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28 January 2004 (Informal Translation)
Inaugurating a Buddhist Hall of Common in Srey Santhor



Samdech Hun Sen was warmly welcomed by elderly people in Srey Santhor upon his arrival at the inauguration of the Buddhist hall of common in Preah Chi Thom Pagoda.

On January 28 Samdech Hun Sen inaugurated a Buddhist Hall of Common in the Pagoda of Preah Chi Thom, Srey Santhor District in Kompong Cham Province. CNV prints here a selected adlib address that Samdech made to the public on that occasion on issues of sharing resources for common achievements, status of agricultural production and the bird flu phenomena in this year, the current political development, and the four tasks to be fulfilled by the current Government.

... I have a great pleasure for having a chance to be with all of you to inaugurate the hall of

common in the Preah Chi Thom pagoda. May I seek your apology for the postponement of my presence to this ceremony from last week because it fell on the Chinese New Year, which is commonly practiced by the Chinese-Cambodians, especially those reside along the Mekong River, like in the district of Srey Santhor.

... It has become a common practice that our country celebrates New Year at three different times – the International New Year, the Chinese New Year and Cambodian New Year according to the lunar calendar.

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29 January 2004
Presenting Degrees to New Technology Graduates

... Today I am very pleased to join you all, Your Excellencies, Ladies and Gentlemen, here at the Technology Institute of Cambodia. Today we all participate in the graduation ceremony of Batches 17 and 18 of the Engineers, and Batches 6 and 7 of the Senior Technicians.

well as the foreign professors, civil servants and the management and staff of the Technology Institute of Cambodia who have made tremendous efforts to fulfill their roles and obligation in "training and transfer of knowledge" to the students.

Let me express my appreciation to the Ministry of Education, Youth and Sports, the Cambodian as

It is clear that all your work has produced fruitful outcomes and results.

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26 January 2004
Hosting Dato Seri Adullah Ahmad Badawi of Malaysia

*Excellency Dato Seri Abdullah Haji Ahmad Badawi, Prime Minister of Malaysia
Excellencies, Lok Chum Teav,
Distinguished Guests,
Ladies and Gentlemen.*

On behalf of the Royal Government of Cambodia and on my own, I have a great pleasure to extend my warmest welcome to Your Excellency Dato Seri Abdullah Haji Ahmad Badawi, Prime Minister of Malaysia and all members of the delegation who have paid an official visit to the Kingdom of Cambodia at this time.

and People of Cambodia are very pleased with Your Excellency Prime Minister's first visit to Cambodia after your nomination as Prime Minister of Malaysia. I believe that this visit will greatly contribute to the strengthening and developing of the bonds of close friendship and fruitful cooperation between the Kingdom of Cambodia and Malaysia as well as the ASEAN family as a whole.

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The Royal Government

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... We meet today to put into use a hall of common which I could say is relatively large at 46 meters by 26 meters and costs up to US\$ 170,000 and Riels 16.6 million. Taking a glance from the helicopter I see that the hall is a beautiful one. Once I see that there is a building shaping up I admire and congratulate no matter if I have made a contribution to it or not.

... Some people do not know a thing of how to do it but are good at advising and finding faults. The same is true in politics in which there are people who just speak and point their fingers at things. We all should be of conviction that whether making a contribution or not to the process, one may enjoy and congratulate the achievements.

... Taking this opportunity I wish to thank HE Suon Sitthi and Madame, Mr. Ut Soklai and Madame and all Buddhist parishioners present here today for their contribution in making the pagoda a sacred place.

... Taking the history of the pagoda into consideration, according to the Great Khmer Heroes Documentation (Eksa Moha Boros Khmer), the place used to be a prosperously developed area since the Srey Sokunbath era

(1504).

... At that time, there was a monk who became Samdech Somethea Thibadei. He resided in a pagoda called Sdey Thom, where Sdech Kan was brought up as a follower.

... It is also worth saying that the pagoda must have been developed greatly under the Sangkum Reastr Niyum period. If there was not the political event of March 18, 1970, when a coup was launched against the then Head of State Samdech Preah Norodom Sihanouk, we probably have no need to rebuild this hall of common. If the leadership of Samdech Preah Norodom Sihanouk were to continue from 1970 through to 2004, we could predict how much progress we could have.

... In between the crusade for independence to November 9, 1953, and there after the formation of the Sangkum Reastr Niyum, scores of achievement had been realized. If the Long Nol group did not overthrow Samdech Samdech Preah Norodom Sihanouk, about 34 years already, our country might have been fast developed as the neighbouring countries.

... In this regard one might say if it were not because of the March 18, 1970, there were not to be April 17, 1975, there

were not to be January 07, 1979 and that is a chain of history.

... The consequence left by the Pol Pot regime has been two great effects – the war aftermath and the killings. Though numerous achievements had been scored and left by Samdech Preah Norodom Sihanouk in 1970, they were mostly destroyed in the rural areas – take for instance the paper factory in Chhlong of Kratie.

... If the factory were to operate until the present day, Cambodia would not have to import paper for local consumption but also to export to foreign countries as well. The rubber plants in Chub and Mehmot of Kompong Cham were demolished completely, and on top of this we had most of our rice fields under mines and unexploded ordnances.

... Take for instance we finished de-mining a segment of mined area for the construction of a road to Anlong Veng. But General Pol Saroeun told me after his visit to the area that there are more mines lying deep underneath the paved segment.

... This means we will have to increase spending in this field as the Thai authority is providing a road from the (Thai-Cambodian) border to Banteay Srey temple via the said area.

... Worse still, the killing of millions of people made the country have a difficult start in 1979. We had no monks in the pagodas. Gradually we have come to the current existence by making tremendous efforts.

... I wish to see, and I am sure the Cambodian people also do, no more wrong decision that would jeopardise safe and peaceful living condition of our people. Negative consequences arising from war-mongering decision makers would take even less than five minutes to get a war on track, but to resolve the consequences caused by the war would take years – the political conflict may have finished but war-related poverty and tragedy may take a long time to solve.

... Take for instance, every family lost some members under the Pol Pot's regime and those families' hardships would need a long time to relieve, aside from that we also have burden of women-headed households and orphans. We have yet to say about damages inflicted on infrastructure, etc... Having overlooked these issues, some people blame the Government of making the country poorer but have not they thought and seen that what they said is contradictory to the reality?

... A small number of
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families may get poor but the reasons of being poor have to be examined. Numerous families have liberated themselves from poverty starting from having spoon without plate or oxen without cart. But we have seen that 64% of the whole population have risen above the poverty line (living with one US\$ or more a day) and we have a plan to improve the living condition of the remaining 36% at 1.2% a year.

... It is a pragmatic planning organized by the Royal Government of Cambodia in co-operation with the donor community with an objective to slash 50% of the remaining figure over ten years ahead.

... It is true that some people have lost their assets lately and because they sold their lands, drought animals, homes so as to contribute to the party's budget and I do not mean the Cambodian People's Party. Now the cheating is going on that so and so would be given this or that job and rank, and I wish to clarify that to take up whatever position or job, one has to go through examination.

... I wish to recall them that the 1991-Paris Peace Agreement had been implemented and the integration stage had completed in 1993 already.

... From now on, no matter what position it may be, exam will be conducted. If some people have already been cheated, they should follow up for refund and I think you have ample reason for taking legal action with the help of the Court.

... As far as the blame of making the country poorer, I would accept the blame if I were the one who took over from HM the King in 1970 and destroyed the achievements that HM the King had then realized. But I have proven to have done differently since 1979. We have started with just two monks – venerable Long Sim and Tep Vong, until we now have 56,000 monks throughout the country.

... I did not want to talk politics but maybe I should clarify some issues as some people made unrealistic comments that (the political situation) is in deadlock. It is true that it is a deadlock situation but only for them (the opposition).

... For us all, the situation is quite favourable – take for instance the Chinese New Year proceeded smoothly. There was only one problem that the ceremony went without chicken because of the bird flu outbreak.

... The short-term rice is being either transplanted

or harvested and water pumps are helping people with the irrigation. HE Governor of Kompong Cham Cheang Am reported just now that about 5,000 hectares long-term rice and 10,500 hectares of short-term rice have been rescued.

... Some politicians took whatever chance they may have to fool the people that “a solution is soon coming”. I am one of the persons involved in the solution and I want to make known to you all that “no solution is yet reached”.

... A General Secretary of a political party has approached my advisor and requested for a meeting between myself and two other political parties' leaders and the place could either be inside or outside the country. I told them there is no need for such a meeting because it is a waste of time. They said they would not repeat their conditions but make some proposals. But they are all the same.

... Having failed to convince the public of their plan, they again proclaimed that if the Government should be formed of two political parties, their two parties with 40% or 50 seats in the parliament would be the one to form the Government and leave CPP with 73 seats or 60% of the vote to be opposition party outside the Government.

... The Cambodian Constitution does not allow this option. There is a matter that was never mentioned by anyone since November 5th, after HM the King brought up a scenario of a Government of three parties, one of them proposed to HM to have three parties in the Royal Palace.

... I was shocked when they want the neutral institution to be divided in three. I found it unbelievable that they dare propose such a formula to HM the King.

... I am fed up with their tricky moves and I am now setting aside my time to visit our people like what was done by HM the King in 1940s, 1950s and 1960s and CPP has always followed that model. I used to mention that we have a great university, that is HM the King and Samdech Preah Reach Akkeamhesei who have always firmly associated themselves with our people and Buddhist parishioners through activities for development.

... Recently, the opposition sent someone to see an advisor of HE Deputy Prime Minister and said that a solution must be reached by January 28. When asked what should be done, he said exactly the same thing. Yesterday they claimed I seek to take lives of their men. I told HE Khiev Kannharith that

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I provide them each with one unarmed armoured vehicle to protect themselves.

... To summarize, if all were tricks for demeaning one another, creating hostility or ousting one another, no more should be done. They continue to demand no Hun Sen (in the new Government) and how could it be implemented by law if CPP and its candidate have been elected with 73 seats in the parliament.

... If the new Government could not be created, the current one will continue and if they wish the current Government to end its mandate, they have to join us in creating a new Government on the basis of the terms specified in the November 5 Agreement. But they never follow the Agreement.

... So I now declare that I am ready to set up a Government of two parties, and any one of the two could join us or we will go on. So the option is open – a Government of two or of three is all right with me.

... (If the current Government is to go on) will there be a budget problem? We have arranged to get one of twelve parts of the 2003 budget for the operation of the current Government.

... Some argued that the members of parliament have not got salary and I wish to state that it is true that the members of parliament have not got the salary. It is not because the Government has not got money for them but because the Institution has not got its authorised person to approve the payroll. As for the CPP members of parliament, the Party will pay them provisionally from its own pocket.

... Let me now take a break from politics to talk a bit about the pagoda and the works to be done in this area. I wish to express my sincere thanks to the engineering team of the Ministry of Defence for the efforts made in assembling Bailey bridges and improving road conditions in this area.

... Thanks also go to Dr. Saat Sami for the installation of solar-energised lightings on most of the newly built bridges.

... I am feeling great now that wherever there is drought, the CPP work teams assigned to the area are taking actions. I am grateful to the efforts. Now the region is facing with the bird flu situation, while Cambodia has a reported case in the commune of Puong Peay, in the district of Russeikeo of Phnom Penh city. We have been taking active measures to prevent the disease from breaking out by sealing it

from other places.

... On November 28, there is a regional meeting of Ministers of Agriculture and Health in Bangkok, Thailand, coordinated by HE Thaksin Shinawatra, Prime Minister of Thailand and I have dispatched HE Senior Minister Hong Sun Huot of Health and HE Minister Chansarun of Agriculture to the said meeting.

... The disease could be more serious than SARS in 2003 and it was then caused destructive impacts on the regional economies – ASEAN and China.

... Because we have taken quick and well-timed measures we have limited to the minimum the effects of this bird flu situation. As for any place found to be infected, the area must be sealed and exports of products from the area must be prevented. It is a delicate matter that one should not be too anxious to eat chicken at all or dare to eat under-cooked ones.

Facing with unpredicted predicaments as such, I wish to reiterate the four tasks to be fulfilled at the time of political impasse...

... First, *we have to maintain political stability, security, public and social order* which are all the most important factors for the survival

and livelihood of the people on the day-to-day basis. The people must have access to safety and security parameter without having to pay extra cost at all and the armed forces have the obligation to hunt out criminals and bring them to justice.

... Second, *we have to maintain the macro-economic stability, prevent inflation and promote economic growth*. I have a great impression in noting with pride that in the year 2003, at a rolling period of twelve months, we had 1.2% inflation while for the same period in 2002, the inflation was reaching a ceiling of 3.3% -- we had a serious flood and drought situation.

... We have increased the size of export from US\$ 1,400,000,000 to US\$ 1,600,000,000 etc. We had a decline in tourism for a period of time but it has taken an upturn after the elimination of SARS.

... As far as agriculture is concerned, despite shortage of rain in a small number of places we are still expecting the best crops this year. We have to improve our spending pattern in addition to the aforementioned achievement. All financial institutions have made their predictions again on our growth from 4.8% to between 5% and 5.5%.

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May I also express my happiness and appreciation to all the graduates who have worked very hard to successfully overcome all the challenges faced during their long period of study so that with this graduation ceremony they have become Engineers and Senior Technicians.

This achievement is an appropriate and timely contribution to our country's demand for the development of human resources in order to achieve sustainable and equitable development.

On behalf of the Royal Government and the people of Cambodia, let me thank the Government and the people of France, through H.E. Yvon Roed'Albert, the Ambassador of France to the Kingdom of Cambodia. Our gratitude also goes to the Agency of Francophone Universities (Agence Universitaire de la Francophonie) and other national and international organizations which have made valuable financial and technical contributions for the development of education in Cambodia.

Your assistance has strengthened our teaching and training facilities and enabled overseas training for many professors, faculty members, civil servants and students.

Moreover, I would like to

thank the experts who helped design the program and curricula for higher education in Cambodia. Your work has been responsive to the demands by the labor market in the country and the region, and thereby responsive to the crucial requirements for Cambodia to improve and develop our education sector in the context of development and globalization.

As H.E. Secretary of State Im Sothy and Ms. Director Dr. Pheung Sakona stated in their reports, the Technology Institute of Cambodia is now 40 years old. Indeed, the TIC has grown in strength and capabilities and thus stands in the first rank in providing technological education for the country.

The TIC's contributions are invaluable and represent our victorious result starting from the effort of the Cambodian people since Liberation Day of 7 January 1979 when we started with empty hands to restore the devastated education system.

Let us be reminded that 25 years ago, this very place was a prison, holding the captive intellectuals during the Khmer Rouge regime. Today this place has been transformed into one of the most effective technical and technological training centers of human resources in Cambodia!

The Royal Government

has secured peace for the nation and our people through the "win-win" policy. Reforms have been launched and implemented in all sectors, especially in the development of human resources, which is key to improving productivity and competitiveness of Cambodia in the globalized economy.

Indeed, the Royal Government considers the development of high quality human resources and the effective use of the country's intellectual capital to be not only efforts to restore the human capacity lost through genocide and three decades of wars, but the just and appropriate support for our people, for their dignity and employment, and consistent with our long-term vision for investment, competitiveness and sustainable development of Cambodia in the 21st century.

The 21st century shall be an era of globalization, where technological progress in all sectors is the key weapon for economic advantage in the market. The entry of Cambodia into the WTO membership is an appropriate step for the engagement of the country in world affairs and trade.

In this context, Cambodia must enable its technicians to use their expertise, knowledge, skills and creativity to innovate and upgrade the econ-

omy. Such advances are especially needed in agriculture, which is still dominated by fate and dependent on the weather. Cambodia must use technology toward modernization, and transform the sector toward more advanced stages of agribusiness, agro-industry and agro-processing.

Attention must also be focused on the development of a product, primary or processed, that shall serve as a unique, national "niche" commodity that enjoys absolute advantage in world market.

The Royal Government has been considering various strategies of promoting industrialization to expand the economic base and thus gradually reducing our dependence on a few products for export. We must produce a broader range of products and also add more value in such products as electronics and appliances. Such efforts all require well-trained and qualified engineers and workers. All of these efforts will generate jobs and employment that can absorb our rapidly growing labor force. Indeed, we need human resources that can respond to the demands of modernized agriculture and industry, and thereby further push growth in these sectors and the economy as a whole.

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The strengthening of the quality and the scope of education, especially for technical and tertiary education is indeed crucial to formation of the production base and intellectual capital to enable Cambodia to respond to the requirements of development and rapid globalization. This is one of the utmost priorities of the Royal Government now and in the future.

Indeed, education is the foundation for ensuring national development in all sectors. We should safeguard the quality of education in Cambodia, avoiding excessive and false marketing and advertising that does not actually deliver good-quality training.

Any misconduct in education services, where the sector is used as a means for commercial benefit without good-quality service is fraudulent! This is an offense to the good spirit and very scarce time and resources of our people and nation.

It is the vision of the Royal Government of Cambodia that in this decade and mandate we shall focus on transforming our national economy to become an economy of advanced agro-industry and manufacture through crucial public investments such as physical infrastructure, irrigation systems, technology development and

knowledge transfer, learning from the experiences of advanced countries both in the region and in the world, and finally expand the market for Cambodian technicians and entrepreneurs within and outside the country.

I am satisfied that the labor market has absorbed the Engineers and Technicians trained by the Technology Institute of Cambodia. This reflects that the training by the TIC is of sufficient quality for the requirements of the labor market.

I urge the Technology Institute of Cambodia to exert its best efforts to upgrade and maintain the high quality of its training. The TIP should also expand its scope into new areas required by technological and scientific progress to conform to regional and international standards.

Such upgrading will enable the TIC to maintain its competitiveness in the production of intellectual capital for Cambodia and for the region. Moreover, I also encourage and appreciate research and analysis on the concrete technological needs of our country. The TIC has exerted efforts to contribute to such research.

I appreciate the role that TIC has taken in fostering cooperation and collaboration with other countries, both with the

French-speaking nations as well as other countries in the region and other continents.

Such cooperation must be further and strongly enhanced, since cooperation always brings about not only the spirit of mutual respect but also knowledge transfer in technology and culture which facilitates communication, harmonization, understanding and peaceful co-existence among all nations.

Having served as head of the Royal Government, I have tried my very best to contribute in many ways - physically, mentally, spiritually, in resources and time - to enhance the development of Cambodia. In particular I have helped to ensure peace that is the basis of economic growth and poverty reduction for overall prosperity and development of the whole nation. I am pleased that many Cambodian intellectuals and technicians have also dedicated themselves to the cause of poverty reduction policy, consistent with national conscience and with strong will to succeed.

I believe that all of today's graduates are anxious to show their capacity and knowledge in national reconstruction. In becoming Engineers and Technicians, you must have the four good qualities: will, perseverance, conscientiousness and knowledge. I believe that

all of the 325 graduates today of the Technology Institute of Cambodia do possess these four good qualities.

Nevertheless, I remind you all that knowledge must be continually pursued, even beyond your studies here at TIC. The four good points you now have are only the beginning. True accomplishment in your careers and lives will require much more.

Experience is the main factor. Experience in life and experience in work are studies outside of the university in the real world. Experience is gained from actual action, from facing and resolving problems in concrete situations, on your own. This experience you will begin to accumulate as you enter your working life from this day forward.

In addition to experience, personality determines success. Personality is the combination of what we receive by fate and the accumulation and strengthening of the special characteristics found in each person.

Such personality is reflected in ideas, analysis, understanding, principles and actions on our beliefs and values and responsibility and accountability for our deeds.

These values define our unique personalities. Indeed, knowledge, experi-

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ence and personality are the three points of a triangle that provides mutual support and strengthening and cannot exist without the others.

Before I close, and in the presence of H.E. the Ambassador of France, may I renew our expression of profound gratitude to the Government and people of France who have supported the TIC for many years.

Moreover, even if 2004 is the last year of cooperation within the Priority Solidarity Fund (FSP) for the TIC, we can expect – again in gratitude – that our cooperation will continue in new and renewed aspects.

I appreciate the France University Agent (AUF - Agence Universitaire de la Francophonie) that has guided the successful implementation of the program, and has prepared the grounds for the transfer of administrative, technical and financial functions to the Cambodian counterpart. I look forward to our continued cooperation with the AUF. I also thank, most sincerely, the other donors such as the Soviet Union, Belgium, Japan, New Zealand and especially, the community of ASEAN Universities Network who have, with wisdom and kindness, opened their doors for further support to Technology Institute of Cambodia, now and in the future.

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... Third, *we must continue to maintain the sustainability of the Royal Government of Cambodia at all levels.*

All reform fronts initiated and implemented so far on issues of land, forest, fishing lots,... and public procurement included, have to continue...

... As we have sufficient cash, public procurement is now applicable on the Ministry of Interior and the Ministry of National Defence, except the Ministry of the Royal Palace.

Fourth, *we have to maintain good relations*

Finally, I wish all of you, Excellencies, Ladies and Gentlemen, the blessings of the five Buddhist gems. To all the graduates, good health and success in your future endeavors.!

with countries in the region, and all international development partners.

Yesterday the newly elected Prime Minister of Malaysia Datro Seri Abdullah Ahmad Badawi made a routine visit to Cambodia. I have a plan to visit China in April, which is rescheduled from February when a Deputy Prime Minister of China will come to visit Cambodia.

... In China I will proceed to participate in a summit conference in Hai Nan and also to other events – because as an elected Prime Minister – for the current and new Government, I have to represent Cambodia. Yesterday the US embassy has sent a letter to me to seek for an extradition of a US citizen who had been arrested on charge of raping an underage in Cambodia.

... I have instructed my advisor to fully cooperate in this matter. These are the four tasks that the Government, old or new, has to fulfil as they are keys to the national development.

On that occasion, Samdech Hun Sen offered Riel 20 million and five solar energized lightings to the Preah Chi Thom; Riel 20 million to the Khya Boeung Veng pagoda; solar energized lightings and a dirt road to the commune of Prek Damboak; a building for

sewing class with fifty sewing machines, two computers and a printer, a photocopy and a 7-KVA generator with 08 solar energized lightings to the Secondary School of Heng Samrin-Russei Sros; two school buildings of 14 rooms to the Secondary School of Prek Por; a school building of six classrooms to the Secondary School of Vong Toeuk, and approved the establishment of alliance between the Srey Santhor district with the Sihanoukville Port.!

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this time will further promote our understanding, bilaterally between Cambodia and Malaysia as well as in the framework of our ASEAN family.

Earlier in the afternoon, Your Excellency and I as well as our two delegations discussed and agreed together that there has been a consolidation and expansion of friendship and bilateral cooperation between Cambodia and Malaysia, cooperation in the ASEAN region, and other issues in the atmosphere of heartfelt and excellent understanding as well.

Presently, after achieving nation-wide peace and political stability and the integration into regional and international context, the only war that the Government and Cambodian people are struggling with is poverty reduction and elimination in Cambodia. This is the main priority of the Royal Government of Cambodia. In this regard, I would like to express my deepest thanks to Malaysia for its assistance for human resources development for the Cambodian officials, for accepting Cambodian workers to work in Malaysia, and for the donation of 106 km of the used rail tracks to connect the missing link of Poipet-Sisophon of the Singapore-Kunming Rail Links. This 106 km donation of the used rail tracks will not only be an invaluable assistance for Cambodia

but it will also contribute to realize very soon the construction of Singapore-Kunming Rail Links which is one of our ASEAN projects.

I also wish to thank the Government of Malaysia for encouraging its investors to further invest in great number in Cambodia. All assistance and investment of Malaysia have helped accelerate the socio-economic development of Cambodia to reduce the poverty, which is the main strategy of the Royal Government of Cambodia.

In recent years, the social and economic development, the national infrastructure rehabilitation and the economic growth have been achieved to a satisfactory level. However, we have committed ourselves to make all our efforts to further speed up the socio-economic development in this third term so as to cut down the poverty rate as planned and to move the ASEAN integration forward for the prosperity of Cambodian People as well as the prosperity of the whole South-East Asian Region.

In the near future, there will be a Meeting of the Cambodian-Malaysian Commission on Economic, Scientific and Technical Cooperation, which will be chaired by the Foreign Ministers of the two countries in Malaysia. I hope that this meeting will give our two Governments the possi-

bility to find new initiatives, new means with the aim of further strengthening and developing the bonds of friendship and cooperation between the two countries as well as to be in harmony with the views and stance of our two countries on regional and international situations in the framework of the ASEAN family.

On behalf of the Royal Government and People of Cambodia, may I assure Your Excellency that the Royal Government and People of Cambodia are determined to keep the excellent bonds of friendship between our two countries sustainable and growing ever since. As a sincere friend of Malaysia, Cambodia is very satisfied with the progress and development in all fields in Malaysia that help the Malaysian people to get a high living standard and happiness. We would like to express our congratulations for the determination of the Government of Malaysia in defining its policy to make Malaysia a developed country by 2020. Cambodia wishes Malaysia to achieve this great goal and believes that under the wise leadership of Your Excellency Prime Minister Dato Seri Abdullah Haji Ahmad Badawi, Malaysia will certainly reach this goal. Furthermore, under the bright and successful leadership of His Excellency former Prime Minister Dato Seri Mahathir Mohamad, Malay-

sia has already laid down its material, economic and technical foundation in moving forward to become a developed country. To congratulate the official visit of Your Excellency Prime Minister to the Kingdom of Cambodia, may I propose a toast:

to the good health and longevity of His Majesty Preah Bat Samdech Preah Norodom Sihanouk, King of Cambodia and Her Majesty the Queen,

to the good health and longevity of His Majesty Yang di-Pertuan Agong XII, King of Malaysia and Her Majesty the Queen,

to the good health and success of H.E. Dato Seri Abdullah Haji Ahmad Badawi,

to the close bonds of friendship and good cooperation between the Kingdom of Cambodia and Malaysia,

to the good health of Your Excellencies, Lok Chum Teav, Ladies and Gentlemen here present.

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