

## Meeting with Cambodians in Europe

(12 December 2022 — Extensive Excerpts and Unofficial Translation)



**(1) No Pressure to Come Meet Prime Minister; Whoever Joins the CPP Blamed to Be Puppets or Vietnamese; Huge Rice Field, Use Lot of Seeds, Harvest Big Yield; Individual with Cambodia’s National Identity**

This is not a coincidence, but an arrangement, and there is an agreement between those who have to come, i.e. I have to come from Phnom Penh, but also those volunteers who sincerely wish to come with the desire to meet up together. **This morning, while stepping off the plane, I saw (on social media) nephews who say that “(the fact that they are coming to this meeting is because of) pressure from anyone.” This means that there has been saying that the fact that people come to this meeting was because of oppression or/ or deal cutting. Maybe we should end using this language at some point because it is a serious insult to conscience or civil rights. Under whose pressure or threat that all of you are coming here?** That is not the case not only for the people living abroad in a democratic country, but even the Cambodian people, the Royal Government has no right to oppress (them to do this or that) [...]

I do not understand how those who came to live in the so-called democratic land can still use this language. It could be because it is their ways. It is neither the way of Hun Sen, nor of the CPP. Take for instance in here, people may leave, for example, if they do not like to listen, either they do not attend, or come and do not have to enter, or enter and want to leave, then it is their right? **But sadly, some people coming from our country to live abroad (inaccurately considered) whoever joins the CPP – intellectuals, doctoral students – puppets, or all Vietnamese. They blame them of low value for being with the CPP [...]**

Days now, there are announcements to launch a protest against me. I also wanted to know how many there are on the 14th (December) would come out. Maybe today we have already filmed our group, and on December 14th, we go filming their demonstration. How many of them will there be? As far as I know, in the United States, in Europe, and in Geneva, that never happened. **That place is the place for protest, but it never happened. I do not know why? I wanted the person who**

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## 10+1 Anniversary of Minebea Operation in Phnom Penh SEZ

(01 December 2022 — Extensive Excerpts and Unofficial Translation)

**(1) Minebea Midwived and Taken Care of; First Comes First Served; from USD 32 Million to Over USD 600 Million in Capital**

This is my fourth time here at the Minebea factory whereas Mr. *Yoshihisa Kaimuma* just reminded you of my word that *I have been the one who midwived the project and taken care of the growth.* Of course, my commitment has now become a reality. That starts with trust. The big thing that we learnt from this experience is that the growing project is stemming from trust, so to speak. Companies trust the Royal Government and the Royal Government trusts the company. The workers trust the company and the Royal Govern-

ment, while the Royal Government trust the workers and the company. These are points of growth not only in Minebea, but also across the investment landscape. As I have already said I would just catch the fish that comes first. There is no need to wait for the next big fish or small fish, because Cambodia is in a state of scarcity and investment.

Eleven years ago, I met Kaimuma. We allowed the company to invest exclusively on certain items, and then there were other companies coming later wanted the same business investment status saying to us that Minebea is a very small company. I told them that – **firstly, the**

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## Quality Improvement of NR 31&33

(30 December 2022)

**(1) Roads 31 and 33, More Than 106 Km, an Important Economic Corridor to Vietnam and the Kingdom of Thailand.**

[...] we launch the construction site to improve the quality of roads 31 and 33, with a total length of more than 106 kilometers, which HE Sun Chanthol just mentioned in his report of the importance of the connectivity. This road is an important connector to the southwest coast. This road connects from Takeo to Kampot, Kep and even to Vietnam, which is an important corridor of economic relations, and a coastal corridor connecting Vietnam to the Kingdom of Thailand in the territory of the Kingdom of Cambodia [...] less than a

week ago, His Excellency Wang Wintien, Ambassador of the People’s Republic of China and I have launched the construction site of Road 41, which connects Kampong Speu province to Kampot province [...] once upgraded, people in Kampot benefit from these roads 31 and 33. Not just the people of Kampot, but all Cambodians have the benefit of using these roads. This is another new achievement that make our people better off in building their lives.

**(2) China Builds Over 3,000 Km of Roads and Is Building Hundreds of Km More**

I would like to take this oppor-

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**claimed to protest to come out and lead the demonstration against me by himself/herself [...]**

As for our gathering here, we have, according to the Ambassador, over 2,000 participants. Let us remember that behind the nearly 2,000 people, how many more are there? They have their families. Taking rice cultivation for comparison. When you grow big rice, when you have a large land, use lots of seeds, you also harvest big yields. Smaller farms and fewer seeds, it yields less too. In fact, **the recent CPP commune/sangkat election result scored more than 74% of the votes. The size of the CPP is also big, and when it comes to having children, we 74% will have more and their children will come to voting age in great number too. In that case, you are still 20% forever, and I am still 70% forever, because that is what it is. Children never go against the fathers [...]**

Thank you for all the **support and your efforts, the elderly, the disabled, children and infants, to travel long distance under the cold weather to show your spirit of love for the motherland. I am just an individual, but I bring with me Cambodia's national identity. This is an acknowledgment of the leadership role that you brothers/sisters come from a distance to meet. I am grateful and excited in my heart.** This has ascertained that no matter where we Khmer go, we are still Khmer. In a way, blood is thicker than water. This means that although water can dissolve blood, still blood is thicker than water. No matter what country you come to, no matter what country you are in, but the spirit of Khmer is still Khmer [...]

**(2) Cambodia's Vaccination Blossoming Flower Approach; Covid-19 Drives the Growth of Digital and Information Technology in Cambodia; More Than 2 Billion USD Spent on the Fight against Covid-19 and the**

**Need to Help the Victims; 17 Over 40 Political Parties Contested in Commune Elections; Myanmar Issue May Take another Five Years**

... I want to highlight three important issues for our brothers/sisters today. **First, the fight with Covid-19, which is not a small issue, this is very big, especially when it comes to human life, fighting with invisible enemies.** This is a difficult task for poor countries in Asia, while in the early stage of Covid-19, media in advanced nations predicted disasters for (lack of high standard medical and health resources of) Cambodia, Myanmar, Laos, and Bangladesh [...]

In that combative effort, the two main measures that we have set out and that we have succeeded in are – firstly, the health measure that we orally remember – the 3 Dos and 3 Protection Measures. It is what our brothers and sisters are doing here, and still do – wearing a mask, washing your hands, and keeping a distance. The three protective measures are to go to no crowded places, do not go to closed places and do not touch each other; and secondly, we are canvassing the vaccination efforts. **Cambodia's vaccination rate so far is more than 95%, an unusually high rate.** It is true that our country is poor, but the Royal Government is investing to solve the problem of Covid-19 by not allowing people to go without vaccines or paying for vaccinations [...]. **Vaccination measures in Cambodia is also taking a different approach to many. We applied what we term "blossoming flower approach" and not "the equity approach."** Some countries provided vaccination based on equity distribution [...]

Our biggest concern at the (Covid-19) time was the closure of schools where nearly 4 million of our students had had to study online. (Learning online) however provides opportunities [...]. **Covid-19 continues to drive the growth of information technology in Cambodia. Digital has been growing**

**fast, and in some case, there have been assessments that it is advancing at least three years ahead.** According to the Ministry of Education, (digital growth) can (be considered to have moved fast) 10 years ahead [...]

To avoid the problem of declining poverty rate, the Royal Government has decided to release about US\$ 40 million per month to support about 700,000 families (or over three million population). Some factories and hotels have to suspend workers. Workers who have been suspended by closing the factory, we give them US\$ 70 per person/per month, where the government provides USD 40, and the factory provides USD 30 [...] for those working in hotels, they only get the USD 40 support from the Royal Government [...]. **I can conclude that we have released more than 2 billion USD of our savings to meet the needs of the fight against Covid-19 and the need to help the victims [...]**

The second outstanding event in 2022 is the **well-organized commune/sangkat elections, which is a step towards the 2023 national elections.** This is for us a regular democratic process [...] the Cambodian Constitution does not allow the Prime Minister to dissolve the National Assembly [...] It has been termed "Parliament has five years legislature term. The parliament cannot be dissolved before the mandate unless the government is dissolved twice in 12 months." Therefore, it offers no power to the Prime Minister to dissolve the National Assembly before the mandate [...], and in the election law, it is stated that every five years, on the fourth Sunday of July, elections must be held. Therefore, each political party is able to prepare for 5 years for elections. The winner is ready to win, the loser is ready to compete to win [...]

For commune/sangkat elections, we do not exceed the deadline. We announce the election date at least six months in advance. Commune/Sangkat elections went well with no

violence or intimidation. **There are about 40 political parties, but only 17 political parties contested in the election [...]** a good election is a democratic process. We have just completed the registration of voters, which takes 45 days a year to review more registrations, with almost half a million people new voters. Some registrants have been removed because some are dead [...]

What is the third event? That is the ASEAN Chairmanship. This year's ASEAN Chairmanship has some many issues of complexity at the same time. Though there have been lot of things, but we also did well to demonstrate our trust and ability as a responsible member and chair. **This year, seven more countries signed the Treaty of Amity and Cooperation (TAC) in Southeast Asia in Phnom Penh, bringing ASEAN partners up to 50 signatories [...]**

**I can proudly say that our officials in all areas are capable of doing the job, which I termed "We Khmer can do the job."** The Minister of Foreign Affairs, along with concerned Ministers, and the Senior Officials have been able to hammer out 101 documents in this event. We had had concerns that countries in animosity with each other were going to have a hard time with each other [...] on numerous issues like the Russia-Ukraine unfriendly situation, the South China Sea, which has become less tense because the matter is being in the handling mode. We are doing a rather good job on the South China Sea Code of Conduct (COC). There are also two parallel meetings – the ASEAN Inter-Parliamentary Assembly and the Foreign Ministers Plus meeting [...]

Some have insulted me (on handling Myanmar issue). I know. I do not need to name [...] that's alright [...] they said I was ruining the situation in Myanmar. **I can predict that Myanmar will take at least five more years (to resolve the issue) [...]** I am nearing the end

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of my mission. The ASEAN Chair Special Envoy can no longer travel to Myanmar. Let the new ASEAN chair envoy take the course [...]

**(3) Sanction Is a Door that Closed on Both Sides; No Longer a War between Russia and Ukraine alone; Market Economy but with Guidance; Salary Increase from January 1, 2023; Will Work as a Team**

... On one front, we initiate **action of interventions to help poor people with low incomes but cope with the rising time of commodity prices. On another front, we also assist the people affected by the floods. We may release more funds to intervene on this issue.** As we are talking about the Covid-19 issue, along come the global economic problems, put people in Europe in serious challenges. Now those in Europe may be worried. I was joking with (Charles) Michel, President of the European Union, whether I should bring along firewood when I come to Belgium [...] the issue of excessive sanctions has also shaken the global economy. Continuing and worsening war is a story, but sanction is another. As I said in Davos, **sanction is like a door that closed on both sides – as one side could not leave, the other side could not enter too.** Europe imposes sanctions on Russia (by) stop buying oil, and fixing the would-buy price of Russian oil. Russia just ignores and stop selling or unless payment is made in Russian Ruble, or Russia will just turn off the gas [...]

I heard that in German supermarkets, they now sell firewood. What is the situation in the next few months of winter season like? [...] **this war is no longer one between Russia and Ukraine but between NATO and Russia or Europe and Russia. Whatever happened does not affect only Europe. It affects us too [...]** when the price of oil rises, so does the price of coal, and our electricity costs too. We are facing losses, but the (Royal

government does not allow increase in the price of electricity to withstand the loss. If you dare to raise prices, it is very dangerous for the livelihood of the people whose income is declining, while transportation costs rising is a bigger thing. Factories are paying more for electricity.

That is why I have said over and over again with *Electricité du Cambodge* (as well as) with the Ministry of Mines and Energy asking for the price of electricity to be pegged and the Ministry of Commerce to mediate. **Although we are operating the module of market economy, but there must be some guidance, otherwise take the opportunity to increase/decrease oil prices [...]**

The Royal Government will also **increase the salaries of retired civil servants of the Armed Forces from January 1, 2023.** We missed a salary increase two years in a row, and it is now high time to raise salary. So far, we have tried, although not all, to increase pension for those who retired earlier [...]

It is wrong to use “the Hun family or clan” as an enemy [...] you need to know that there are a lot of “Hun clans” intellectuals. Just around me, there are 10 intellectuals [...] my grandchildren are becoming intellectuals too. Many are in good terms with the “Hun family” all over the country. Setting a goal to get rid of “the Hun family” is a strategic mistake. If you can defeat the CPP, then you can dig the roots of the “Hun family.” Do not imagine that someone in the ranks of the CPP to uproot the “the Hun family”. **They are not foolish enough to commit suicide like your group. Do not imagine that Sar Kheng will seize power from Hun Sen. Do not foster such hope. Sar Kheng is now acting Prime Minister [...]**

Even when Yang Saing Komar joined the CPP to contribute to the development of the agricultural sector, mainly focusing on the rice sector, many blamed

and insulted him and belittled RGC’s efforts regarding solving the 12 points issue. **There can be no Secretary of State or Minister, without a government, to succeed in such a task. We gather the wisdom of all the people who are able to work us a team.** You may watch the football team, and we have to learn from the football team that no one player can/should play alone, dragging the ball down/up [...]

**(4) Three More Bridges to Be Built; We Can Now Host SEA Games; If Germany Is Not Wrong (to Arrest Those Attempting a Coup), then Hun Sen Is Not Wrong (to Have Done So); Before Democracy, Ones Have to Keep the Peace; Trade No Independence and Sovereignty for Aid or Favor; Do Not Look at Cambodia as a Country alone but a Member of ASEAN**

... We will have to build three more bridges in the near future. We will launch the groundbreaking ceremony for **the first bridge across the Mekong River at Kratie province ... either on January 2 or January 6 ... The second bridge, officially approved and signed on December 9 (2022), will connect Phnom Penh (and Areykasat) ...** where there will be two cable-stayed crossings – one from the Old Market park across the Tonle Sap and land at Chroy Changvar, and another goes up from Chroy Changvar, crossing the Mekong River, to land at Arieksat ... **and we will build another bridge ... connecting National Road No. 1 to Lvea Em across the Mekong and connecting with the expressway that goes all the way to the Vietnamese border ...** I have delegated the release of 200 million dollars (to build that bridge) [...]

These are all projects to stimulate economic growth. A country needs water, road, electricity and human resources in order to develop. We send students to study in Switzerland/France, generally speaking, whoever gives us scholarships, we accept all of them [...] these students have come to welcome their

leader. They have to accept that these people are not being (oppressed) [...] they insult us [...] to be honest, do not be afraid, one meal together is not a matter of concern. There are this number of people, having a meal together is nothing wrong [...] January 14 (2023) I have to meet thousands of journalists and continue to meet with sportsmen to encourage them to prepare for next year’s SEA Games. Big competition in Cambodia [...]

At the moment, some grandchildren who are athletes/players. Let’s see who would go help participate in the competition. If you decided to go, you got to train from now [...] Khan Chesda competes for Cambodians. She is in the United States and she competes for Cambodians. We in France, if there are good people to join the training team, you are welcome. Let me tell you the truth, we could have hosted the games a long time ago, but I begged understanding of other ASEAN partners that we needed to save up for roads, bridges, schools, hospitals, canals. Well, I would like to suggest that the ASEAN countries do it first [...] **now we have achieved our goals and China has helped this USD 200 million stadium. It is not that modern, but we have what other do as well [...]**

A country is not perfect in every way [...] who comes from Germany? These days, were there arrests really of people who may want to launch a coup attempt? (Yes). Why is there – in a democracy rooted in the post-World War II – attempt at a coup in 2022? Why did the Germans have to arrest that person? Cambodia, obviously, some are even attempting to arrest me. Why don’t I arrest you? [...] you plan to enter the country to inspire your supporters to topple Hun Sen, and to arrest Hun Sen with weapons. On this note, there is nothing wrong with Hun Sen arresting you. **If Germany says it is not wrong (to arrest those attempting a coup), then Hun Sen is not wrong (to have**

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Covid-19, which is still making presence in our region and it is also present in our country [...] I approved yesterday the proposal of the Standing Committee of the National Committee for Combating Covid-19 to prepare additional rounds of vaccinations [...] 4th dose for children from 3 to 5 years old, 5th dose for children from 5 to 12 years old, and 6th dose for frontline civil servants, authorities and the general population [...]

### (19) Revenues from customs and tax and excise exceed plan by more than 25% ...

I am happy with the success of our efforts in the economic sector, which is growing in line with the reopening of the country. Our national income is also increasing. I should say that this year, both customs and tax have exceeded the plan by more than 25%. Tax reached 3,437 million [...] equal to 121.93%. We still have today and tomorrow (for 2022). Customs earned 2,670

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**done so** [...] the Cambodia's position is quite similar to those of France and the position of Germany on the Russia-Ukraine issue meaning that we do not block the dialogue. Let us just ask the question, why (a country of deeply rooted democracy) from 1945 until now, there appeared to have an attempted coup. In Cambodia, their efforts were real, their plan was real, as they even set a date to topple the RGC on December 29, 2013, which then lead to human death, why should we not do [...]

**Democracy is the way, but before there is democracy, ones have to keep the peace. Now who would go to the polls in Ukraine? No one would ever go to the polls in strayed bullets. That is why we try to keep the peace while there are people who try to destroy the peace** [...] they just do everything so that the Cambodian economy collapses, and call every country to cut aid [...] just do whatever you wanted to and cut whatever you

million, equivalent to 104.15% [...] this does not take into account non-fiscal revenue. We have earned more US\$ 60 million of visa fee from two million visitors. We can make more money and that gives us the opportunity to invest in roads, in the necessary infrastructure, and the counterpart fund for projects [...] with only 48 hours left, all civil servants from village chiefs, sub-head and members of villages leadership, commune councilors, civil servants, armed forces of all types, retirees and veterans will receive their salaries increases [...]

### (20) Exposed to all circumstances and incidents

As was said by Samdech Tea Banh "I(Hun Sen) am a person who has gone through all circumstances and all incidents." It means all incidents – military incidents, security incidents, land reform and socio-economic incidents [...]

I have given talks and I have

wanted to cut. In coming to Europe, **I forbid my officials from asking for any favors in return. I have already said that I cannot trade independence and sovereignty for any aid or favor** [...] exports to Europe increased by 18%, amounting to more than 4 billion USD. You favor our country, we rejoice, and if you do not favor me, I do not know what to do [...]

We respect that the (ASEAN-EU) relationship will be strengthened and we also wanted a fruitful outcome that will reach the level of the ASEAN-EU Free Trade Agreement. I always remind respected people from Europe that they should not look at each country in ASEAN just as one country. **As in the case of Cambodia, please do not look at Cambodia as a country alone but Cambodia is a member of ASEAN. If Cambodia does not agree, it means that the agreement cannot be issued** [...] it is for this reason that I have tried to bring Cambodia into ASEAN [...]

had all my talk as transcript in book form. I uphold my right not to publish it. I offered transcripts to only a few people. I do not have time to write all those facts. I have to record my voice. My talk has divided into 7 sections. One session lasts more than 4 hours. There are more than 30 hours. I will take a part, for example, relating to agriculture, to detail – how does land reform start, how difficult was it, etc. It is not easy to reach a decision to give ownership to the people in 1989 [...] because some of our leaders only know about cooperative way.

Those who went to study in northern Vietnam and returned to the country (to do economic management) only knew about cooperative. They had no ideas how the market economy works [...]

### (21) CPP does and will not disappoint people

I would like to reiterate that the CPP does not disappoint the Cambodian people due to its lack of responsibility. We have lived with the people since when we all ate (rice with salt, and corn. As the Minister of Foreign Affairs, my food ration were 16 kilograms – of which 10 kilograms was rice and 6 kilograms was corn. The ration was not enough and we had to supplement it with boiled bananas [...] people may judge for the upcoming election. At least (CPP has) the ability to protect you from war.

That is the real ability you see with your own eyes and heard with your own ears. Life of the Cambodian people are not dependent on those outside the country making noises. For instance they make noise about losing the land, but here, the Prek Chak border, is still where the Prek Chak is. If it happens the way they say it that Cambodia lost 100 meters, 200 meters, 300 meters a day, maybe the Vietnamese border with Cambodia is now in Phnom Penh, or at least at the border of Kandal province [...] what they (do/say) is a unvirtuous politics that we cannot reserve them understanding and/or tolerate [...]

## Ninth Opening Ceremony of Sea Festival Round 3

(10 December 2022)

[Elaboration 1]

I still emphasize on peace. This peace issue is not a separate issue for Cambodia alone. Currently, the hot topic in the world is between peace and war. I am sharing with my compatriots that tomorrow night I will say goodbye to you for a while as I am going on a working visit to Europe, where I anticipate that peace will be a big topic of discussion.

I also have a working visit on December 13 (2022) to France. I have a working visit on December 13 (2022) in France. In addition to meeting and having a working meal with French President (Emmanuel) Macron, I will also attend an international conference on solidarity with the people of Ukraine. I do not go, from Asia and bring oil, to put fuel in fire in Europe. War is happening in Europe [...] what has been happening in Europe has become a big topic. In this regard, my talk about peace is not a separate issue for Cambodia alone [...]

Today is the 74th anniversary of International Human Rights Day, but (as everybody sees it) human rights will only be possible if there is peace [...]

[Elaboration 2]

At this point, I should remind the four (sea bordering) provinces that tourists (are coming for visits). I still remember that at the Koh Kong Sea Festival, I urged the provinces to pay attention to the internal connection regarding transporting tourists between the mainland and the islands to ensure safest and fastest connectivity.

Hopefully, the four provinces (bordering with sea and) that have islands (with tourists) going there, including fishermen, must have access to specific weather information to ensure that fishermen, especially tourists, are not harmed by

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**fish that came first, I ate first. I cannot wait for the next big fish; and secondly, I pointed out to them that if I violated Minebea's trust, that said company would also be abused by the government in the future.** This is the point that makes a company, not just this one company, understand. I have talked about a lot of companies the same thing [...]

I am very proud to have contributed to this company birth project and growth (in Cambodia) and other stakeholders to make this investment a success, **starting with a capital of about US\$ 32 million and more than 1,000 workers to now more than 600 million US dollars with more than 6,000 workers**, and of these more than 6,000 workers, 178 are currently pregnant female workers. It's okay to have babies at this time. By the time you give birth it will be a good month. In the period of Covid-19, I have a lot of stories. Before Covid-19, the birth rate seemed to have fallen. As the Covid-19 kicked in, the birth rate has suddenly increased [...]

## **(2) Company Makes Profitable, Workers' Salaries and Benefits Better; Minebea Plant Did Not Close Down during Covid-19 Attack**

Today is a happy day, not a sad day. I am very proud and **thankful to Minebea for helping train more than 5,000 Cambodian workers abroad** while at the same time promoting the training here. The benefits that workers receive from the project are really reasonable, [...] through (works and incomes), our children here also have opportunities to help their parents' families who are still farmers or have other occupations. If you continue to **work hard to make the factory profitable, your profits will be higher, and your benefits and salaries will also be growing.** I have learned that the benefits here go beyond what is set out by the Ministry of Labor and Vocational Training, and the determination of the Royal Government. That is an issue

relating to the basic salary determined by the factory [...]

I would take this opportunity to express my appreciation to the factory managers as well as all of our workers here who have successfully participated in the fight against Covid-19. Yes, there are some infections, but after we have taken all our efforts, **we have reduced the number of infections, the number of deaths, and managed to control Covid-19. The Minebea plant seems to have never closed down.** It means that workers have paid attention to personal welfare issues, not to bring infectious diseases into the factory. I really thank you for all your efforts to take care of your own health [...] If you are not careful, transmitting the virus into the factory will cause the factory to close and the workers' interests will be affected, especially the production line that supplies to the global market. This points to our efforts.

In addition, **our workers here were fully vaccinated.** Now I want to ask, how many children have all been vaccinated here? [...] at the beginning phase of Covid-19, some rich countries' newspapers were very derogatory about Cambodia, Laos, Myanmar, Bangladesh and some countries' weak health system. As we are proving them wrong, do they regret for having insulted us concerning Covid-19 management? The problem of **Covid-19 management does not rest entirely on advanced health system or the weak health system (alone). Fighting with invisible enemies is a difficult battle that requires us to work with people, not with machines.** The machine is the next thing. Since we have feeble health systems, we need to work with people to get them accept health measures set by the Ministry of Health or the Royal Government [...]

**We apologize for any inconvenience this (Covid-19 infection on me) may have caused to the reception preparation organized by the French presidency. We also canceled our participation as chair of**

**ASEAN at the APEC summit (in Thailand), where there are also plans to meet with the French and Chinese presidents.** This Covid-19 seems to have been successful in infecting people in senior positions. As I have just recovered and healed, some dignitaries are catching it. Well, this is not partial. It will come to you no matter how big or small you are in position. Workers and people in the Kingdom of Cambodia continue the fight with Covid-19 because it is not going anywhere but staying near us [...]

## **(3) Smart LED Light Bulbs Produced in Cambodia and Exported to Japan; More Than 62% of Energy Comes from Hydropower, Solar, and Biomass; Japanese Investors – Price of Electricity and Skilled Labor; Learning from Japanese Management Experience**

I am happy that **the products made in this plant, this Cambodian handicraft, is distributed to the world market, such as smart light bulbs that are sent to Japan** and also equipped in Cambodia. I would like to inform the provincial/capital governors to continue to use smart light bulbs for street and make orders from factories since they are made in our country. This smart LED light bulb is beneficial for us. On a long road, if there are no cars passing by, this lamp will reduce the light and the light is dimmed, also saving energy [...]

Electricity is part of the investment involved. Mr. Kainuma raised the issue of clean energy. We have worked hard on clean energy so far. **More than 62% of our energy comes from hydropower, solar, and biomass. Cambodia can be considered a country with clean renewable energy sources.** Regeneration is similar to or may be higher than some countries in the region, but any investment must consider its impact. We will continue to expand the renewal panel, the so-called solar panel. As far as I know, Mr. Keo Rattanak (the man in charge of electricity

energy) reported to me that he will take Mr. Kainuma to Pursat to install a 90-megawatt plant there. Well, if you want to have another plant out there, it is a good thing just to take energy from the source.

When it comes to investing in Cambodia, Japanese investors always asked me two important things – **firstly, electricity prices. That is according to my experience working with Japanese investors. The price of electricity is about profit. Secondly, they asked about the skilled labor.** That is why we need to promote more human resource training. Minebea does not stop expanding in just over 6,000 people. There is further expansion. This is just the eleventh year, and Minebea will be here with us, not just for 20 or 30 years. It can stay with us until after Mr. Kainuma [...]

I appreciate the relationship between the workers and the factory owner because there is no discontent in this factory. Through compromise, every side benefits, including respect for the rights of our workers. According to the memorandum, workers who use own vehicles will receive an allowance of US\$ 7 per month. If we do not have (a vehicle), you also get that money [...] with provision of three meals a day. This is the Japanese way of management. We learn from them. **Companies in our country also learn about the Japanese management experience [...] we will continue to work together and all of you need to further increase your knowledge through hard work, and increase your ability to become more skilled [...]** the company will be able to produce more, and it may have higher technical requirements, greater demand in the world [...]

## **(4) Minebea Stays because Cambodia Has Peace and Political Stability; Toyota Assembly Line Will Come to Cambodia; Rights Cannot Be Fulfilled under Bullet and Instability**

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Attacked by Covid-19, factories in Thailand or Vietnam closed down and some supply chains had to start from Cambodia. Even clothes, shoes, bags, since some of our neighboring countries in our region have to stop supplying to the market where order used to come from. They come to order from Cambodia because Cambodia is safe. On the other hand, if Cambodia is insecure, they also increase production capacity in another linked country. This is an experience that I speak to investors from other countries regarding the successful example of Minebea here [...]

We also need to know exactly what Minebea can stay with us. What are the factors? The biggest factors are peace and political stability. This is an important point. It's not just Minebea, but all other companies, both foreign and domestic, cannot do business if the country is at war. They cannot grow if the country is not politically stable. Looking at Ukraine, who would want to go investing in Ukraine at this time, apart from fleeing Ukraine. Our troops are in four countries – Lebanon, where there can be some investments, but in Mali, in Central Africa, in South Sudan, no one might risk investing in a war-torn country. In the past few days, our troops have been wounded in Mali by landmines while they were on their way. All of you must remember, without peace there can be no development [...]

The biggest thing is to keep the peace in order to keep the existing companies and attract new companies to our country. I would emphasize that during my conversation with Japanese Prime Minister Fumio Kishida in Tokyo, while attending the funeral of His Excellency Shinzo Abe, Japan asks for Cambodia's supports of a new project related to the establishment of a Toyota assembly line. Not far from our factory, there will soon be a Toyota car assembly plant that Oknha Kith Meng brought to my attention

just now [...] we do not just expand existing companies. We attract other companies. We already have a number of companies that come to assemble cars in Cambodia. In Koh Kong there are Yazaki, Hyundai, and in Phnom Penh and in Pursat there is Ford. Soon we have Toyota in this place [...]

As long as we try to maintain peace, we can set up the necessary infrastructure, both hard and soft – hard refers to related issues such as roads, ports, electricity and other areas that serve

[...] in the relations between countries, the more economic relations they have, the stronger political relations there will be [...] the right investment decision-making process has been tightened to ensure the company is profitable and workers will share benefits from the operation of those factories, the government gets economic growth or tax increase [...]

investment; and soft is to train human resources to supply the needs of the labor market. Let's work together. Without peace, there is no absolute development. Peace creates everything afterwards – the right to life, the right to education, the right to political rights, and other rights – including those of the democratic process through elections. Those rights cannot be done under the bullet and instability. That is why I have repeatedly said that peace must be maintained. Based on our experience, we cannot wait until peace is gone and we start calling for it [...]

**(5) Cambodia-Japan Relations – from Strategic to Comprehensive Strategic One; Economic Relations Makes Stronger Political Relations; Company Profits, Workers Benefits, RGC's Economic Growth; Subsidy for Factories Workers Stops, for Hotel Workers Continues**

[...] Next year, Cambodia and Japan will usher in a special year. The Prime Minister of Cambodia and the Prime Minister of Japan met four times this year [...] we have decided together to enhance the level of bilateral relations from a strategic partner to a comprehensive strategic partner. Next year marks the 70th

anniversary of the establishment of diplomatic relations (between the two countries). I am happy to have worked with Japan in the past. We have a lot of work to do. As Minebea wanted to set up a factory in Pursat, it is a good thing because the National Road 5 which has two lanes to and two lanes from that Japan helped is now ready. Transportation is now easy to supply to other places. In particular, there is this port at Sihanoukville, if goods need to be shipped on water.

[...] We want Japanese invest-

tors to come to Cambodia. Japan opens up large markets to import goods into Cambodia. I am happy to see the increase in trade volume between Cambodia and Japan through Japanese companies investing in Cambodia. Once we have the products, we exported to Japan. We can continue to do that to improve the level of relations. Remember, in the relations between countries, the more economic relations they have, the stronger political relations there will be accordingly [...] we really have a problem that needs to be improved. It's not enough, it needs to be reformed faster, better, the right investment decision-making process has been tightened to ensure that the company is profitable and the workers will reap the benefits from the operation of those factories.

The government also gets economic growth or tax increase. This is what we need to do. I think in the future our country will continue to grow because we are in peace, and politically stable. That is a fundamental basis for development. The competition is definitely there. Although the effects of the Russian-Ukrainian war are now being felt, they have not been that completely disruptive to the global produc-

tion chain. Agriculture, industry or services, of course, have the effects of rising oil prices, rising fertilizer prices, rising electricity prices that Europe is facing. We also have had impacts.

I call for attention (about) the connection of such corridors. In Sihanoukville, evacuations had happened to save people (and/or tourists) from Koh Rong Island to the mainland [...]

[Elaboration 3]

[...] We need to boost exports on the spot ... (this is) not referring to cross-border exports to foreign countries. Our farmers can grow livestock and bring them to hotels for local consumption ... I call for the whole tourism sector to become a market for farmers and producers ... every day people call out for a market (for their produces) ... we can estimate that ... between six to seven million tourists would return [...]

On this note, there is a need for local producers to serve the tourists who come to visit our country, either good rice, good meat, vegetables or other parts. This is to avoid spending a lot of money to buy things (that we can make or produce from outside) to supply local tourists. Let the Ministry of Tourism develop a plan to liaise with the Ministry of Agriculture, Forestry and Fisheries, as well as other production sectors, to turn tourism into a farmer/producer market so that we can promote growth [...]

[...] The Royal Government is only happy to see that our nephews (let me say so) have jobs [...]. Seeing their children having a hard time losing their jobs because the factories are closing, it is difficult for us. We had provided subsidies for them, where the factories contributed 30 USD, and the government staked 40 USD. Now that situation is gone for the manufacturing sector. We continue, however, to supply hotel workers so that they can earn some money to help their parents' farming [...]

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tunity to express my gratitude for the understanding and support of the People's Republic of China. As I mentioned, more than 3,000 kilometers have already been built and put into operation by our China friends, and hundreds more are under construction. Today is the 30th (of December 2022). In just over 10 days, we will have two more construction sites (to launch). The first is the construction of roads and bridges across the Mekong River at Kratie province, which will be on January 2, 2023, and then on January 9, 2023 will launch a road expansion, National Road 7, in the province of Kompong Cham [...]

**(3) In 2022, Cambodia-China trade volume will reach 14.5 billion US dollars, an increase of 19%**

We have been able to carry out all this work thanks to the trust and expansion of the Sino-Cambodian solidarity relationship, which, as the Chinese Ambassador recently delivered, this year, the trade volume of the two countries reached 14,500 million US dollars, an increase of 19%. In the future, I believe that we will be able to export more goods into the Chinese market through the Cambodia-China Free Trade Agreement, which China has favored for the export of up to 97.53% Cambodian goods, the highest level of free trade agreements compared with other countries [...]

**(4) Strategic Partners in All Fields; Common Destiny of Steel-Friendship China and Cambodia**

These achievements should remind us of the ties that have been built since the time of the previous generation, when Samdech Preah Norodom Sihanouk, Samdech Preah Borom Ratanakoth, who was our former King and Head of State at that time, led Cambodia, with the previous generation of Chinese leaders, who left a legacy for us in developing the relationship to become comprehensive strategic partners with the

common destiny between China and Cambodia, and also steel friend who always provides us according to the needs of Cambodia. The respect we have for our China friends is that they respond to our need according to our wishes. It does not mean that where we wanted to rebuild the National Road 33, National Road 31, but the creditors wanted us to build something else [...]

We work out the plan annually. We ourselves determine the priority of the loans [...] our credit needs from our China friends are around 500 million to 1 billion per year. We plan accordingly [...] it is up to Cambodia to decide which one to do first and which one to do next. That is the special point of using Chinese loans. Take this road system, for instance, we need to widen National Road 3, where we previously used the loan from the Republic of Korea. But it was small. We applied the method of "with less money, we build longer road." We need to raise funds from China to connect Phnom Penh with Kampot by expanding it and making it stronger. As for roads 33 and 31, we used to do it once with the loan of the Republic of Korea and the Asian Development Bank [...]

**(5) Chinese investment extends to southwest, northwest and central Cambodia**

Through His Excellency Wang Wintien, allow me to express my gratitude to the people and government of the People's Republic of China for their continued assistance in rehabilitating the Kingdom of Cambodia. HE Wang Vin Thien (may be informed that) investing in Kampot is the right investment decision [...] China has expanded its investments not only to southwest, northwest and northeast of Cambodia, but also in central Cambodia, helping boost Cambodia's development. Connections to Kratie, Ratanakiri, Mondulakiri, Stung Treng and the Lao border were helped by the China friends. Without China friends, we would not have been able to get the budget. Connections to the

southwest include the construction of an expressway from Phnom Penh to Sihanoukville, National Roads 31 and 33. I hope that our China friends will continue to help us rebuild the National Road 3, which has been the most difficult one [...] help from former sources were not able to make one part of it firm [...]

**(6) With roads, we build a prosperous economy, reduce poverty, people's hardships/expenses**

I hope that we will be able to rebuild firmly the part of National Road No. 3 from Kampot to Veal Rinh, which has been damaged [...] I hope our China friends will see to it. This is the connection we still prioritize. Without the road, we will not be able to achieve a prosperous economy and alleviate the suffering of the people. Not to mention reducing poverty, talking about people's hardships or reducing people's spending, as I have mentioned in previous comparisons. Bad roads make our people spend a lot of money and a lot of time. When the road is good, we will spend less money and less time traveling. That is the benefit for the people that we must continue to strive for.

**(8) Four (investment) priority vision will be useful for at least 30 years from now**

The four (investment) priority vision announced in 1987 have so far lasted more than 30 years. It is still correct/useful. I think it will be correct/useful for no less than 30 years more [...] I still remember that in 1987 I set out the four priorities for investment. These four (investment) priorities include water, roads, electricity, people. Now we just change the angle to "people, water and electricity," which all are still a priority for investment. If we do not invest in infrastructure, both software and hardware, we can do nothing. In terms of people, I want to talk about software, human resource training is a priority, and hardware would concern water, roads and electricity [...]

**(9) The coup d'état of March**

**18, 1970, sparked a war and led to the Pol Pot regime**

In particular, the division of the nation was due to the coup d'état of March 18, 1970, overthrowing Samdech Preah Norodom Sihanouk. (Country) We were born into a war. That war led to the Pol Pot regime killing our people indiscriminately. War continued until 1998. Yesterday (29 December 2022) marked the 24th anniversary of the end of the Cambodian war, which brought peace and territorial unity for the first time in Cambodia's hundreds of years of history. I still imagine that if there was no coup d'état in 1970, and Samdech Preah Norodom Sihanouk continues to lead the country, no one would quite imagine how far our country could have progressed. (In those years), for almost two decades, this country saw the construction the Phnom Penh-Sihanoukville via National Road 4 and our railway that passes through Kampot [...]

**(10) Not responsible for creating war, but for ending it**

The railway was built in the 1960s. The cement plant here is also a testament to the cooperation between China and Cambodia from those periods and gave Cambodia the opportunity to have cement in our country then. Without the March 18, 1970 coup, it would not have brought about this war. When the war broke out in 1970, I was only 18 years old. I am not responsible for creating this war. I never thought that the burden (of loosening) the bonds that the previous generation, such as the Lon Nol Sereimatak Cheng Heng, bound were to be untied by (me and) the next generation. Whether you belong to the earlier or latest generation, however, it is the duty of the Cambodian people to put an end to this war [...]

**(11) By receiving Khmer Rouge leaders, 3 messages sent**

Yesterday, Cambodians in the country and in the United States did some live show (regarding

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the win-win peace achievement) and I commented that “24 years ago at this time Khieu Samphan, Nuon Chea and other Khmer Rouge leaders were having meal at my house” [...] at that time, there were criticisms as to why Hun Sen (received the Khmer Rouge cabinet?) [...] having done that my objectives were to send messages to 3 directions or 3 destinations. The first message is to the remaining Khmer Rouge forces that you had to drop your weapons because your bosses had come to my house already [...]; the second message is to Cambodians across the country who have been at war and are afraid of war for 28 years that the war is over. And the third message is intended for the international community to bring investment to the country because Cambodia already ended its war.

#### **(12) Peace realized through win-win politics “invaluable” and not yet implementable anywhere in the world**

[...] I did not expect that some countries would criticize me for receiving the Khmer Rouge (leaders/Cabinet on 29 December 1998). I replied, pointing out that, “*you should not forget that in the past you gave a diplomatic visa to the Khmer Rouge and laid the carpet to receive the Khmer Rouge. You let the Khmer Rouge sit at the United Nations.*” (while) I just received my citizens to send a message (about the end of the war) to these three goals, and you criticized me [...] the value of this peace (is priceless). There is no country in the world that has ended their wars the Cambodian-style win-win politics. We implemented the win-win policy where everyone wins. It is in the interest of all the people in Cambodia [...] all the people who used to carry weapons and fight each other [...] benefit from it [...]

#### **(13) To celebrates the 45th Anniversary of the Establishment of the National Salvation Army of Kampuchea – December 2, 1978, in 2023**

(There were many groups who) were nicknamed the White Khmer, the Khmer Khieu, the Khmer Rouge, and the Khmer Pink, who were not armed. The Khmer Rouge was everywhere in the jungle. The Khmer Khieu (blue) were on the Cambodian-Thai border. The white Khmer is on the Cambodian-Vietnamese border. From 1970 to 1975, our country was divided into two parts, one ruled by Lon Nol and the other by the United Front for the National Unity of Cambodia, led by Samdech Preah Norodom Sihanouk. In between 1975 and 1979, under the Khmer Rouge regime, the Khmer Rouge was not able to control all the territory. There is an armed opposition force, like my armed forces, that has been built as the core of the present-day force. Next year, I will mark the 45th anniversary of the founding of the National Salvation Army of Kampuchea, which was key to the establishment of the National United Front for Salvation of Kampuchea on December 2, 1978. I am the creator of this armed force and I am still alive [...]

#### **(14) December 29, 1998 Cambodia has become one territory, constitution, King, government and armed force**

This area has connectivity with the Oral mountain where in (1996), (the former Khmer Rouge General) Keo Pong (joined returned to the nation). When Pailin integration movement exploded, (we also pushed for) integration from the other side – Taken Koh Sla. I came in person. It was not until December 29, 1998 that Cambodia had become one territory, one constitution, one king, one government, and armed force. This is our true history. Given what we went through, peace is so precious that we must all protect it. Without peace, no one can talk of development. This is an experience (and/or lesson) that tells us that we have a duty to maintain peace to ensure development. The roads we have built here really serve the growing development needs of the people [...]

#### **(15) In 1988, Vietnamese ex-**

#### **perts left; 1989 Vietnamese voluntary troops did**

I have been to Kampot many times. I always come to attend the January 7 ceremony in Kampot province [...] one evening (January 7) we came to see the train station [...] at that time, I was leading the reform from a production solidarity group – 1 to privatization by sharing hand [...] I went to the negotiation with Prince Norodom Sihanouk for the second time in Saint-Germain-en-Laye on December 2, 1987 [...] (while passing through Hanoi) I met with General Secretary of the Communist Party of Vietnam – Nguyen Van Linh and informed him that I would like to request the removal of all Vietnamese experts from Cambodia. The Vietnamese army could still be there [...] why? There was a mismatch between teachers and students. I am reforming to focus on privatizing the economy, while Vietnam is working on strengthening cooperation. There was a mismatch between the experts and us [...] (we) set out a plan to remove Vietnamese experts from Cambodia. The Vietnamese expert chief reported to me on June 2, 1988 that all Vietnamese experts had been withdrawn from Cambodia, while the Vietnamese army had withdrawn from Cambodia in September 1989. Vietnamese experts withdrew from Cambodia before the Vietnamese troops did [...]

#### **(16) Vietnam helps and abides by Cambodia’s decision**

Likewise, the former President of Vietnam at that time, who was then Minister of National Defense after he was the Chief of Vietnamese Experts in Cambodia in the field of general management, saying, “Vietnam came to Cambodia to help prevent the return of the regime. Pol Pot only. Decisions regarding politics or economics are up to the Cambodian people.” That is the point that gives us the opportunity to embark on land reform. Our reforms commenced before what Vietnam’s reform, and before the Soviets’ Perestroika or Glasnost of (Mikhail) Gorbachev. I remem-

ber when I was interviewed in Kompot, (Asiaweek?) asked if Cambodia followed Perestroika or Glasnost of (Mikhail) Gorbachev? I said “No. It is a different situation. I cannot cut my head to fit in the hat. I am cutting the hat to fit my head. I also do not cut my feet to fit with the shoes. I have to cut my shoes to fit my feet.” That was Cambodia’s independence. Despite the presence of foreign troops in the country at the stage that we needed them, I thank Vietnam for helping us, but respecting Cambodia’s decision [...]

#### **(17) Immediately preparation to reopen the Poipet border pass after the fire**

I would take this opportunity to express my condolences over the casino fire at Poipet city that left more than 10 people dead and dozens injured. I have been receiving reports from HE Ke Kim Yan (of Disaster Management) and HE Oum Reatrei (the Governor of Banteay Meanjei province) [...] and we are in need of more equipment [...] small fire trucks can’t spray water to the higher levels of the building. We had to move the fire extinguisher trucks from distance. Search and rescue teams worked all night [...] I would like to request the immediate preparation of order to reopen the Poipet border pass, which is both for tourists and goods transit. Please work out how to facilitate normal operation [...] it is the worst disaster at end of the year [...]

#### **(18) Dose 4 of Covind-19 vaccines for children of 3 to 5 years old, dose 5 from 5 to 12 years old and dose 6 for front-line officials, authorities and the general population**

I would take this opportunity, as I already made a call yesterday through radio, television and online broadcasts related to the call for vaccination, ask our people to be ready to accept (the Covind-19 vaccine for) protection in advance, rather than let the sickness happen and then try to solve it. It is necessary to be immune in order to be able to withstand the deadly virus

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