



During the official visit to the Federal Democratic Republic of Nepal from 29 November through to 1 December, Samdech Techo Hun Sen paid a courtesy call on President Bidhya Devi Bhandari

Closing UYFC Fourth Congress

(27 November 2018 — Unofficial Selection and Translation)

UYFC – a Non-governmental Organization Opens for Youth Participation

My wife and I are so happy today to participate in the closing of the fourth congress of the nationwide representatives of the Union of Youth Federations of Cambodia (UYFC) [...] I have heard some comments on some radios and press about neutrality of this organization [...] I may remind those in the oppositions that UYFC is a non-governmental organization and open to youth of every composition who wish to be a part of it. If they do not wish to be a part of it, it is up to them. In lieu that they set up an organization in their support, they would not provide chance for youth of the ruling party to take part too. That is the fact [...] they should be clear on that since they have been talking about UYFC brings together children of the ruling party's leaders. Where else should we recruit them? We have our way of doing it [...]

Youth of Previous Generation Created Army, Established NUFASK

We can say that in every suc-

cess or victory, there has been participation from our youth, a part of which is member of the UYFC. I wish to take this opportune moment to express my sincere thanks and appreciation for its involvements at central, sub-national and local level. I am proud of what this mass organization has been doing to unite and create a strong national movement. Our youth here have been serving in civilian, army, police, and military police. It is an organization that receives volunteers in actions in every field [...] if I am not wrong, the congress of the National United Front for Salvation of Kampuchea (NUFSK) was in progress at this time (in 1978) and I was the MC of the congress. Along with its task to reveal the establishment, I myself had become head of the youth wing, and the one taking responsibility on mass organization and foreign affairs.

Actually, 2 December 1978 was only the day when we proclaimed officially the establishment of the NUFASK, which we will be celebrating its fortieth foundation this year. However, they should not forget that

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No Foreign Military Bases in Cambodia

(19 November 2018 — Unofficial Selection and Translation)

Cambodia Allows No Military Bases in Its Territory

[...] I also received a letter from Mike Pence, Vice President of the United States of America, addressing concern that Cambodia allows a navy base for China in the future. Let me affirm to you compatriots as well as foreign friends that Cambodia has no need to violate its Constitution, which prohibits involvement in any foreign military operation, except those under the UN flags like the ones we are engaged in Sudan, South Sudan, Mali, Central African Republic, etc. As I am addressing this issue to you, I will also write a letter to Vice President of the United States of America affirming the Cambodian position relating to its Constitution that is prohibiting foreign military bases in its territory – infantry, naval, and/or air forces.

Secondly, this news has brought about a question asking why there is a need for Cambodia to have foreign military bases in its territory. Cambodia has a sufficient force to defend its independence and sovereignty. There is no need for assistance from any military bases

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Meeting Workers in Novembers

(November 2018 — Unofficial Selection and Translation)

Off-the-Cuff Talk at the Meeting with Workers in the District of Kandal Stoeung, 28 November 2018

Today I am taking this chance to express my warm welcome for nieces and nephews who are workers/employees and leaders who have come to join me on this occasion. I thank the factories management for providing time for workers/employees to meet me and to have an afternoon off because they started early morning today to come to see me. I resume my tour and meeting with workers/employees after I had to take a break because of my duties inside the country and abroad.

Localize Factories to Within Reach of People

I am asking or understanding from workers/employees with whom I have yet to meet in Kandal, Takeo, Kompong Speu and other provinces. In 24 hours from this time of meeting with

you, on 29 November, I will depart again to Nepal and will return on 2 December. I am asking for your understanding again because some of you have been waiting for a year or so to have the meeting. We started this tour of meeting in August 2017 and it is now November 2018. I have many more to meet [...] today we are meeting workers and factories employees in Kandal Stoeung where many factories have located. Their locations have been easy access to workers outside the capital of Phnom Penh. It is one of the Royal Government's policies to localize factories to within reach of our people after localizing schools to community [...]

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youth activities started even before this date. A group of youth in the province of Koh Kong led by the late HE Say Phu Thong, Samdech Tia Banh is also present here, also rebelled in late 1974 against Pol Pot's pressure at the time. It is considered a part of the youth movement to rise against Pol Pot. In 1975, in the northeast, led by Bun Mi, Bu Thong, and others also rebelled (against the regime). On 20 June 1977, I led a movement myself to form and establish an army of about ten thousand men [...] Finally, Samdech Chea Sim and Samdech Heng Samrin, on 25 May 1978, seceded and revolted against the regime in the east. That was a gold and diamond opportunity for our youths of that generation to hold hands together to form up army coming from all parties and to establish NUFSK [...]

CPP to Convene Nationwide Central Committee Plenum from 19-21 December

From 19 through to 21 December, the Cambodian People's Party will convene a nationwide plenum of its central committee. What party in Cambodia would have three days for its congress or plenum? The longest they would do would be half a day [...] as a real political organization, we needed this much time [...] in order to call for the central committee plenum from 19 through to 21 December, we had to figure out when we could have a meeting of the permanent committee, and we had set it for 3 December to decide on a draft report and directives for the central committee to study and adopt [...] the Party's president is not the most important person. The congress of the Party is its highest organization. From one congress to another, the central committee will take the responsibility before the congress and in between central committee plenums, there is this permanent committee [...]

Leaders Must Sacrifice, Life Even, for Future of Nation

To be a leader is not a simple matter. To become one, one has

to sacrifice, and the sacrifice could be very high, even life too, for the future of nation and peaceful life of people. I may speak only from my personal experiences, which is ones that is growing along with the growth of this nation. I may warn you that "there is no such thing as benefiting without paying cost" [...] there are many fallen combatants – men and women, for the sake of national peace. They sacrificed their lives. You must remember that to come this far we had lost many lives – either from killing or fighting [...] as for me, I have used my life to trade for what we have today. I may bring up three points for you – **firstly, trading life on 20 June 1977.** I was fully aware that I could face death for staying or for leaving the country [...] however, it is a task that I cannot fail to accomplish. In late 1977 and early, 1978, my troops were still clashing with the army under Heng Samrin's command.

I will talk about the third point as **for the second point, I will compile it as document for presentation in the near future. Thirdly, the final phase of win-win policy.** We all knew how dangerous the Khmer Rouge stronghold could be, but we had had to go [...] my mother and my aunt came warning me before I set for the Khmer Rouge stronghold. I told them if that would be the case, only my life and life of my companions would lose. However, if it would not be the case, Cambodia will be whole again. That was the price that we had had to pay. I was not killed. Unfortunately, there was an attempt on my life in Siem Reap. I forgive them already, though I have leads to those behind it. I do not want to bring it back. I just warn them that anyone wished to destroy Hun Sen would face annihilation [...]

Political and Economic Reforms Walked in Tandem

I nurtured my ambition since when I was Minister of Foreign Affairs (to seek for political negotiation) since I understand

that war would not end another war. As a real experience, I think you all should pay attention to the fact that we were conducting political and economic reforms in tandem. Politically, we opened political and diplomatic offensive in order to reach a negotiation for reconciliation between Sihanouk and Hun Sen at Fere-en-Tardenois, France [...] you may ask if Hun Sen did not make effort, though there were supports from other leaders like Chea Sim, Heng Samrin, Say Phuthong, would that be realized? [...] I never hesitate. I would go everywhere to talk things out to stop loss of Khmer lives.

We transferred the country's development from being entirely at war to fighting and negotiating at the same time. Economically, we transferred gradually our reform process in the field of agriculture. I went to Takeo often to learn from Pol Sarouen about how he solved problem regarding land conflict. Later, market economy grew. The Constitution in those days recognized in 1981 only three economic compositions – state, collective, and family. We changed it later [...] you may read my book "Ten Years of Cambodia's March" [...] I remember instructing the Minister of Industry then, HE Ho Naun, on her request to close down private workshop producing outer covers of bicycles, that I'd rather the state company to close instead. I wrote "the fear we are concerned here is not businessmen but people's poverty." It was on this note that I allowed political and economic reforms to happen altogether.

Three Pressing Forces on Hun Sen on Reforms

Let me discourse to you about our trip in the last 40 years since it had not been an easy one. It was full of changes and endeavoring. We are working on transformation but keeping solidarity, internal unity of the party, and moving forwards without backtracking and did not anyone one party to replace us in doing so. However, in the course of doing that, there were three vital and life-threatening

pressing forces hanging on me. **Firstly, lack of understanding among peers.** Not many people knew what would be the free market economy or political negotiation. In those days, the Ministry of National Defense commented on the move for negotiation as to destroy revolutionary achievements [...]

I was lucky though that I have supports from Say Phuthong, Heng Samrin, Chea Sim in doing these important tasks to search for political settlement by means of opening for political and economic reforms based on what we have in fact [...] this is the first dangerous pressing force and I had passed it. This experience suggests that no matter how hard it could be, we must try to make peers understand [...]

What is the second pressing force? Whole Cambodia conducted reforms, there were still about 100,000 Vietnamese soldiers in Cambodia. It was not that simple. Vietnam did not yet open its country on a Doi Moi policy [...] **we were lucky that Vietnam respected our sovereignty. They only defended our people from the return of the Pol Pot's regime but they never involved in Cambodia's decision on what to do with its economy [...]** for what happened and I discovered in Kompot has led to my discussion with the Vietnamese leader to withdraw their experts in June 1988. On this note, you may see that though Cambodia and Vietnam were on different pages on their politic and economic development methodology, they have not become obstacles to Hun Sen's move to reform the country. In those days, should Vietnam disrespect people's decision for changes/reforms, I could have been in difficulty. I thank Vietnam for respecting the Cambodian people's decision [...]

What would be the third pressing force? You all might have known about the fact that Cambodia then received assistance from the COMECON/CMEA, which comprised of countries in

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Meeting Workers – A Target Action of Prime Minister

That we have now pursued our policy for industrial development for the period of 2015-25 and on, we are not neglecting our concern and care for farmers. Some of you may have heard or known about my presence in the district of Siem Reap of Kandal Stoeung district to transplant rice. I led a group of staff from the Ministry of Foreign Affairs to help people transplanting rice. In 1991, at the time we had flood from heavy rain in Prek Thnaot River, I came through here on a motorbike. It was all at the time that Cambodia was promoting its agricultural development. The time for industrial development has now come. It is nothing new to share with you in our meetings for 2017-18. I met workers every year but with a smaller number of you. Now I embark on meeting every one of you and I have made meeting you a target actions of Prime Minister [...]

Bi-Monthly Pay Day

The Minister of Labor and Vocational Training has just mentioned in his report the ten point actions to continue to pay attention on. Where are they coming from? They are coming from the Prime Minister's tours and meetings to identify problems. We have issued based on those facts policies and regulations to resolve problems. When I first started the meetings and tours, our workers were paid 150 USD/month. We then made efforts to find by all means way to increase salary of our workers. It has brought us to this current basic salary of 170 USD/month. In just a month time, our workers will receive a new basic salary of 182 USD/month and you also will be paid on a bimonthly basis [...]

RGC Loses Incomes to Increase Pay for Workers

In order for you to have higher pay, the Royal Government has made every calculation and discussed with involved and concerned parties. We must find a way in which investors will keep their profits and work-

ers continue to have job and better pay. It has been two years now that we have made concession for the benefit of our workers pay rise. In order for you to get paid 170USD/month, the Royal Government has to let go 40 million USD from reduction of its tax incomes and commissions [...] and payment for healthcare of workers [...] from 2018 onward, the factories will take responsibility to cover 100% cost for healthcare for workers, which literally means between 8,000 Riel to 13,000 Riel/month.

For 2019, the factories would go up in pay rise to 177 USD/month. It was not closer to what the Prime Minister wanted. The Royal Government wanted the pay rise to be over 180 USD/month in its gradual effort to reach 240 USD or 250 USD at another stage. On this note, the Royal Government let go another 80 million USD from its coffers on electrical cost compensation. Factories demand that if the Royal Government wished them to increase pay to 182 USD/month, the Royal Government had had to lower the price of electricity to so and so. We then had to deduct the money from the amount that we earmarked for building transmission lines to villages/communes. We had decided to set the fund for workers' pay [...] since our final objective is to increase workers' basic salary [...]

More Infrastructures to Attract Investments and Markets Accesses

Construction of roads, ports, airports, electricity and other necessary infrastructures, including also human resource training, will work in effect to attract investments to Cambodia. We have made every possible efforts to make it happen. Our infrastructures are not yet adequate but comparing to what we had when we started, they are now way better. In Kandal Stoeung for instance, there had never been an asphalted road before [...] we do everything we can to attract investment and to also look for markets for exported goods from Cambo-

dia. Our export has increased in size to over 12 billion USD, which is unprecedented in Cambodian history. This is another indication of victory for a country that rises from destruction. We have striven to accomplish many tasks concerned. I am taking this opportune moment to express my sincere thanks and appreciations to your grandparents, parents and now to you for supporting the leadership of the Cambodian People's Party, especially for supporting me who stands at the head of the Royal Government for over 30 years to score the country successes stage after stage in agriculture, and now in developing industrial sector, as well as in other sectors [...]

Jobs Creation and Pay Rise by the Cambodian People's Party

As you can see that after the elections, workers have benefited from their pay rise. This has clearly indicated that there is nothing wrong about securing peace and development. Some had said in the past that workers' salary increase was because they fought for it. Now that they are gone, workers' salary continues to rise. You may ask yourself why? The Cambodian People's Party has been the one to create you jobs and to ensure your pay and pay rise. They were all thanks to the leadership of the Cambodian People's Party and more punctually of Hun Sen [...] we have done it. I thank you so much once again for voting to place your trust in the Cambodian People's Party and in me. We will go on together. Many of you blessed me just now to live longer. Thank you but we must live longer together. Living longer without you all is aimless [...] your affection expressed to me clearly indicates that you consider me not only a leader but your uncle, grand uncle, father, or a grandfather, even [...]

Keeping Peace, Political Stability, Security, and Social Order

As we are here together – workers, factories management and owners, I am revealing to you

that what I wanted most is to work together to keep peace, political stability, security, and social order. Without peace and political stability, factories cannot stay on [...] there will be no tourists coming. This year we hope to receive about six million tourist arrivals. It will be a big increase. The other day I had a discussion with VINCI, a French company investing in the development and running airports. The company's representative told me he also could not have expected such rise by air traffics. VINCI has now supported entirely our project to build new airports for Phnom Penh and for Siem Reap to respond to such rapid increase of traffics by air. After 2025, existing airport capacity will not be able to respond to such demand because it will exceed over 12 million travelers [...] we will have to widen landing and taxi lane for Kong Keng airport to accommodate arrival of about three million travelers to/from Preah Sihanoukville province [...]

Dialogue with Understanding – The Best Option

I must remind you that we need to avoid holding unnecessary strikes and demonstrations. There is no better option than to have dialogue with understanding. The chase out workers or trade union leaders is not an option. It would only create tension and discontent [...] when there is a problem – small or big, management must immediately resolve them by reconciliation securing interest for both sides. I just had my WhatsApp message here from At Thun concerning my statement the other day. I have delegated the matter to the Ministers of Labor and Vocational Training already. Taking this chance, I am calling on trade unions who have been sued to make a request to the Minister of Labor and Vocation Training in order for him to work with the Minister of Justice to speed up cases relating to leaders of trade unions and related non-governmental organization leaders.

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I have checked it and learnt that some of the case are still under ongoing investigation. As far as I know, thanks to effective works of the Minister of Justice, the courts expedite to finish their investigations. After doing so, the court will come to a conclusion whether or not to open a trial quickly or to file it without processing. If they file it, the case is as good as over. Some trade unions leaders are working under the concern of cases. It is not a good thing. The freedom space for trade unions actions seem to be not full. I am asking the Ministry of Labor and Vocational Training to cooperate with the Ministry of Justice, and the Ministry of Justice to work with courts to bring closures to those cases concerning trade unions leaders who represent workers to a certain number – big or small. This is one part of our job to guarantee political and workplace rights of trade unions and workers.

Everyone Abides By the Law

However, what I am asking from you is that everyone must abide by the law. The factories must abide by the law and so do workers/employees [...] we noticed that sometimes there are conflicts not between factories and trade unions, but between trade unions themselves. In this case, I am calling for expedition of the matter to bring closure to cases in 2018. Let us not have such cases in 2019. At Thun has sent the request but he is not the person representing other cases. I am asking other trade unions leaders with their cases in courts to make official request to the Minister of Labor and Vocational Training to proceed on their problem with concerned institutions [...] to clear their cases as soon as possible [...]

Two of My Sons Have Been in Monkhood

You have just resumed work two days and today you have one afternoon off. We had a three day water festival holiday to continue on to weekend – Saturday and Sunday. It was a long holiday [...] let me wish

those of the nieces in pregnancies to give birth to lovely and intelligent children. I hope you are all keeping up good health. You may want to have more children while you are still young [...] I am having one son in his monkhood at the pagoda of the head monk Muong Ra. He is now traveling to Bodhgaya, where Buddha attained the enlightenment. Many of my relatives have gone to pay him respect. Among my three sons, two of them have gone through their monkhood. One of them was bestowed monkhood while his grandfather died. This other one will stay in monkhood for one month as a virtue of respect for his parents. My other son is also preparing to go into a brief monkhood when the time comes [...]

Off-the-Cuff Talk with Workers in the Commune of Put Sar, Bati District, Takeo Province, 7 November 2018

A Big Meeting

Thank you all. How are you? Let me see your hands up how many of you would be getting married? Today is the last day of the Assoj month and tomorrow will be the first moon day of the Kadek month. The good best man would choose the married month in Kadek – the weather is cool, and the married day either on Saturday or Sunday, so there would be many guests to come. In our country, soon there will be traditional wedding music all over. That is life. I am so pleased to return to the province of Takeo again. Months ago I came to the district of Daun Keo. Today, we are in the district of Bati to meet with 24,366 workers/employees from 20 factories. It is one of the biggest meeting we ever had. We also have 1,041 women in pregnancy [...]

Speeding Up the National Road 2 Renovation

Having come to this area, please allow me to say a few things relating historically to the district of Bati [...] some of you may or may not be able to understand. Before I am talking about some reform efforts to achieve socioeconomic devel-

opment, firstly, I wanted to talk to the Ministry of Public Works and Transports, represented here by a Secretary of State, and the Ministry of Economy and Finance about speeding up negotiation with the Korean side on reconstruction of the National Road 2 [...] the negotiation seems to have gone on very late. I came on this road before and I come again now, I see it condition unchanged. The negotiation has gone on for five or six years already. Please speed it up [...] as far as this road renovation is concerned, I am not happy with such slow working pace to get this road section from Prek Ho to the National Road 22 done [...]

The Road 129B – Trang to Borei Julsa – Built in Concrete

Since we are talking about rebuilding the national road 2, today, Oknha Leang Khun and Chumteav Pheap Heak, will contribute to reconstruction of the 18-km 129B road running from the national road 2 at Trang district to the port of Kompong Ampil, Borei Julsa district. The groundbreaking ceremony will be launching on 26 November 2018 under the presiding presence of Deputy Prime Minister HE Bin Chhin. It will be in concrete and its width will be widen from 7 meters, reported to me earlier to eight meters, with 1.5 meter laterite covered feeders on each side. It will be an eleven-meter road after all [...]

Pursuing Market Economy, State Abandoned Water Canals

Let me return to what had happened here. I am asking singers (and the music band) who are here today to get ready to sing a song “Prey Sva is lucky, Put Sar is fortunate.” HE Chan Sarun may have remembered this story since he was at the Ministry of Agriculture too in those days. The event had brought about this idea to create the Ministry of Water Resource and Meteorology [...] under the State of Cambodia, we had made great efforts to build water canals and to put into func-

tions so many water pumps. We have a Hanuman water canal here. However, at the implementation of the Paris Peace Agreement, or in pursuing market economy, the state abandoned its tradition intervention role on water canals, more importantly mother canals [...]

It was on a water festival occasion, and people from Put Sar in Bati came to my house at Vi-meak Ekreach requesting to see me [...] I had to skip my schedule to accompany HM the King (Preah Norodom Sihanouk) on the last day of the festival in 1994 to meet with our people in Put Sar [...] it was a drought year [...] it was lucky that we still had some former-Soviet made pumps and machines and we had to bring them over from Kompong Som [...] we fixed those machines and pumping started. We then discovered that our people had transplanted rice in the mother canals (which blocked the water current). This was what I called state’s abandonment of its traditional role of assisting farmers [...]

Harvesting Rice under Water Better Than Having None

... I then declared that the state must take interventions in rebuilding, building, and maintaining every mother canals. Free market economy should not (force the state to) abandon its role of assisting farmers. It was then that I came up with this slogan “it is better to harvest rice under water than to have nothing to harvest.” Our farmers in those days liked to cultivate long-term rice and water was their big problem. When they grow short-term rice, they might have to harvest them while the rice field could be under water. I told them to have rice to harvest in water is better than to have nothing. The song I recommended just now is relating to this event [...]

... The whole thing about how to provide help for farmers stayed in Hun Sen’s heart and mind. I finally talked to Samdech Krom Preah Norodom Ranaridh about creating

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this Council for Agricultural and Rural Development. He was President of the Cambodia Development Council in charge of investment. I took up responsibility to see matters in agricultural and rural development. Until, 1998, when the Cambodian People's Party won the elections, I decided to create two more ministries – Water Resource and Meteorology, and Land Management, Urban Planning and Construction. It will be their 20th anniversary this year [...]

Cambodia Reprinted Currency in March 1980

This should reflect to you workers/employees how hard we the former generation had made our efforts to bring our country to this stage of development. No other country in this world, I think, was suffering the same ill fate as Cambodia did. In the world, countries changed leaders by coup or military means but they all keep currency in circulation from regime they brought down. Gradually, they would print new currency to replace them. For instance, when Lon Nol overthrew Samdech Preah Norodom Sihanouk to make Cambodia a republic, he allowed currency printed under the time of Samdech Preah Norodom Sihanouk to circulate for a while and replace them at a later stage. They also practiced this in Vietnam, Laos, etc. [...] Cambodia (under Pol Pot) was different. They uprooted everything. We started by people bartering what they had – fish for scarf, for instance. It was until March 1980 that we reprinted money and put them into circulation [...] everything must restart afresh. Pol Pot confiscated lands, homes, animals, and even kitchen utensils and made them collective property. After we liberated the country, we could not get them back. We must restart afresh [...]

Staying Attached to People for Independence, Sovereignty, National Development

I thank factories for allowing workers/employees to have a

meeting with me. You also have this afternoon off [...] this morning a niece asked me for a free hug [...] I am so glad with your words and gestures. This has reflected not only relations with me as your leader but as your father, grandfather, uncle, and/or granduncle. It is a big encouragement. I have always known that I have attached my destiny and life to those of our people from the beginning. We will keep this knot for at least another ten years. I will accompany workers/employees in particular, the Cambodian people as a whole, to go forward in the framework of independence, sovereignty, and national development. In just two days we will celebrate the 65th anniversary of our independence day at the Independence Monument and in front of the Royal Palace. We are grateful to the King-Father for his efforts to fight for national independence of Cambodia [...]

Twenty Years of Complete Peace

We have attained independence but by 1970 it was destroyed again after a period of peaceful development under Samdech Preah Norodom Sihanouk. War lit the country with genocide to follow. After that, we had continued war that tore our countries apart. However, we (have achieved peace that this year and we) are going to celebrate the twentieth anniversary of the win-win policy that completely ended the war. In our history, one war ended and led to another to come. In 1975, we ended war with the Lon Nol regime supported by the Americans but we slipped into the genocide. We ended the genocide, but war continued. We had to seek for this Paris Peace Agreement with helps from international stakeholders. At the withdrawal of the United Nations, Cambodia continued to have war from 1993 through to 1998 – another five years. We have ended this war and it has been twenty years now that we enjoy full peace.

There Will Be No Pardon on 29 December 2018

It was with this peace that Cambodia scores development. I have used terms like golden and/or diamond opportunity for Cambodia to rebuild the country (for the first time in its hundreds years of history) of no unity. Cambodia was divided and controlled by many armed groups in different locations. However, at end of 1998, Cambodia became a country with only one Constitution, under HM the King, one government, and armed forces [...] it was hard and almost impossible to make peace for our country's development. We must keep this peace under whatever costs it may take.

Let me reaffirm here [...] since someone has posted in Facebook [...] I received a forwarded message at 11:38pm saying that on 29 December 2018, there will be a pardon [...] he or they may wait to see [...] that some is Sam Rainsy as I have no better way to address him. He posted in his account that on 29 December 2018, Hun Sen, at the international pressure, will release Kem Sokha on the 20th anniversary of his win-win policy. He may wait and see. His supporters may wait and see. The person has not yet been tried. He does not have a verdict for me to request a pardon [...] I may send a short message "let wait till a horse has its horn." He could have been in a stressful state of heart and mind and he kept thinking of doing things that are culpable [...] now I am saying that I will not set him free, now what are you going to do with me? Cambodia is an independent country [...]

Have Workers/Employees Lost Their Works and/or Incomes?

... Nothing is strange about the fact that they have asked foreigners to cease foreign aid, to stop investing in, and to stop buying from Cambodia. Our workers/employees could have seen already by now have you lost your works and/or incomes? We are working on moving your minimum salary from 170 USD to 182 USD next year. HE Kong Korm the other day also said the other day

that (their actions) were intimidations. Trade is not a simple matter. They lied all around. It has been over one year now that they said Hun Sen would be so and so. In fact, Hun Sen is still standing here [...] everything we realized comes from our efforts. We made and secure peace for development [...]

Direct and Indirect Benefactors from Investment and Localization of Factories

... We started from a salary of 40 USD and we will be implementing the 182 USD next year. This salary has increased four times. This will improve income of over 840,000 workers. This must be seen partly as the fruit of our policy to attract investment and localize factories closer in provinces. We will have one more round of meeting with 17,000 workers/employees in Takeo at Tram Kak's district. To count them all, in Takeo, we have about 60,000 workers/employees. They all benefit directly from this development. We also have traders who would indirectly benefit from it. We also have families who also share their benefits. This has clearly been a combination between what you earn in factories with what you traditionally do in agriculture in your families [...]

Following Midterm Elections in the US

... I have brought with me internet tool here. We are following news on the midterm elections in the US [...] one person in the US said that if Donald Trump wins (since the presidential elections) it would be the rise of the uneducated. That Trump had won the elections, I just could not imagine he could go on lining in the US [...] you may ask if anything important that I keep my ears on the ground. We have the need to know any change of leadership in any countries in the world, especially those in big countries as they will impact situation in the world. We would not intervene in any way for them but we need to keep abreast of it [...]

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[...] Cambodia has no need for foreign military intervention. With whom does Cambodia prepare to fight? Are we to fight with our people? With Thailand? With Vietnam? With Laos? It is a matter beyond comprehension. What intention do they have for spreading this kind of information? Are they just using presences of Chinese investors and tourists as pretext to find false with Cambodia?

Cambodia Is No Place for Ideological and/or Weapons Tests

I am so sorry to have heard and seen that some foreigners are trying to do bad things on Cambodia, who has not made such things. Cambodia has no need for any country to come and make war in our country. I do not need foreigners to come fight in our territory as it happened in the past. Policy of the Cambodian People's Party, and particularly my political leadership, does not wish to have foreign forces present and fighting in Cambodia. Please do not make Cambodia your test site for ideology and/or weapons.

Every Countries in the World Are Friends

We consider every country in the world our friends and we are seeking their cooperation for development. We welcome foreign friends coming and helping Cambodia develop its economy. I wish to see our foreign friends come and compete with one another for the sake of Cambodia's better socio-economic development. They should be helping us build infrastructures. If one country can build a road or a bridge for us, another could have done more. That is what we wanted. They should race for socio-economic development of Cambodia [...] they are welcome. We invited them to do that. We welcome investments from every countries to Cambodia. We resolutely deny ideological competition that divided and/or killed Cambodians as in the past. We reject resolutely such competition to make Cambodia their test site for weapons and arms trades.

Cambodia Implements Independent Policy and Defends Its Sovereignty

I hope on this point the Cambodian people who might have received information from this or that press source, and our foreign friends who have concerns on this matter, to have trust in (the Royal Government's efforts) to implement (policy of) independence and to defends our national sovereignty [...] we welcome cooperation such as in form of military exercises – multilaterally or bilaterally, and in accordance with what Cambodia wanted as a host country. We conducted military exercises with many countries in the past for the sake of rescuing people from natural or major man-made disaster, and anti-terrorist training [...] disasters would include moving people to safety from major disaster area caused by plane crash and/or sinking ships, etc.

Cambodian Troops under UN Flags; Presence of Military Attaches and Trainers

I reaffirm that Cambodia has since 1989 had no foreign military presence. It was a fact that there were foreign troops in Cambodia from 1991 through to 1993 in the UN peacekeeping operation in Cambodia. As of presence, Cambodia sends its troops (for peacekeeping operations) in foreign countries. I accept that there are foreign military personnel who are working as military attaches, trainers and/or trainees in Cambodia. There are no military staff as combating force. Some of them have been in Cambodia as de-mining experts and most of them are from India, France, and even the US [...] we also have trainees in de-mining skills coming from Colombia, a country closer to the US.

News Are Fake and Deceptive

I reaffirm that Cambodia allows no foreign military – infantry, naval

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Meeting Mention-A Graduates

(08 November 2018 — Unofficial Selection and Translation)

Will Continue to Meet Mention-A Secondary School Graduates

Once again, I have made my time to meet with graduates of senior secondary school with mention A as I have done it every year. I have made it clear from before the elections that if I were not to be re-elected, and I have said the same to workers, it would be up to the "elected Prime Minister" to think what s/he would do on this matter. If I were to be re-elected, I would continue to meet mention-A graduates, and workers as well. It is now true that Prime Minister continues in this new term for two months and two days today. Today is November 8. The Royal Government was formed on 6 September [...]

Let me express my congratulations to you my grandchildren for passing exams successfully with mention A. That is the achievement that brings you to the Peace Palace today. I hope that any Prime Minister in the future will continue to such meeting because it will be a huge encouragement not only for you personally but also for family, community, school, and nation. It also reflects progress in the field of education too. It is my joy and appreciation to see that the Cambodian children, notably you here, have made great efforts in your studies, especially in the time prior to taking exams [...]

More Budgets Allocated for Education and Health

Taking this opportune moment, let me express my sincere appreciation for the Ministry of Education, every offices under its supervision and every educational foundations for making efforts concerning this achievement [...] the fifth term of the Royal Government was one with deep reform in education in conformity with policy giving priority to human resource for which we, in this new term, have earmarked budget that is 3.5 folds bigger and still growing. We are focusing on educa-

tion. There is no other equitable way to redistribute the fruits (of our economy) than to invest them in infrastructure necessary, especially relating to human resource such as building schools and/or hospitals. We put more money in education and health sectors to ensure that our children will have good health, intelligence, and they will be competent to take over from us former generation [...]

Reform Taken in Secondary Exams Changes Mindset of Society and Nation

I have a sincere appreciation for parents who have helped their children to commit and realize this achievement. We can say that our society has transformed when we introduce reform in conducting and administering exams. It has taken a wide ranging and profound effect in mindset of family as well as society. In time of previous reforms, some parents were not concerned and paid no attention to their children's efforts [...] in 2016, in the course of over five thousands kilometers trip to a number of regions like Preah Vihear, Uddar Meanjei, Banteay Meanjei, Battambang, Pailin, and other provinces, I had noticed that, in the course of preparing for senior secondary level school exams, there were extra classes in which students from 12th and 11th grades had taken before either they would take exams that year and/or the year after that [...]

Peace in Place of Division Gives Chance to Children and Youth

Let me take this opportune moment to express my sincere thanks for the authority at every level for making efforts to provide safety everywhere in the Kingdom of Cambodia under the roof of peace. That is the fruit of peace. Were there no peace, there would be no school or schooling as there would be insecurity. Students and teachers would take refuges in trenches as we already saw and

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(Continued from page 6 A) did in fighting. In certain school in those times there were trenches all around. This has changed for the past twenty years now. This year, we celebrate the 20th anniversary to end the war completely to unify our country. There are no more fighting and/or sounds of gunfire to interfere teaching of teachers and studying of students. This is the case everywhere – Phnom Penh or every other places. We can do it [...]

Schools Join in Implementing Policy of Village/Commune Safety

Authority are making efforts to contribute to leading implementation in the framework of safety for village and/or community. There have been cases that in some schools we were taking effective measures to combat and eliminate drug. Some of the students have had this experiences. It is in this note that I said if we transform schools as basis to combat drug along with efforts to ensure enterprises are peaceful and no-drug community, we could be certain that these measures are addressing safety of our village and/or community [...]

A Computer Glitch

Along with this, I am delivering my appreciation and congratulation to all 76,036 graduates who had made it successfully to pass the exams in the whole country. There were interruption. I was concerned as to what was really the matter. Finally, we found out that it was a computer glitch. This is a lesson for us all to remember that we must be careful working with electronic helpers [...] if we were not able to find out the problem, there would be a rising demand for taking exams again [...]

A Culture of Sharing Helps Education

We wish that our culture of participation and sharing promotes education further. I am thankful to Oknha Leang Khun of the Chip Mong Company. Yesterday he offered to build a road at a cost of some six million USD in Takeo. Every year

that I meet with Mention-A students, he also provided me with iPads to give to them [...] this is the fifth year (that he helps) [...] you may have to help me for another ten years because that would be how long I am going to stay. Would you grandchildren allow me to stay on for another ten years? [Sound of answering “yes”]. Some of you already voted this year and some of you may vote in the next term. I will stand again in 2023. I have not made decision for 2028. By that time I would be over 70 years old. So much. I would think of a possibility to withdraw [...] sharing has long been our tradition and practice, and there is nothing wrong with doing that.

Were there no sharing, we would for instance have not sufficient school buildings. It is in this note that we must continue to join together for development of our human resource. You must continue to make efforts. From here on, you will have to make your decision what are you going to study to be [...]

Appointments According to Competence

I ran my eyes on a piece of abridged version sent to me by HE Svay Sitha concerning this topic that Hun Sen appointing his son (to so and so position). I wish to respond to such news that my son is a human being, is not he? If you look into my family tree, I have an eldest brother whose name nobody would even know. He did not have the ability to work in any position higher than Deputy Head of Department [...] one other brother who is even better than me was once governor of Kompong Cham and now he becomes member of the National Assembly. It is all about capacity [...] I have a cousin who is a worker in one factory in Stoeung Meanjei. I also have today a nephew who attained Mention A. I just knew about it when I came across his parents [...]

My children had studied and achieved their Ph.D. and Master Degrees. Would I just put them

away? Or should I give them some works to do? Other officials also have their children trained [...] where would we put these people? I may remind you that opposition party members who joined us and I do not have to disclose their names, always came to me with stacks of requests for me to intervene for so and so to go from one place to another. Very often they would ask to go to Finance and/or customs. When my son is an official, a soldier, and he deserves to have a job, they said I am doing it for the sake of securing power [...]

Female Students Did Better in Exams

Let me say something about gender. Last year I said it and I am saying it again now. I wish concerned ministries pay attention to this dearly. I have noticed that in secondary education, number of male and female students are similar. When it comes to higher education, number of female students goes down [...] this year, it is encouraging to see that though more male students got Mention A in their exams, female students did better as far as whole number passing exams in the country – 3,748 more than number of male. In scoring mention-A, female number is twenty less. As a whole, of all the students who have passed exams – 76,036 of them, there are 3,748 of female graduates than male [...]

Infrastructure and School Building – Challenges

I am grateful to efforts made by concerned actors to bring our country to this stage. We still have challenges ahead. As number of student grows, we need to build more schools. We still need more school buildings. We need to build more new school and school buildings in areas where people moved in to settle. In 2012, we measured nearly two million hectares of land for our people and I visited those places. We have needs for roads, transportation, connectivity, water, schools, hospitals, etc. In those places, schools were old and/or needed repair

or build new ones. Many challenges and needs to address [...]

No Reconciliation with Person of Recklessness

Price of land has risen and some people were unhappy about it [...] some do not even appreciate the fact that our sportsmen/women scored medals from regional or world competitions. We won accessions to world heritages for Preah Vihear, Sambo Prey Kuk, etc. and they said nothing [...] last time, a child of the member of opposition also won mention A and came here too. We discriminate no one. However, on the other side, they do and attack my children. The difference is here. It is a contradicting culture [...] in this development, what else can we do? If they wish for a reconciliation culture, they should know how to behave. If they do not want it, they may go on with such recklessness [...]

I do not mean to tell you to set your mind to follow people of older generation. However, some of them may have good things to learn from. Some, you would not have anything good thing to learn. All they ever did was scolding. Fake news and cybercrimes have become a big topic in world forum, for instance ASEM [...] in some cases, they spread false news that Hun Sen died two hours ago [...] what should you do in this case? As far as I know, France and Germany are in the process of drafting laws against fake news [...]

Bimonthly Salary

From January next year, our civil servants, teachers included, will be paid on a bimonthly basis [...] in the past five years now, we have paid our civil servants in the third week of every month. From January 2019, we will pay our civil servants every fifteen days [...] in both state and private sectors [...] I have asked for concerned institutions to reserve me certain amount of cash for salary. We may cut out in other flow of expenses but not from salary [...]/

Meeting Krousar Thmey Deaf-Mute Children

(18 November 2018 — Unofficial Selection and Translation)

Disability Should Not Be Obstacle to Self-Development

As I am here with you all, I have not much to say except to advise you to make efforts in your studies. It was quite unfortunate that you were born disabled but in this era, as long as you make efforts, disability is not obstacle to self-development to each and every one of you. We have way of touching and sensing letters and some of our mute and deaf children have received training through to graduate and post-graduate degrees. Some have been working in state and private institutions, and some have been pursuing works (self-employment) in their families. In this occasion, let me call on everybody involved to pay attention to providing care and counsel to these disable kids. Our responsibility is not just taking good care of them at this stage. We need to do it for a long time to ensure they receive good and high education by which they could depend on [...]

RGC's Policy to Avert Malnutrition among Children

In this sense, we are in pursuit of implementing policies to provide financial supports for women in pregnancy, working in civil servant and armed forces. Policy are also covering female workers who would have a three-month post-delivery convalescence with 120 percent of their salary [...] we in the meantime are putting into practice financial support policy for women in poor families with financial support for their newborns until they are two years of age. That female in pregnancy has become the focus clearly shows the Royal Government's social protection policy that is contributing one part to avert issue of malnutrition on our grandchildren [...]

We also would like our people to have good physical buildup and be intelligent as they are going to be the ones to carry through progress of the country. The human factor will ensure

materialism development. Concern on human resource development is relating not only to women in pregnancy, delivery and care for children or school building but also to their nutritional status [...]

Be Prepared for Gradual Withdrawal of Assurances

I thank Benoit Duchateau-Armainjon (for the good job he has done for these mute and deaf kids). We are in the stage of transferring or integrating these schools into the Ministry of Education, Youth and Sports [...] it is now time for the Ministry of Education, Youth, and Sports to take up responsibility not only of this center but also of other centers in the future since the Cambodian economy is able to take over. When we are becoming a country with reasonably bigger income, we are obliged to borrow commercial loans [...]

Continue to Provide Assurances

In this sense, we must be ready, both in social affairs and in education, to take over gradually our responsibility to carry them on. It is in this note that we have increased bigger budget for health, education, and social affairs. That is our responsibility for the nation [...] though the centers have transferred to under the management of the Ministry of Education, Youth, and Sports I will continue to provide assurances to those of you who are still living here. The management and children should not have concern about this as we are transferring management to the Ministry of Education, Youth, and Sports [...] Samdech Tia Ban will continue his assistance in Siem Reap. Samdech Krola Haom will continue his assistance in Battambang. HE Khieu Kanharith will do his part in Kompong Cham [...] we will continue to have meeting next year and even if grandpa/I would not be able to come in person, grandma/my wife will come or any one of my children would [...]./■

(Continued from page 5) Expedite Legal Case on Trade Unions

I am calling on factories to resolve their problems by dialogues. I am asking the Ministry of Labor and Vocational Training to work on this matter that news came to me that some trade unions' leaders are fighting legal case in courts. They said they seemed to have worked under legal pressure. If that was true, we should think of way to coordinate it. If the courts were to take cases to trial, they may do so to finish them. If they were to not do so, they may shelf them as no actions taken. I am asking HE Ith Sam Heng (Minister of Labor) and HE Ang Vong Vaddhana (Minister of Justice) to inform the courts to proceed on this matter [...] trade unions now are able to work and manage themselves. They work in solidarity with workers and conduct

negotiations with factories management and owners. Working with each other amicably is important. One thing to avoid is to commit mistake and offenses thinking oneself working in non-governmental organization and resorting to blaming (authority's actions as) pressure on trade unions or NGOs [...]

Visiting Nepal, Laos, Vietnam, and China after ASEAN Summit in Singapore

We will have so many ceremonies to observe. You will have more holidays from the 9 November Independence Day to the water festival, and through to the end of the year. I will have more trips to do to foreign countries. I will head next week for the ASEAN Summit in Singapore, I will conduct a visit to Nepal, to follow by official visit to Laos, Vietnam, and towards 23 and 24 December, an official visit to China [...]./■

(Continued from page 2)

Eastern Europe. The then Soviet Union had not yet gone through Mikhail Gorbachev's perestroika and glasnost. It is known to everyone that [...] it was the time of negotiation between China and the Soviet Union. They pointed fingers at each other about who were on the course of revisionism [...] our biggest source of assistance was from the Soviet Union and countries in Eastern Europe. **Should the former Soviet Union, then were working on mobilizing countries to pursue socialism, see that Cambodia was going on a different direction, Hun Sen could be in danger.** They just said that if Hun Sen stayed on as President of

the Council of Ministers, they would cease their assistance. That would be enough to complicate things [...]

No More War of Words

Tonight, do not be surprised, one radio will invite some people to comment on my speech. I must remind you that there is no need to fire words in return. There is one person who kept pestering me with his postings expecting that I will return the favor. I no longer talk to him. I am aware that your importance has worn out. His remaining option is to pester me to engage in war of words with him [...] we will not talk with him because doing so will give him credibility [...]./■

(Continued from page 6)

and/or air forces in its territory. We dismiss news that are fake and twisting the truth. I make it my confirmation officially today. I will write a letter to Vice President Mike Pence to clarify this issue. I will also meet the US Ambassador William A. Heidt for his farewell. I might be talking a few words on this to him. For the better reason, maybe I should not. That the news is already out there, I had better not say anything. I do not wish to have hard feeling when we are saying goodbye. I do not wish for a bitter dialogue before his departure. I think Ambassador Heidt also knows Khmer. He could as well read my statement. I am sending best wishes to our compatriots for the coming water festival in the day after tomorrow. Thank You./■