

Cambodia New Vision

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SAMDECH HUN SEN EXPOUNDS IDEAS ON THE FUTURE GOVERNMENT OF CAMBODIA

On June 18, 1998, talking to students and professors of the Faculty of Business and the Faculty of Economics, Samdech Hun Sen discloses his thinking on the future government of Cambodia with extensive excerpts of the speech as follows.

First of all, I would like to express my thanks to professors and students for organizing this talk which is an opportunity for me to present a strategic topic unfolding my thoughts concerning the livelihood of all Cambodians who are looking forward to the future after the forthcoming elections. As a Prime Minister who has been in charge in the most challenging period of the national history, I have great honor in the last hours of the mandate of the current Government to inform ladies and gentlemen as professors and students in economics, and our beloved compatriots about my thinking of the future government of Cambodia in the second term by starting with the assessment of the strengths and weaknesses during the past five years.

THE FIRST-TERM RGC... ACHIEVING PEACE

As our compatriots know well, the first-term Royal Government was organized on the basis of two prime ministers, which has been going on till its end, and then a new government with one prime minister will come into being. For me, although the forthcoming government will have only one prime minister, it will



On June 9, 1998, Samdech Second Prime Minister Hun Sen and HE Gildas Le Lidec, the French Ambassador, presided over the graduation ceremony of the first group of the military cadets at Thmat Pong Military Training School, Kampong Speu province (read the speech excerpts on page 4).

be a coalition government consisting of many political parties. We can say that in the past term with two-prime-minister system, though in difficult and favourable circumstances, and progress having been made or having yet to make, I have striven to fulfil my obligations, from the beginning to the end, on the basis of conforming to the law. This is also the fact which provides the international community and international organizations with a basis to support our Royal Government from the start to the elections day of the National Assembly of the second legislature. The international community and countries, near and far, want Cambodia to make steady advances on the path of democracy, respect of human rights, and development – it is the path that our compatriots and I are making efforts to

build, and on which we will walk. As our compatriots may know, the political issue is the supreme priority during the first term of the Royal Government... Freedom and democracy have grown leading to the development of respect of human rights in Cambodia... The threat of the return of the genocidal regime by military or political means has been averted, and the Khmer Rouge organization is coming to an end.

Achievements of the Paris Conference on Peace in Cambodia and the general elections in 1993 have been safeguarded up to the present. Furthermore, we have endeavoured to expand peace and to bring about national reconciliation. Recently, the returning of Pailin, Malai, Samlot, and Anlong Veng have clearly dem-

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onstrated that the win-win policy can put a definite end to the horrible threat befalling our country and nation for the past two decades. This fact will pave the way for us to enter, after the elections, a new future and era in which the Cambodian nation and people will advance towards prosperity.

Indeed, those achievements on the economic field, livelihood and social affairs, have not yet adequately responded to the aspiration of the people as a whole. Investors, businessmen, industrialists and producers are still having difficulties, including red tape and problems concerning economic efficiency. While we have enjoyed economic growth and an increase of investors, which have been providing more jobs to the people, the restoration and repair of roads for economic circulation and livelihood, we have not yet been able to resolve our tremendous difficulties in general. Rural as well as urban areas, each has its own difficulties with impacts on the livelihood of civil servants and people. This has resulted for various reasons. One of the reasons which has attracted the public attention the most is the fact that political priority was placed on top of the government's agenda. This has certainly hindered the economic development and people's livelihood, impeded the respect of law, the safeguard of social safety, etc... One finds it hard to carry out the economic development and improvement of people's livelihood due to the political problems. The public opinions have highlighted my activities in avoiding confrontation with those political problems, and in spending time to deal with the situation, economic issues, livelihood, and development. I accept constructive criticism, and by this voluntary acceptance we have successfully overcome the dangerous anarchic stage, and made efforts in making achievements for the sake of the poor and the people, in general, in urban areas as well as in the coun-

trysides. I have no choice, and I am unable to fulfil everything at the same time, when peace is the aspiration of our nation and people. We have great success in achieving peace, and we are now in a position of being able to preserve peace forever.

**PEOPLE'S ASPIRATION DRIVEN...
ECONOMY, LIVELIHOOD AND
DEVELOPMENT**

"..., I always believe that the people are the guideline, teacher, and the real boss, who provide concrete guidance to my activities... The people's aspiration during the past five years is peace and stability,... For the time being, the most urgent aspiration of the people is economy, livelihood and development. I have to prepare myself to follow this guideline by determining that economy and livelihood of the people and civil servants is the supreme priority for the forthcoming term of office... I am prepared to present a government oriented to solving problems of economy or an 'economy-oriented government' for the Kingdom of Cambodia in accordance with the aspiration, demands, and confidence of the entire people..."

AN ECONOMY-ORIENTED GOVERNMENT(EOG)... FOR 1998-2003

An economy-oriented government does not mean that the respects of democracy and freedom are not taken into account. On the contrary, democracy and freedom will continue to be promoted so as to allow for encouragement to the development of the economy and livelihood of the people.

An economy-oriented government does not necessarily mean that we would leave out armed forces who have made sacrifices with great fortitude. On the contrary, this government will take due consideration into streamlining the armed forces and step-by-step reducing the national defence budget, especially after the second year in office. However, the efficiency, quality, morality, and livelihood of the army, the

police, the military police and other type of armed forces will be enhanced to a higher degree... for the significance of the socio-economic development, especially in the rural areas.

An economy-oriented government concentrates mainly on economic efficiency in administrative work as well as in other tasks, in coordinating working mechanism and system in an appropriate manner so as to step up economic development and livelihood of the people. Water resources for consumption, production, service and reserve will be the responsibility taken by a new ministry. A number of provinces will be separated into two so that the local authorities will find it easier to grasp the concerns and welfare of the people.

An economy-oriented government means that we will enter a new era in which everybody must respect and implement the laws in a serious and strict manner without exceptions. The justice and court systems must be improved so as to create confidence, and as a matter of course, adjustment will have to be made from higher to lower levels...

An economy-oriented government is a broad-minded government which strives to be a wide-ranging brains bank so that various circles can contribute their intellect to the development of economy, and livelihood of the people.

An economy-oriented government is determined to make every effort to upgrade the living standards and the well-being of the people, and to do its best to abolish all obstacles to development, including corruptions, red tape, and negative phenomena which cause a lot of trouble to the people.

**IMBALANCES TO BE ADDRESSED BY
EOG**

An economy-oriented government outlines its foremost strategy and

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On June 22, 1998, receiving a group of Liberal Democratic Party members of the Japanese House of Representatives led by HE Toshiaki ENDO, Samdech Hun Sen thanked the Japanese guests for the Japanese assistance to the elections preparation, and reiterated Samdech's commitment to the establishment of a coalition government if CPP wins, and to transfer power peacefully to the victor if CPP loses in the forthcoming July-26 elections. Samdech Hun Sen recalled with gratitude that in the first mandate of the Royal Government of Cambodia, Japan was the biggest donor to Cambodia, and expressed his deep thanks to the forty Japanese young parliamentarians for their contributions for school construction in Cambodia. Samdech Hun Sen also drew HE Toshiaki ENDO and other guests' attention to the fact that winning or losing the elections was not Samdech's real concern right now, but the current shortage of food for the people was. For the benefit of Cambodia's farmers Samdech Hun Sen also proposed to the Japanese guests a possibility of continuing assistance in the field of agriculture, especially in the area of restoring canals along the Mekong & Bassac rivers.

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primary steps aimed at reducing the following six imbalances between:

1. The supply and demand, especially of food, clothing, housing, means of transportation, schooling, healthcare, and medical treatment;
2. The income and the expense of the national budget;
3. Export and import;
4. Currency and goods by retaining the purchasing power of the national currency through keeping inflation checked;
5. Salary and livelihood of civil servants by seeking more revenue to increase their salary;
6. The growth of workforce and the provision of employment, because creating jobs for the people is not an ambition, but an objective of the economy-oriented government.

EOG IS PREPARED TO BE A MEMBER OF ASEAN..., OPENS RELATIONS TO

ALL FOR FASTER PACE OF POVERTY ALLEVIATION

As an economy-oriented government, we propose political issues to be detached from economic ones while creating conditions in which economy will develop in accordance with the aspirations and needs of the people and nation. The opinion corresponds to the current trends that was raised by various countries that "cooperation with Cambodia should be free from any political motivations." Therefore, as an economy-oriented government, we will maintain close relations with all countries throughout the world for the sake of economic development. With regard to those without diplomatic ties, we will establish relationships in the fields of economy, trade and investment in the interest of economic development and livelihood of the Cambodian people. It is in this context that we have already prepared ourselves to become a member of ASEAN and fulfil our

obligations as a member of the United Nations Organization and other international institutions. We have the ability to fulfil the tasks of an economy-oriented government because we are no longer in a position to cope with various tasks at the same time as in the previous office mandate. The Khmer Rouge issue being ended has provided the economy-oriented government with a golden opportunity to start its activities with efficiency. Besides, the technological and material base, human resources, system of management law, and the political atmosphere in the country and abroad are far better compared with the period when we started from scratch in January 1979. Objective and subjective conditions allow us to go in a faster pace than before in alleviating poverty and stepping up the economic growth. Cambodia must enter the 21st century with efficient economy-oriented government.

FREE, FAIR, AND NON-VIOLENT ELECTIONS... PLEASE CHOOSE THE PARTY YOU LIKE

Moving along the people's current guideline which demands improvement of economy and livelihood, the only means to reach the goal on the path to the supreme priority of the economy is a free, fair, non-violent and peaceful elections which will be held on July 26, 1998. We have just finished the voter registration process which have been a great success for the Cambodians. The electoral campaign is approaching soon, and the elections will finally determine the destiny of our people for the period to come. In the capacity of a prime minister, I continue to appeal that the elections process be held in a manner of non-violence, non-injustice, and non-coercion. In this spirit, I solemnly declare that all those supporting me to behave in a flexible, self-restraint, and clear-sighted manner in choosing a political party they like, and other people to behave in the same ethical manner in carrying out their rights to

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SAMDECH HUN SEN WELCOMES THE GRADUATION OF THE FIRST GROUP OF MILITARY CADETS

On June 9, 1998, at Thmat Pong Military Training School, Samdech Hun Sen delivered a speech with following excerpts to welcome the first graduation of military cadets.

CAMBODIAN-FRENCH COOPERATION... HUMAN RESOURCES FOR RCAF

“... the 18-month training course for military cadets, which completed today, significantly reflects the good result of the cooperation between the Royal Government of Cambodia and the Government of the Republic of France, which has been carried out in an active and constant manner following the 1993 elections..., demonstrates due attention paid by General Staff of the Royal Cambodian Armed Forces (RCAF) in the field of training of military cadets who have completed their studies in various universities and wished to serve in the RCAF... They will be valuable human resources contributing to the building up and strengthening of RCAF within the framework of reform... Through HE Gildas Le Lidec, French Ambassador to the Kingdom of Cambodia, may I express my deepest gratitude to the Government of the French Republic for its moral and material assistance channeled through the Mission of the French Military Assistance for the purpose of building up of the RCAF. This comprises of establishing the Cambodian Military Police, training military cadets, providing buildings and equipments to this Military Training School of Thmat Pong... etc. These symbolize a fruitful cooperation between Cambodia and France... for the cause of peace, stability, and national reconstruction of Cambodia...”

A UNITY COMMANDING SYSTEM... DOWNSIZING MILITARY PERSONNEL, AND IMPROVING QUALITY

“... following the 1993 elections, with its entrance to the historical

stage of peace, national reconciliation, restoration and reconstruction, the RCAF has undergone many complicated difficulties drawing up several precious experiences... Since 1995, the Royal Government and High Command of the National Armed Forces of Cambodia (NAFC) have outlined the reform of the RCAF aimed at establishing a unity commanding system from top down to bottom, building a RCAF with ethics and capability into an authentic NAFC... by means of downsizing its military personnel while improving its quality... “The reform process has proved to be positive achievements. However, it is yet to say it is sufficient due to a number of difficulties... at the beginning of 1996, some politicians sought for a balance of the military forces by using their party roles at taking command of the army causing anarchy and tension which finally resulted in the regrettable incident in July, 1997...”

“PUTTING OUT THE WAR FLAME” IS NOT AN AGENDA... OTHERWISE ONE CHASES THE BUFFALO ONLY WHEN IT WALKS AWAY

“... at the fall of Anlong Veng, the Khmer Rouge last stronghold, gradually peace reigns over Cambodia... the complete integration and on-going voter registration (in Anlong Veng) give a warning signal to some politicians that their vows to put an end to the war is no longer meaningful, because such a promise will be synonymous to a Khmer humorous poem that goes ‘when the buffalo eats rice in the field, I dare not chase it away, but when the buffalo walks away out of the rice field, I will show you my courage to do that’... Vows to end the war are no longer valid. Only a vow to combat against poverty will be valuable forever in the progressive march of our nation and people...” ■

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self-determination. Please do not cause any losses of lives or injuries in the course of elections, nor turn the elections into a national rift. May the electoral campaign be a success like in the voter-registration, and the elections day become a chance for a change in economy and livelihood of the people. Our beloved compatriots should keep in mind that these elections are for the interest of every individual voter rather than of certain parties or dignitaries because we cast our ballots for new progress in our country, society and each one of us. Both my supporters and non-supporters are my friends, because my enemy is the poverty. The winners should be the Cambodian people who have nurtured strong hope that they will overcome their poverty. I am confident that democracy, freedom, and respect of human rights will continue to progress and bear fruit at the time when the buds of economy and livelihood become supreme priorities of the economy-oriented government in accordance with the aspiration of the Cambodian people.

Message from Cambodia New Vision

The Cabinet of the Second Prime Minister has great pleasure to share with you its monthly publication of Cambodia New Vision which carries to you selective excerpts of speeches/statements/interviews etc. made by Samdech Hun Sen.

Comments on and recommendation for the publication and its contents are welcome at the Cabinet of the Second Prime Minister, Cambodia New Vision, Phnom Penh.

CNV from issue 3 through to the latest is now available for those who have access to internet at <http://cppusa.net/camnewvision>

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