we test-launch them now does not mean we have the necessity to show off our military muscle with the neighboring countries at all. It is a routine check.

Concerning the issue of women and youth, I have provided a number of recommendations already and I would take this time to stress on a few more whereby prostitution is still our great concern. Trafficking of women and children is also a matter of attention as there are still those who like to exploit flesh and blood of other people for their benefits. I would refer to this type of people as blood sucker who destroyed our society through their operation of brothels despite many have been forced to close down.

This issue has had our attention since 2002 and I remembered that there had been ideas from some circles that closing down brothels or karaoke parlors would result in loss of jobs of many people. However those raising these opinions never thought how many more would have to come into this business. This is not a simple matter and I

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them when I visited our armed forces there. Also I told my daughter, because her Bayon TV is in alliance with the armed forces in the area that her company should bring some food-stuffs and refreshments for the Lao armed forces while they send them to the Cambodian armed forces there. We must cooperate.

I wish to affirm that my visit is a routine one and do not be mistaken that my visit is to put pressure while there has tension in one's nation. I will work only in my sovereignty and territory. I would interfere in no one's affairs but would not leave it free for any comments on Cambodia or me to a level that I could not put up with it. Last Monday, English and Thai language newspapers printed articles suggesting that communist forces have been trained to use arms in Cambodia. I would clarify that Cambodia has it enough to train its forces. The truth is that I think there is no movement to (conduct armed) fight against (the Government) at all and if there were one, Cambodia would not allow it on its territory too.

Cambodia could help with demining training because Cambodia has been in Sudan for some years now and we are prepared to leave for Chad and Central African Republic. We also could share our experiences of win-win policy and strategy but we do not have the expertise and knowledge to train anyone's soldiers to fight against any Government at all. I think I have made the issue clear and I would assure I will not forgive for any senseless remark at all.

In 2007, there was an explosion in the heart of Bangkok. HE Surayuth Chulanond, who was then Prime Minister, said the bomb was from Cambodia and

later there was comment that Cambodian Muslim were engaged in activities in the Southern part of Thailand. I got down to my strong voice that Surayuth had his army spokesperson controlled.

Firstly, the Muslim in Cambodia are not so naive to become hired fighters for conflict in the southern part of Thailand; Secondly, your security forces does not seem to do a good job because they could not prevent the mines from entering into Bangkok. I am taking it against the writers and not the politicians. So I warn them not to mess with us and I would not have a verbal confrontation with them at all ... When I visited Preah Vihear, they said Thaksin was with me. Did they ever correct or make any excuse when they make a mistake on us? I would not allow you to make a joke on us anytime you want. So any tension happens it is your affairs, there is nothing to do with Cambodia.

We normally have alliance established between state institutions with those of the military but now we also welcome private companies who may wish to make a contribution in this respect that “defense for all and all for defense.” Having said that please do not be mistaken that state or private institutions, after having established such relations, would pick up the roles that would result in damaging the command system at all. Structure and command line will stand to no change because of this alliance and also no matter how much resource has been generated from it, supplies by national budget through the Ministry of National Defense and Interior will not be affected. Assistance must be on voluntary basis and I wish that no one would make a joke of this. I will not let it go free this time if anyone tries to

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