

# Cambodia New Vision

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## 20 September 2010 (Unofficial Translation of Selected Comments) Inaugurating LYP Group's BOT Prek Phnov Bridge



20 September 2010 — Samdech Akka Moha Sena Padei Techo Hun Sen and Lok Chumteav Dr. Bun Rany Hun Sen at the Inauguration of Prek Phnov Bridge (Kampuchea Thmei)

### BOT Form of Investment

My wife and I are so happy today that we have the opportunity moment to join with all of our people here today to put into official use two new achievements - the 996.2 meter bridge at Prek Phnov across the Tonle Sap River and the 1,543.07 meter road that connects the bridge thereof to the National Road 6A. It is indeed a great pride to have the two achievements by the LYP group who in 2005-06 built the similar BOT (build-operate-transfer) bridge across sea corridor in Koh Kong province.

The bridge and road that we put into use today has indeed stemmed from the Royal Government's investment policy that attracts private sector participation in the development of

infrastructure, which is primary objective. I mentioned already that before the achievements that we put into official use today, the LYP group has in fact built a bridge across the sea corridor in Koh Kong province, with a connection to the Jam Yiem pass at the border with Thailand. The Prek Phnov Bridge and road which cost totally 42,550,000 USD will effectually be transferred to the State after 30 years' operation. As of now the project will play a major role in relieving the traffic congestion in Phnom Penh.

In Cambodia there have been just few pay tolls like the one in Koh Kong province, national road 4, and the Sar La and Veng Sreng roads. If we were to look at other countries, take for instance area around Bangkok or France or New York, it is likely impossible to travel without having to pass a toll booth. In some case drivers of vehicles have to punch cards  
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## 01 September 2010 (Unofficial Translation of Selected Comments) Graduation and Diploma Presenting at HRU

### From Non-Governmental Organization to University

It is a great pleasure that I have the opportunity to preside over, which is my eighth time, the graduation and present 1,459 graduates of the Human Resources University with diplomas. I did the same in February last year. I also would like to take this opportunity to seek an excuse as my wife, because one of our daughters is in labor, could not make it here today. However, I am here and have

the joy to witness developments and achievements that the Human Resources University scored in transforming itself from a non-governmental organization to a University.

I used to say that it is difficult to get something started and it is even more so to sustain it. What I should recall is that the University has in fact grown from a small flat into this big a building. I would like to take this opportune moment to give my  
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## 16 September 2010 (Unofficial Translation of Selected Comments) Phnom Penh: Flood Prevention and Drainage Improvement

### Flood Protection and Drainage Improvement - A New Achievement of Japanese Assistance

It is indeed a great pleasure that I have the honor to preside over the inauguration of the completion of the phase II project for the flood protection and drainage improvement in the capital city of Phnom Penh. I may recall that the project was launched back in December 2007, after the water festival, when I remember asking for our people's understanding as the project being underway required closure of roads during the water festival in 2008-9. Now the restricted area is before us in a new beauty.

I am so happy today that we have scored a new achievement from the grant provided by the Government of Japan. I may also remind us all of the phase I project which completed back

in September 2004. We are inaugurating today a new achievement of the Japanese grant of about 19 million US dollars. Because of the exchange rate from the Japanese yen to the US dollar is making a gain to the Yen, the amount of grant is indeed bigger. It is in this remark that I would urge serious consideration and calculation because reversal trend of exchange rate from the local currency to the US dollar would in effect affect the loan and its repayment trend.

Taking this opportunity I would like to bring to your attention a case that someone has come to pledge that so and so would loan Cambodia some 448 billion US dollars. I told the person that with such an offer Cambodia would have to spend it in 200 years at the rate of two billion US dollars per year. Is this not a motive of deception? I  
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 paying toll or they will not get a pass. That is why private sector in every country has been encouraged to join in infrastructural development investment, especially construction and maintenance of roads and bridges.

I would like to inform our people that people who traverse on foot, by bicycle, motor cycle, pulled tractor vehicle and tri-wheeled vehicle are not subjected to fee paying. Charges will be imposed on tourist cars, pickup trucks, twelve-seat, 15-seat and 24 seat vehicles, ten wheel transporters and over. However, for the people to travel to and from in the celebration of Projum Ben Day, I would ask Oknha Ly Yong Phat to allow our people to traverse for free for 25 days - from September 20 through to October 15.

### Private Sector and State Investment Project

There have been requests for BOT development of national roads 5 and 6 and I do not give my consent yet. It should be noted here that the longer road we build the more we pay every year for maintenance and it is in this matter that I beg tax payers to understand why we need to impose tax on all vehicles.

In the period after 1979, the State of Cambodia used to talk about joining efforts between state and people in doing something. Lately we have come to the time that state and private sector work together. For a better understanding of our people, I would like to mention a couple of formula that the state and private sector could go hand in hand.

The one we have here is BOT as I just mentioned. Once the bridge and road are transferred to the state after thirty years, the

state will then have to decide how and where to use income for.

Two other forms so far known and in application are BOO, which is 'Build, Operate, Own' formula, and BCT, which is 'Build, Cooperate, Transfer' like we have done with CAT – Cambodian Air Traffics. As far as BOT is concerned, the state put down investment, after the construction of which they will operate for a certain period of time. As in this case the company will operate the bridge and road by charging every traveler with vehicle. In the field of electricity generation, they first build the infrastructure and produce electricity, whereby they sell for a certain period of time to the state and then the project will be transferred to the state.

Having said so I would also have your understanding that the state has also made investments in various infrastructural development projects, which used both the state budget and also those grants from foreign friends.

### The Cambodian Opposition – No Future

I am sure those in opposition who have mainly come from abroad should be familiar with this pay toll system because they come from that civilization. If they go on opposing in absolute and blind term, I doubt if they are going to have any future. In recent days it seems they have tested the waters.

A letter (concerning court decision with regard to an opposition parliamentarian) has been sent to Samdech Chea Sim and his response was to let the problem be resolved in court. If the same suggestion were to be sent to me later I would give it a short answer 'as a puppet, I have no rights to resolve the

case,' since they like to call me a puppet.

They have been preaching about international pressure and in four days from today I will take part in a meeting with the presence of HE Barak Obama, President of the United States of America. What do they expect? It should not be a consent that one, as a political Party leader, may just pull out any border markers, while preaching about international pressure. Before long they will come giving talk to instigate ill intention about this project. Well, if they do not approve it they may as well avoid using it.

It is ridiculous that one in the opposition has brought her/his remarks against the information I share with our people the other day about the 555 meter building project of Okna Pong Khieu Se. S/he said it is not time for the Government to use money for such a building and the money should in fact be used for agricultural development and improvement of people's livelihood.

I would not hesitate to accept this suggestion if it is the state money. How could a parliamentarian in the opposition think of ordering around a private funding? Is s/he thinking of exercising a forced planning economic system? How authoritarian could s/he be in case they come to power?

Let me remind him/her that we are practicing the market economy, whereby the state has no say in the private money. As a Cambodian I am quite shameful that they are so naïve. If they go on applying policy that is opposite to the Government's, they will surely be in a situation of suicide.

I have the duty to explain to our people on this issue or they may misunderstand and wonder

why the state does not use the money for other infrastructural development?

### What Have Been Done for Traffic Congestion Relief

In the last few years we have been trying to work out solutions for relieving traffic congestion for Phnom Penh and the traffic as a whole. What have we done? We have expanded Phnom Penh access to the southwestern part of the Capital by the newly constructed bridge at Prek Jrei and the enlargement of the Stoeung Meanjei Bridge. Thanks to the achievements, travelers from provinces of Kompot, Takeo, and a part of Kandal, no longer have to travel to Jak Ang Re, a detour to traffic congestion due to small and multi-destination road.

To another direction, we have built adjacent to the existing one a new Monivong Bridge making them one way in and one way out. In addition to the project, an overpass has also been built. From there, on the other side of the bridge to the east on national road 1 to Nak Loeung ferry crossing at the Mekong River, Japan has commissioned the second phase of road construction.

If the project is to proceed according to plan, the construction will commence in 2011. Japan also is to build a bridge at Nak Loeung as well. These will link together the corridor from east to west together.

On another front we have relieved traffic in Phnom Penh to the part of Sak Sampeo and on to the national road 3 on the way to the province of Kompot, which is financed by the Republic of Korea. As for the northern part of Phnom Penh, what have we done? First we must talk about the Kob Srov

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flood barrier to Phnom Penh. The dam was in such a dilapidated condition in 2000 and was likely to be washed away, leaving Phnom Penh subjected to flood pressure. We have reinforced it and made it into a road that link the national road 4 to the Prek Phnov Bridge that we inaugurate today.

Now we put the Bridge at Prek Phnov into use, while not long ago we have put the bridges at Prek Kadam and Prek Tamak into use as well. Along with this we also have built a completely new national road 8 towards the border with Vietnam with a branch to the district of Punnhea Krek of Kompong Cham province.

We also have plans to build in the near future a new bridge at Jroi Jangva, the second Jroi Jangva Bridge, so as to expand access in and out of Phnom Penh. Another bridge to be built is the Takhmao Bridge across Tonle Bassac River with a stretch to national road 1. All these have been done in anticipation for increasing number of transport means of all kinds.

#### **Local Private Investment – Necessary**

Since 1987 I have listed four areas of priorities – water (irrigation), road, electricity and human resources. As of now I see that the prioritization I have made will last for another 20 years. We wish private sector involvement in the four prioritized elements as it seems that frequently involvement has been noted to be only in the field of roads and bridges.

However, LYP Group has in fact involved in two major projects already. We also have the Chinese assistance in building and operating the hydroelectric dams at Kirirrom I and the Kirirrom II is under construction, the

hydropower stations at Komjai and along the Pursat River. By 2013, we will have better capacity in supplying electricity that is close to sufficiency.

Also in the area of producing electricity, Oknha Ly Yong Phat and Oknha Kog An have invested in electric plants with the amounts of 30 and 33 million USD respectively. Thanks to these investments and others from foreign companies, we are able to meet demand for electric supply from one sector to another.

As for human resources development, private sector has also involved in a more sophisticated and professional manner in setting up tertiary educational foundations for training of human resources. What is more important here is what has actually motivated the private sector to make such a long term investment.

#### **Peace and Stability – Main Inspiring Factors**

First of all we must look into the factors of peace and stability. Without the two, it is improbable that these investors, Ly Yong Phat, Kog An, Mong Rithy, Kong Triv, etc. would not pool their money for these projects at all. It is their confidence that (Cambodia) has political stability that they made long-term investment decisions.

In other words, because they made such important decisions for long term investment, these investors have become enemy of the opposition parties. They have already said that so and so Oknha is a bourgeois and has done so and so exploitation.

Having said that they could be understood to infer that Oknha (noble citizen contributes private resources for national development) is their enemy. It could be the same old way that

Pol Pot treated our people before. They pursue equality status whereby those who are rich would have to be made equally poor as the rest. As for us, we are depending on the rich to be engine of economic growth or locomotive pulling other wagons along.

Like local investment, foreign investment also depends on peace and political stability in the country before they make decision. Take for instance Japan is providing assistance because Japan is sure that whatever Japan gives is not to be destroyed for conflict or war reason. I may have your attention here that years ago, Japanese tourists traveled only to Siem Reap city and Phnom Penh. Now they are travelling throughout Cambodia and there has never have a reason for Japan to issue warning for their citizens not to come to certain places in Cambodia at all.

#### **Favorable Investment Law**

If we were to talk within the framework of investment, we have developed and implemented one of the most favorable investment laws, whereby investors inside and outside the country could do business without prejudice. According to the law, it is not required for the state or local or foreign companies to secure so and so percentage of shares at all. They are equally entitled to 100% investment share.

As you can see here the state has not got even a single percentage of shares as it is 100% private investment. I would like to take this opportune moment to express my sincere appreciation to related institutions especially the local authorities of the Municipal of Phnom Penh and the province of Kandal, now this part of Kandal has been separated and become a part of Phnom Penh already, for their

efforts to facilitate smooth procedure of the project implementation.

The other day, while standing and looking on this bridge, I said to Ly Yong Phat to consider building a satellite city. Now he has started his initial project of building a golf course, a Safari world and traveler terminals. Later project will consist of building apartments, by which the plan to make it a satellite city will be complete.

#### **Unlike Past Rich/Powerful People, Oknha Invests in National Development**

A private investor could build a factory whereby hundreds or thousands of Cambodians could find jobs, from construction phase to operation one. So if we do not have rich people who would do such investment, where could we find job? Shall we be poor together again like under Pol Pot?

At some point, some rich people or powerful persons in Cambodia sent money abroad, for instance Lon Nol (President of the Republic Khmer) sent some thirty million USD to the US. I am asking the National Bank of Cambodia to research this issue for me because I am going to leave for the United States soon.

I would bring the issue up with the United States about the debts that Cambodia owed them in the period between 1970 and 1975. I would suggest that they consider those as dirty debts, which instead of requiring a repay, they abolish them.

Take one small fact as example, the money was issued for Cambodia, but they had actually gone to South Korea and Vietnam, for instance. How could this sort of dirty debts be repaid? However, I also thank the

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US for returning the money that Lon Nol took along with him.

In Siem Reap city there have been some one hundred hotels of which only about twenty percent are owned by foreign investment. The rest is local investment and some opposition party members also have their hotels there. If they say those who build the hotels are corrupt, what can they themselves be then when they also have money to build hotels?

As for Ly Yong Phat, if I am not mistaken, his investment in Cambodia has been registered to be some two or three hundred thousand USD. He could as well keep his money in the Bank and live on interest without having to manage it. It is because his sense of patriotism, like others, he uses the money to make investments.

The other day I mentioned about Oknha Pong Khieu Se's project to build a 555 meter building, or about 90 floors. From the said-to-be building, one can look on to Ton Le Sap and this bridge ...

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other things to talk about.

In Ho Chi Minh City of Vietnam, when I attended the World Economic Forum, I also met him and asked him about his family, especially his children, of their traumatic conditions during the incident that blood was splashed at his house.

No one is going to ask for a meeting but the issue is that we have intention to meet. However, it is not necessary at this stage for a third party – ASEAN Secretary General, ASEM or the UN Secretary General - to intervene for such meeting. I do not know if this way is what Abhisit could take or not? ...

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therefore warn anyone who would like to introduce so and so with potential to give billion of US dollar loan to give up his/her intention as I would not approve that initiative. However, the achievement we have made here is not for returning to Japan, it is the grant from the Government and people of Japan to the people of Cambodia.

For your knowledge, as is reported by the Phnom Penh governor HE Kep Chuktema, the phase I project for Phnom Penh flood protection and drainage improvement has been completed and put in use in managing the southwestern side of the capital city. The phase II project that we are celebrating the achievement today is for the management of flood from rain and drainage improvement of areas near and around former National Assembly building, the national museum, the Royal Palace and the adjacency of the Botum Buddhist pagoda.

**Thank You - the Government and People of Japan**

The project has indeed improved our people's situation affected by possible inundation from rain water, which may prolong sewage retention, but also recycled sewage water before releasing into the Tonle Sap River system, a contribution to maintaining water quality and environment, I presume.

I would like to take this opportunity to express my sincere thank through JICA (Japanese International Cooperation Assistance) to the Government and people of Japan for providing Cambodia with this significant assistance. I would like to express my appreciation for the Japanese company and concerned officials of the Municipality of Phnom Penh and re-

lated institutions for their efforts and involvement in implementing this project.

On CTN (one of the local TV channels), I am sure our people must have seen reportage on traffic along this beautiful road and because of the TV access our people throughout the country have seen it. I hope that more people will benefit from the facility to come out and do exercises.

**Thank You – the People of Phnom Penh and Festival Spectators**

However, I may once again thank our people, especially those who live and do business along the road for their understanding and acceptance of difficulties that may have been caused as the project was underway until its completion. You must be satisfied now that we have returned to normal, free from construction disturbances. I appreciate your acceptance to be in hardship for a better condition in life later.

It is normal that any construction would cause uncomfortable living condition for areas adjacent to the site. It has taken us over two years to get this construction done – December 2007 through to September 2010. A barrier along the road for protection people from construction site has basically hindered entrance of houses and shops of people who are living along the river front. Our people who used to come to Phnom Penh city from the countryside to enjoy the water festival also have had difficulties in getting a place on the river bank to get a view of the boat race. That is over now indeed.

**Phnom Penh's Three Jams - Drainage, Waste and Traffic**

As is said by HE Masafumi

Kuroki, Ambassador extraordinary and plenipotentiary of Japan to the Kingdom of Cambodia, about the need for our people to join in keeping the city clean, I wish to stress that no matter how large our drainage would be, if we continue to dump waste of all sorts in the system, it will be able to not hold any long. We should be aware and get ourselves prepared to avert disaster that is caused by human action.

Phnom Penh is indeed standing at the intersection of four rivers – Mekong Loeu (upper stream), Mekong Kraom (lower stream), Tonle Sap and Tonle Bassac. It is normally the case that area along the river is low compared to sea level. Take for instance, in this area, everywhere was a lake except Wat Phnom (Mountain Temple). The place where there is now New Market (Phsar Thmei), there used to be a Techo lake. According to the topographical measurement, the only area that is higher than the sea level is the Royal Palace and the area around.

That is the point that I would seek our people's patience and understanding that in face of heavy downpour like the recent ones of 60 mm or 70 mm, despite the fact that we have larger drainage system underground, it requires some time still to release flood into the natural system. It has been noted that flood from rainwater has now receded fast compared to before and this will continue to be so only if our people take cooperative stands in keeping the drainage system free from obstructing things.

There are three jams nowadays in Phnom Penh – drainage, waste and traffic. It is worth noting that the waste and the drainage system are next to one another. Therefore, I have the

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appreciation for the efforts made by the leadership as well as the governing board of the University as well as the President of the organization in providing training opportunities which have indeed contributed to national human resource development as a whole.

I also thank the University for providing scholarships for poor students, either through me personally or through HE Deputy Prime Minister Sar Kheng. It is worth making a remark here that the University also has provided scholarship or free tuition and lodging for some students through the assistances by HE Deputy Prime Minister Sar Kheng, I and other officials. Personally I provide the University with two tons of rice and two million Riel per month. Again, this is an art of sharing hardship with the University in the course of helping provide education and related conditions to our youth with limited resource ability. Out of this gesture, the University has in return produced human resources for our society.

### Scholarships for Red Cross Youth Activists

On behalf of my wife I would also like to express our satisfaction for the Red Cross Youth of the University. My wife, after her endeavors to put four professional training centers into sustainable operations - at Ang Snuol, Kraing Jek, Pursat and Preah Vihear – with a special focus on helping women pursue skills in clothes making, weaving, beauty making, hair dressing, etc., has in fact stepped into a new challenge, which is to establish and ensure a smooth operation of the Red Cross Youth, in which students from this University and other Universities have also engaged.

Days ago, my wife came to

propose if some of the scholarships that are being given to me for the students with limited resource ability to continue their studies could be provided to those students who have engaged in the Red Cross missions. I am sure there also is demand for scholarship for the scout as well.

### Study – a Continuing Process

I would like to take this opportunity to share my joy with graduates of all levels here for making another stage of educational achievements and I am sure that you will make efforts for further education. I have said many times that study is in fact a continuing process. We have to learn all of the time. Making no effort in learning, one may fall into a state of conservatism, which is in fact a frightful situation and also a hindrance to all sorts of growth and developments.

It is in this thought that no matter how senior or junior an official may be, one has to have a learning process. I may take up an example for you about how conservatism could be harmful to our nation. In the course of developing our city, some people have said that we should not have skyscrapers but between four and six storey buildings. I would suggest that we should not be so conservative. I have a project for a skyscraper, which is to be implemented by a private company. I will soon forward it to HE Im Chhun Lim (Senior Minister for Urban Planning, Land Management and Construction) for further study.

The building will be 555 meters, which is lower than the one (they just built) in Dubai, and the highest in Asia. Oknha (a rank given to individual in respect for their personal contribution to the nation) Pong Khieu Se has planned for it to

be built on Koh Pich (Diamond Island – a piece of island-like land between the rivers of Mekong and Bassac opposite the capital city of Phnom Penh). I approve it. At this height one can look toward Tonle Sap Lake. I have just touched on a form of conservatism but there are more, such as in working manner. While we are against conservatism, we also are cautious of not being too extreme as well. I may say we are against a tendency of being either too extreme to the right or to the left.

### The Cambodian Peace Making Process Will be CPP Aide Memoire

Some people have come to me and preached about following so and so model at the time when Cambodia was coming out empty-handed from the genocide in 1979. How Cambodia could follow the US or French models, since we do not eat same food. This is not to include here different cultures that we have. This is what I wanted to say about extremism.

I have been worried about how to get a compilation of backgrounds and initiatives for the Cambodian political settlement, the endeavor to put an end to war and restore full peace. This will be the Cambodian People's Party Aide Memoire about my undertaking in search for peace. It is a great relief that, without making it known to anyone, Mr. Keo Ba Phnom has compiled it and I hope that HE Ieng Mouly gets a copy of it too. In all the records, some of them have slipped my mind. Take for instance this thing about a former Palestinian Ambassador to North Korea who had contacted and drafted a framework for the first negotiation between Samdech Preah Norodom Sihanouk and me.

The compilation has in all been

a 775 page document, but I have some more to add to it because some developments are mysterious and not known to outsiders. We have audio tapes which are now kept and preserved at the (Cambodian People's) Party Research and Documentation Commission. The document contains anything from my evaluation of political and military situations to political settlement negotiations at Fere-en-Tardenois and Saint Germain-en-Laye of France in the Party's Congress. In one instance, there is this piece of audio tape of my presentation of real nature of (the) Cambodian (problem) at Fere-en-Tardenois to Samdech Preah Norodom Sihanouk, in which I stressed on two specific aspects of the Cambodian problem – the Lon Nol's coup against Samdech Preah Norodom Sihanouk and the genocide by the regime of Pol Pot.

Since HE Ieng Mouly is in the process of writing a book, he should get a copy of the document from my Cabinet as a reference to his research. Anyone who might find it of interest may contact my Cabinet, but remember that it is not a history of the Party and it is not for public access too. I have planned for some 100 more copies to be printed for a restricted circulation.

### Cambodian-Thai Relations - Restoring Ambassadorial Level

Please allow me to take up this forum today to make a few comments and remarks in relation to new development in the Cambodian-Thai relations, especially from August 22 and 23 to the present. Since there have been some developments already now I report to our people about a situation that is requiring a more thorough analysis and appropriate solu-

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tion. Firstly, let me talk about the restoring of diplomatic relations at Ambassadorial level, which happened coincidentally with HE Thaksin Shinawatra's resignation from his post as my personal advisor and advisor to the Royal Government of Cambodia on economics.

I would say that to have or to have no ambassadors is making no difference since it is only outward development but not nature of the problem. The problem in the Cambodian-Thai relations is not Thaksin but that Thai troops invaded and occupied the Keo Sekha Kiri Svarak Buddhist temple and its vicinity on July 15, 2008, and up to the present moment, they have not withdrawn all of their troops from the area. Therefore, it is important to clarify the real nature of animosity in the Cambodian-Thai relations. Since they have blamed the problem on Thaksin (position as advisor to Cambodia) as the root cause, now that Thaksin relieved himself from duty, why the problem between Cambodia and Thailand has yet to be resolved? This proves that Thaksin is not the causing factor but the Thai invasion is.

The restoring of ambassadorial level has affirmed that the problem between Cambodia and Thailand is not Thaksin and Bangkok could no longer use Thaksin as a pretext. I also approve the move with pleasure as ambassadors of the two countries have resumed their posts about twelve hours apart. Resumption of contact of this level has resulted in a good atmosphere on which confidence could be built so that other problems would be solved eventually. Two neighboring countries are like teeth and tongue. They could be in accident any time, while pulling out teeth or cutting off tongue would not be a solution.

I approve also the exchange of visits by different sectors and expansion of tourism, trade and investment. They are encouraged to go on as I have mapped out a framework already that Cambodia is seeking to relieve conflict and expand possibility for resolution. However, I could not be happy and satisfied until Thai troops are withdrawn from my territory.

### **Opposition Parties - Spokesperson for Foreign Countries**

Some people and press in Thailand have made up that Hun Sen had a dispute with Thaksin, while months ago they accused that Thaksin and Hun Sen colluded, whereby Thai interest was sold to Cambodia. It is the first time in history that Hun Sen is seen to have land sold to him by a neighboring country through Thaksin. Or would that mean Cambodia invaded other country? It is ridiculous here that the Cambodian oppositions have always blamed Hun Sen for selling land to neighboring countries. Funnily enough, when Thaksin resigned from his position, they opted to say that the both of us are in dispute. How could that happen since both of us are living a world apart?

In fact, HE Thaksin wrote me a letter on August 22, for which on August 23 we accepted his proposal. On August 24, I wrote a letter to HE Thaksin to confirm that Cambodia is approving his resignation, thanking and affirming to him that though he is no longer my advisor but he is still my good friend and no one could stop Hun Sen from being friend with Thaksin at all. It should be seen that Thaksin has proven to be a responsible, being unable to perform fully his advisor duty, he asked to be relieved from the job.

I would like to make it clear to

certain circles that Thaksin is by no means an item of goods for political and/or diplomatic exchange. Let's be clear on this. Hun Sen would not trade his virtue to do such thing that would turn a former Prime Minister, who is so dignified and popular that he won over two-third majority of votes in Thailand, into an item of goods for diplomatic end between Cambodia and Thailand at all.

Also importantly, politicians in Bangkok also should not be foolish to say that Hun Sen acts in line with demand from Bangkok. Any understanding along this trend is by far below standard judgment. They should stop preaching for their gain from the situation when Hun Sen is still silent. We have led our country from fragmentation to unification and to gaining popular support of over two-third majority. In light of this they should not be misleading in their analysis and giving wrong sign.

### **Troops Adjustment, Patience and Peaceful Solution**

What remains to be done is to adjust the troops, while exercising further patience and resolving problem by peaceful means. However, while Cambodia continues to be patient and seeks for peaceful solution to the problem, some people in the extreme circles of Thailand have sought for military solution since they have claimed to use force to evict our people from the so called 4.6 square kilometers within 24 hours. Some have urged bombardment of Cambodian roads. I would like to convey my sincere appreciation to the Thai Government for farsighted consideration and refraining from acting in accordance with their instigation.

I am so happy to see that the armies have maintained good

relations. I also welcome the visit to Angkor Wat recently by the Thai army. I used to raise with Thai leaders the need for them to pull out the ten soldiers at the Keo Sekha Kiri Svarak Buddhist monastery and another 20 (30 from each side) in area around it. For one reason they are exposing themselves to mosquito attack and for other they could be igniting war. Since they came to the place without prior approval of the Parliament, while returning, I think there needs no approval too.

I surely understand the handicap that Thai Government is facing in this matter but I also cannot keep waiting. The case of border conflicts between Thailand and Laos, now 22 years after it broke out in 1988, between Thailand and Myanmar in almost 30 years now according to what I learnt from Myanmar Prime Minister whom I met in Nanning, China, have not been solved yet. So it is not a good thing for Thailand to keep it another twenty or thirty years without solution. Now let's adjust the troop and this is how far we could go. We may consider resuming the border pass at Preah Vihear for tourists and also opening a new pass at Ta Thao.

### **Thai Parliamentary Approval – Should Not Be Too Long**

How to go about solving the problem then? It is easy. The problem would resolve itself when the Thai troops that have invaded our territory go back. Three agreements of meetings – the 28-July-2008 meeting between (Thai) Foreign Minister Tej Bunnag and (Cambodian) Deputy Prime Minister Hor Namhong, the 19-August-2008 meeting between Foreign Minister Tej Bunnag and Deputy Prime Minister Hor

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 Namhong, and the 12-November-2008 meeting between (Thai) Foreign Minister Sompong Amornvivat and Deputy Prime Minister Hor Namhong - are waiting to be approved by the Thai parliament.

The contents therein are no different – firstly, there needs to be troop adjustment out of Keo Sekha Kiri Svarak Buddhist monastery and the temple vicinity; secondly, there needs to establish a provisional coordination working group to oversee the troop adjustment from the Buddhist monastery and the temple vicinity; and thirdly, there is going to be a joint demining operation of area where the Joint Border Commission (JBC) will have to work on demarcation.

I completely understand the Thai Government's difficulty as before putting into action, they have to have approval from the Thai Parliament. However, we have been waiting for too long. I have promises from HE Suthep Thaugsuban (Deputy Prime Minister of Thailand), HE Prawit Wongsuwan (Defense Minister of Thailand) and especially HE Chai Chidchob, Speaker of the Thai Parliament, even said to me the Parliament already approved them too.

I wish to make it clear our position that the Royal Thai Government has to get the Parliament ratify agreements of the above meetings and other related matters that include also results of negotiation of the Border Committee. However, agreements of the three meetings of the foreign ministers must be first step, after which more steps can be taken. If this could be done, it is possible that the issue could be resolved bilaterally.

While this proposition has received no positive response (from the Thai side) Cambodia would seek a solution to the matter through intervention from the United Nations or ASEAN or other international mechanism without further delay in this matter. Cambodia has no rights to talk with Thailand on border issue. All Cambodia can do is to get a demarcation on border as stipulated by the Franco-Siamese 1904 Convention, 1907 Treaty and other related documents that were interpreted in the decision of the International Court in the Hague.

#### **Preah Vihear Temple Court Procedures to Be Reprinted**

I have instructed Deputy Prime Minister Sok An about reprinting thousands of copies of the court decision with regard to Preah Vihear temple. In addition to those that are available and to be reproduced in English and French, I have asked for speedy editing of the Khmer translation so that the reproduction would be in three languages.

They will be circulated freely for the Cambodian people to study. We do not need to depend on any other sources for materials on the issue but the decision of the International Court in The Hague. Also included in the publication I recommend that we have the 2000 MOU (between the Royal Governments of Cambodia and Thailand) as well as technical documents on border demarcation. The publication is then to be given out for free to libraries for public use.

Again I wish to clarify that we, this Cambodian generation, have no rights to negotiate on the border issue other than respect what is left by the decision of the International Court in The Hague, for which Cam-

bodia and Thailand have to respect. We have no rights to amend it whatsoever. It is fortunate that besides Samdech Preah Norodom Sihanouk, though His Majesty did not go the Court in person, who led this campaign, Cambodia has got another live witness, HE Chan Youran, who was then General Secretary of the Cambodian delegation, while others in the delegation have passed away.

All Cambodia gets to do - based on the above mentioned decisions and agreements - is to go for demarcation and demining jointly. Cambodia has no knowledge of where the 4.6 square kilometers is. It has been said by the Thais that Cambodia has invaded 4.6 square kilometers of its territory. In light of this I urge Thailand to sue Cambodia to the United Nations Security Council or General Assembly. Normally the one who suffers the actions will need to call for help. They have sued three Cambodian persons – Hun Sen, Hor Namhong and Sok An, to the Thai court on charge of invasion of Thai territory at Preah Vihear temple. I would seek encourage them to bring this to the International Court or to the United Nations. Cambodia would appeal for a fact-finding mission to the place.

#### **Thai Extremists Have Gone Too Far**

Extremists in Thailand have capitalized (the border) issue in various forms. They have created so many problems like organizing demonstrations at the border and in some instances it has been said to have aimed for pulling out border markers and urged the Royal Thai Government to use military means, while Cambodia maintains its patience and peaceful means for solving the problem.

It is beyond my imagination that in the 21<sup>st</sup> century Thailand, there still is this sort of man like Sondhi Limthongkul, the leader of the yellow shirt. He has insulted me with a decapitated head on parade. It is a grave insult. How on earth the Royal Thai Government allows a person like this to insult leader of a sovereign nation, whereas Cambodia – myself and my people – never for once insult Thai leaders at all. Comparisons to so and so have been made but never to cutting short life.

In the latest instance they show footage of their acting out with my picture hung to a banana tree and cutting it off with a sword. Sondhi also claimed to have joined a welcome group for my visit to Thailand in 1989 and said I was a gentleman not a fearful one. He even said I like Rado watch as is quoted by ASTV. I would tell him that any watch I would ever put on is Rolex and the least I had when I took to the marquis is Titoni. If you happened to have welcomed me then you were a nobody because my counterpart was Chattichai Choonhavan.

However, for all you have said and done to me, I do not bother get even with you. I have two things for you as reminders, though. Firstly, Hun Sen has got a powerful spirit that is looking after him so he could not be affected in any way by your black magic. Remember that in Siem Reap province in 1998, four B40 grenades were launched at me. But I was completely safe. What could we say about that? I would warn you, as I still consider you as human being, that your black magic will backfire on you and others involved in the above performance.

Secondly, those who attempted your life in April 2009 are still

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at large. Therefore your life is still in danger. You may need to be careful for your life. I do not put a curse on your life and I wish you live longer to see what is going to happen. I also urge the whole people of Cambodia to weigh whatever response they may do with dignity and morality.

Let's refrain from doing action that is causing conflict with other Thai citizens, first of all those who work and do business in Cambodia. I urge you not to hold demonstration in which pictures of Thai leaders are to be burned or enacting like the one they did.

Sondhi is correct for comment that I was not a ferocious person. I am not so for good people but more so when I have to deal with bad ones. I wish to take it back to his comment that I owe gratitude to Thailand. Let me excuse myself that never have I a debt of gratitude to pay for Thailand at all. I have yet to clear the deal you had in helping the tripartite Government (of Democratic Kampuchea) to fight me (the Phnom Penh Government).

I am the Phnom Penh Government then and not those who settled in your camps along the border. When Khmer Rouge fell out in Phnom Penh, without the help from Thailand, they would have ended then. However, have I ever uttered a word about that?

#### Possibilities for Meetings

Let me now talk about possibility for any meetings (between the two countries). Firstly, there is a possibility for a meeting of the Joint Border Commission led by the National Defense Minister of the two countries. I have said the other day that such meeting could go on as it is not a mechanism to see about

demarcation but to work together for the prevention of cross border crimes such as human and drug trafficking, trade facilitation and security for the people of the two countries along the border areas.

This level of meeting can go on. As for the meeting at the level of Foreign Ministers, I would allow only after the Thai side ratifies the minutes of agreements as without them such meeting would be fruitless.

However, there is other possibility where I have a meeting with the Prime Minister of Thailand as there will be several upcoming venues and events such as Asia- Europe to be held in Brussels in early October, ASEAN summit to be held in Vietnam in late October or leaders' meeting of ACMECS to be held in Cambodia in November.

The ASEAN Secretary General has tried to feel the pulse for such a meeting. I said there would not be any difficulty but such meeting should not be misunderstood for solving the problem bilaterally. Normally when two Prime Ministers meet, there are lots of things to talk about.

On November 16 and 17, the Prime Minister will have to come for the meeting of ACMECS in Cambodia. In 2012, when Cambodia is hosting the ASEAN and ASEAN+ summits, and if he is still in position, he will have to come more than one time to Cambodia too.

As for me I am sure that my term will go all the way to 2013 and I will surely chair the said meetings and summits. We have investment, trade, cross-border transportation, environmental protection, etc. among

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duty to appeal to our people living in Phnom Penh and those who are coming from the provinces to always have a sense of managing their waste in instructed manner by the Phnom Penh Municipality. Keeping clean one's home and city is a benefit not for the Governor alone but for all of our people. Only by doing that that Cambodia could achieve and display the theme "Cambodia – a Country of Wonder." In order for a country to make progress there needs to have people's participation and this can be proved by people's action in relation to waste collection and drainage system maintenance and care.

#### Twenty Communes of Kandal Province to Be Parts of Phnom Penh

I would like to take this opportunity moment to inform our people that in the coming time we are separating twenty communes from Kandal province to become parts of Phnom Penh. They are communes in Kandal's districts of Muk Kampoul, Punnhea Loeu, Ang Snuol, Kandal Stoeung and Kien Svay. As for the seven communes that are in the districts of Khsach Kandal and Lovea Em, which are on the other side of the Mekong River, I would keep them to another time.

I have signed a letter proposed by Deputy Prime Minister HE Sar Kheng for the establishment of a committee for transferring people and authorities as there will have to be reconsideration on infrastructures. After 1979 or to be more exact after 1985 Phnom Penh has been expanded and developed in shape and size. Take for instance the International Phnom Penh Airport was before part of Kandal province, but when I become Prime Minister, I decided that it is a part of Phnom

Penh. On another front, the border between Phnom Penh and Kandal meets at the bridge at Jroi Jangva, so I have resized the vicinity of Phnom Penh again.

Thirdly I have allowed for few villages near and around the Extraordinary Chamber in the Court of Cambodia to be parts of Phnom Penh. Now it is the fourth time that I am making decision again to expand the capital city in shape and in size. Let's see between 1997 and 1998, travelling from Phnom Penh to Pochentong, we would have seen only two lines of houses along the road, with some land left for rice cultivation. Now, those places have been filled with houses and various kinds of construction.

#### Remarks on General Development and Low-level of Seasonal Flooding

Though I have been working in the Government closely to 32 years in just months away as we will be celebrating the 32<sup>nd</sup> anniversary of the January-7 victory of 1979-2011, it would be hard to imagine now that our people may not want to use bicycle anymore. Now the people in Phnom Penh are fashionable not only in term of personal means of transportation but also in term of internet facilitation for road network information.

In recent days there have been lots of rain and we in Phnom Penh as well as in provinces should take precautionary measures. As far as level of water in the River of Mekong is concerned, it has been surprisingly low, only eight meters high, which is one meter lower than the forecast by the Ministry of Water Resources and Meteorology. However, according to the reading of the Ministry, we will have more rain to come ...☐