

**27 September 2006**

**Border Post Inauguration at Bavet—Mok Bai Pass**



27 September 06—Samdech Hun Sen and Prime Minister Nguyen Tan Dung of Vietnam at the First Border Post Installation at Bavet—Mok Bai Pass.

Today I have high honor and great pleasure to preside over, along with HE Nguyen Tan Dung, Prime Minister of the Socialist Republic of Vietnam in the inauguration ceremony of the border post at the international exit of Bavet—Mok Bai today. I would like, at the same time, to express my thanks to the two countries, Cambodia-Vietnam Joint Committee on Border Affairs for their utmost efforts, body and mind, and their close cooperation to achieve the work of delineation and setting ground border post of the two countries. This allows the two prime ministers to participate today in the official inauguration ceremony of the First Border Post of the Bavet-Mokbai international exit.

My thanks also go to His Excellency governor of Tay Ninh province and

that of Svay Rieng province for their cooperation in organizing this solemn inauguration today in an atmosphere of happiness and friendship between the two countries.

I would like to recall that, during my visit to the socialist Republic of Vietnam in October 2005, the Supplement Treaty to complete the existing Treaty signed in 1985 that covers border delineation between the two countries, was signed by myself and His Excellency Pham Van Khai, then Prime Minister of the Socialist Republic of Vietnam. This opens new page of history in the quest for ground border solution between Cambodia-Vietnam.

The Supplement Treaty is a basic document, necessary for our two countries  
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**17 September 2006** (Unofficial Translation of Selected Comments)

**Visiting the People in Kompong Chhnang Province**

... It is indeed my honor to be able to return to the district of Kompong Tralach after my last visit in 2004. I remembered that HE Lim Kean Hor and HE Ke Kim Yan at that time led an intervention team to help our people in irrigating their rice fields in Boeung Po and one other time I went with HE Lim Kean Hor for the same reason to the barrage of Chhvang, on my way from Purath.

I could recall that in that flash of intervention I had

offered over three hundred water pumps to people in the two provinces. Today I have returned once again in an aim to visit rice cultivation situation of our people in the province of Kompong Chhnang as a whole and Kompong Tralach district in particular.

I am grateful that senior officials and the armed forces in the provincial level as well as from the central level have come to join hands in speeding up  
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**05 September 2006** (Unofficial Translation of Selected Comments)

**Visiting the Twin Canal in Svay Rieng Province**

... Today, we all are meeting here again after our meeting last year at a place not far from here. Today's meeting is to find out what has been accomplished so far. Last year on September 1, 2005, I came to Svay Rieng to inaugurate the tree nursery station and at that time the province cultivated just 14% of its rice cultivable land.

It was indeed a very concerned matter as Cambodia's five provinces were affected by natural calamity that slowed the cultivation speed. In response to that I ordered the Ministry of Water Resources and Meteorology to send in heavy pumps, with the intervention rendered by my bodyguard units, to

help speed up the process of cultivation. Later I went off to attend the General Assembly of the United Nations in New York, but my contact with HE Lim Kean Hor helped update me on the development in this regard, whereas the Twin Canals were initiated.

Before leaving for New York I also went to the district of Kong Pisey of Kompong Speu, and upon my return I went first to Kompong Speu and then to this area. I remembered that the land here was very  
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dry and the Twin Canals did help bring in water for cultivation. Water access not only helps rice cultivation but also vegetable growing in this area. Take for instance a farmer here produced vegetable and sold in the market with an income of 1.6 million Riel and he said that he made four times the income that would be made from cultivating rice.

According to the report the province has indeed cultivated an area of 72.10% of the total cultivation land – 13 communes are water sufficient, 40 communes able to meet demand, 14 communes in-sufficient, and 13 communes drought affected. From this fact we could draw a conclusion that the weather is not on our side completely as there is rain in some places but not in others. Rain-water flooded the provinces of Kompot, Koh Kong, Sihanoukville, Kompong Speu, Kandal and a part of western side of Phnom Penh. Take Svay Rieng for instance, some part of the province has plenty of water but others have less or none.

My policy has been to leave no one to die of hunger or to leave rice destroyed when there could be sources of water has prompted swift actions and measures in launching intervention in Kompong Speu and Svay Rieng. Though actions have been swift and forceful, the effect has been far from sufficient. After January 7, if I may say, there has been no one dying of hunger. I saw

on TV the other day a program about situation in Sudan – where we have our troops stationed, children have been seriously affected by hunger. The purpose of my visit here today is to observe the difference between prior and post canal construction. When I was here before, we were on a piece of land without crops and because we just had new canals perhaps our people do not have confidence in water accessibility the canals could provide. I noticed that the yield is still low compared to other places throughout the country. I am feeling that our people do not take the benefit from the water access provided by the canals. As for this reason, take into consideration various factors, we could be happy with this preliminary impact that a reasonably large number of people started transplanting and growing rice already. I would urge the local authorities to figure out choices that would not only provide water for rice cultivation but also for higher productivity. I would urge HE Chan Sarun, Minister for Agriculture, to work on this issue of increasing production and productivity as it concerns immediately the Minsitry's intervention.

I wish to see that next year there will be a clearly drafted cultivation calendar and cultivation mapping. Take for instance we have to guarantee that the place where I symbolically transplanted rice just now with our people to produce rice every year. We now are in three different areas along the canals – 1) good trans-

planted rice, 2) good sown rice and 3) no cultivation land. Though this is the first year after we had the canals we have transformed the area from no rice to rice-cultivation place. With increasing confidence in the canals I hope to see more cultivation in place. The Twin Canals linked itself with the River Vaiko where about 24 kilometers lies in Prey Veng province and another 5.5 kilometers in Svay Rieng.

The canal is indeed branched with other major canals – M2 5655 meters, Daun Sar 10.750 kilometers, community canal 6000 meters or in all 22.400 kilometers. We have yet more works to do, take for instance the construction of various barrages – along the canals and the river Vaiko. The latter water level is gauging with the sea level so we could retain the water which surges into the system. We will therefore have more barrages and more canals to be built.

Because the Twin Canals – built with the state budget – takes water from Aak Ambok 1 canal – which is built with the state budget, and Aak Ambok 2 canal – which is built by Oknha Sok Kong's SOKIMEX, I wish to seek more assistance by generous persons along with the state budget availability in continuing to provide this water access to our people. I would assure you that if we were to have problem with water supply from the Vaiko's end, we have the other end of the canal which would take water from the River

of Kompong Trabek – because the river never dries.

In this option we would need to use only four heavy pumps that will bring water right to Svay Rieng in no time.

I would guarantee that we will be able to have water year round, and if there were to have none I would be held responsible for that. How can our people not cultivate when we have water here? It takes a lot of money to help with pumping water as the price of oil has gone high with the cost of a liter of oil we can buy four kg of rice, but why we have to pump the water, and why do we not buy rice right away. The war in the Middle East caused the oil price to hike and some oil producing countries also jacked up the prices.

How could a country like Cambodia be lowering down the price of oil? The price of oil seems to bother but everyday there are more and more vehicles in the streets. Well once we have every infrastructure in place - take for instance rice fields along the canals should be able to produce more. This would make our people have more money. It is important to provide our children with access to education and as a gentleman here has devoted to bring his children to and from Kraol Kor for their education. It is indeed a priority to have roads, water and schools. But more also need to be done – take for instance hospital, etc. Before no one would dare come close to the PM but now children dare

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come close and beg for schools. It is my nature to be simple with our people and I could not give it up.

I used to have an idea that Takeo and Svay Rieng should emulate in irrigation. Indeed Svay Rieng could not match with Takeo, but it should match with a stronger competitor because Svay Rieng would not be making progress if it matches with the one that is weaker. I mean here to emulate in providing water access to the people for agricultural purpose and not the beauty pageant.

I have told the Ministry of Culture and Fine Arts about the Government's position of not organizing any beauty pageant until Cambodia brings down its poverty rate to below 15% or the people's income per annum exceeds 1500 US\$. Some people said they are sorry that Cambodia missed its opportunity in revealing its national culture in the world stage.

I urge them to take Angkor Wat and not the beauty pageant. One may remember that the contest in 1994 brought about a jinx that the Bassac theatre hall was on fire. The theatre had in fact survived the shelling in the war between 1970 and 1975 and the genocide. We have plenty items for presenting the world the Khmer culture not just the girl. I would not allow anyone to use the Cambodian flag, the national flag in this purpose.

I would allow the beauty contest for the promotion of some products but not

for the national level. Beauty pageant would generate huge spending and the amount of money would be useful for building irrigation canals. I disagree with the concept of beauty pageant in the first term Government and I still do. We should see that there are plenty of works that need to be done and we should try and figure out which is necessary and which is not.

What I wish to see is that every Cambodian has plenty of and good food to eat. They should have good clothing and blanket, in addition to housing and transport means. We need to have schools for children and good teachers too. We also have the need to help our people with health service. The Venerable Head Monk has agreed to let the monk vote as it is the eligible right of the people. Before there was this concern about violence, etc. that he disagreed with the idea of allowing the monks to exercise their rights to vote.

The National Election Committee (NEC) appeals to the monks to register so that they can vote in the communal elections on April 1, 2007 and the general elections in 2008. As it is more appropriate to think about the needs I have listed above, I think Svay Rieng should seek to emulate with Takeo as both provinces have got many ministers in the Royal Government whereas the Ministry of Agriculture and the Ministry of Water Resources are the ones to give the evaluative judgment.

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sition. In Cambodia we are in the process of observing the fifteen Buddhist religious days (Prochum Ben) and there is no war in the country, so why there is a need for this Front?

Why not a front when Cambodia needed one when millions of Cambodians were killed. When the people live in peace, observe happily the religious rites and grow rice, why do they want a Front to be established? As far as transfer of power to the heroic King-Father is concerned, I wish to make it clear once again that even if the heroic King-Father accepts, I would not agree to that still.

As far as the election is concerned, if I were Samdech Krom Preah I would have resigned from the Party's head already because he failed two terms consecutively. As for myself, CPP once got 64 seats

It is indeed important to generate statistics of rainy and dry season lands, etc. They should sign some kind of agreement for that matter whereas the Governors would do so with each other and the Heads of the work teams should do the same. Places where there is plenty of water but the yield is low should be graded low in score, and places where water is insufficient but the yield is high should be graded high in score.

I urge us all to work on agricultural development competition movement. Taking this opportunity I wish to inform our people

and if it won one seat less I would also step down.

I warn them again that the Monarchy belongs to no one. They should not use its influence for their interests. I told HM the King that whether the throne is strong or weak will depend on whether the people support or not. CPP never declares itself to be Royalist but does what it can to protect it. In Thailand or in Japan, their systems seem to be very dignified – and they have ranks for different royal kinship.

*On that occasion Samdech Hun Sen provided a boat at the cost of 7000 US dollar to the people of Khum Chreh of Kompong Tralach district, two school buildings of ten classrooms to the College of Kompong Tralach, a 1500 meters canal to the Seb commune, and one million Riel each to 28 Buddhist pagodas and 14 mosques. ■*

that I would have to go abroad for a short while on September 8.

*Samdech Hun Sen on that occasion offered to build a canal of 13.3900 meters for the people of Svay Yea, Svay Ang, Kraol Kor and Ang Taso Communes, the Water Pump Station Hun Sen 49 at Caho Phirun-Daun Sar, a six classroom building for the Primary School of Boeung Rai, a six classroom building for the Secondary School of Svay Pha Em, two five classroom buildings for the Primary School of Svay Chumrov. ■*

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the rice cultivation. Taking this very opportune moment I would like to express my sincere thanks to the Ministry of Water Resources and Meteorology and related institutions for their contributions in making possible credit for irrigation network and system at Kob Seh, in which the Asian Development Bank offered a loan.

Prior to this the European Union also granted us some fund through the PRASAC program in between 1996 and 1998 before it was damaged later. In between 2005 and 2006, we have started once again to renovate the system.

The system consists of water barrage, major canals, with various canals built one after another to help with irrigation of 1800 hectares of rainy season rice and 600 hectares of dry season rice and other crops included.

HE Lim Kean Hor also mentioned in his project another 20 kilometers of canal to be constructed so as to create an irrigation system with all the canals connected to one another. To say in short we have more works to do so that water access could be available for irrigation to our people.

It is indeed a splendid time to take this opportune moment to express my sincere appreciation to the working team of the Cambodian People's Party to the province, though HE Kong Sam Ol – the head of the team - is very busy with his work in the Royal Pal-

ace.

HE Uk Rabun and HE Tram Iv Toeuk as well as other leaders have come frequently to help identify problems while suggesting a timely and effective solutions.

The Cambodian People's Party, to mention here, has sent its teams to all the provinces throughout the country, thus creating a Party's working system in addition to that of the Royal Government of Cambodia.

It is worth mentioning here that we have scored various achievements and it is possible to say that the province has already exceeded its cultivation plan or more than that of last year.

Take for instance the district of Kompong Tralach has already cultivated 13467 hectares over 13400 in statistics or 67 hectares more than registered in plan.

Taking the statistics of rice cultivation in general throughout the country, HE Minister Chan Sarun of Agriculture, Fisheries and Forestry said that we have already accomplished the projected figure of cultivation but people are continuing to cultivate on more lands.

What is important here is not the figure but the actual implementation and I am not dissatisfied with the reported figure is smaller than the figure actually implemented, but indeed with the trend in reverse.

The total figure registered for rainy season rice and dry season rice has been 240,000 hectares and I would not believe so but I accept it. Last year the World Bank said in prediction that Cambodia would achieve economic growth of 1.9%, later 2.4% and kept changing its prediction to 10%, to 11% and to 13.4% and now they have suggested altering the growth figure to 13.5%.

I said I do not accept that because Cambodia already printed its statistics. As I said poverty does not fly away, it disappears only by our own efforts. Last year, thanks to joint efforts, we had a surplus of over two million tons of paddy rice or 1.3 million tons of milled rice – I would say it has broken previous records ever noted. Double digit growth is also not a simple achievement – slightly over 10% in 2004 and 13.4% in 2005.

I just returned from the ASEM Summit in Finland's Helsinki where I had a nice talk with HE Badawi, Prime Minister of Malaysia. He said that a developing country that scores double digit growth could make a great difference if it sustains the growth pattern for about five years consecutively.

As for Cambodia, we only bring about a change in about fifteen years from now if we score only one digit growth – say 4% or so.

Also in Finland I met with HE Prime Minister of PRC whom I asked to consider providing Cambodia with

another one hundred million US dollars, in addition to the previous loan of 200 million that was approved, so as to build more bridges and the roads from Battambang to Pailin.

The Prime Minister acknowledged that he had received the request already. We have more to do, take for instance roads and bridges, so that people in the countryside could benefit from the growth that the country has achieved.

Thanks to our focus on rural development through the construction of bridges, roads, irrigation and school facilities, we have achieved such a sound economic growth. If we were to not do so, we would not have achieved this today.

I told Senior Minister of Finance HE Keat Chhon that industrial development in town is not a strong base for growth as Cambodia is still dominated by agriculture. It is required that we have to focus on solving water need for irrigation as our priority.

HE Lim Kean Hor Minister of Water Resources and Meteorology has just reported that we have provided the capacity of irrigating about 900,000 hectares of cultivation land in the registered 2.4 million hectares or about 40% of the total land for cultivation.

Before we could irrigate only about 70,000 hectares and now we could increase - because of more fund is available from our budget – 2% for irrigation, 2% for

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roads, 2% for road maintenance as well as for education and health sector.

I am very proud of that. In the course of receiving Prime Ministers from other countries, many of them seemed to have paid attention to my office condition and I told them that I do not build my new office yet because we need money for bridges, roads, canals, schools for my people. But I am proud though I am sitting in such an office condition.

No-one had no access to land after 1979 because everyone was entitled to a piece or pieces of land according to the system initiated by the state.

The problem of land inaccessibility that was happening later was because some of them lost it in gambling and betting for a political position in political parties etc. As we are moving closer to the commune election, I warned our people not to stake their land for positions anymore because there would not be easy position by bribery.

The post of district or provincial head must be approved through examination.

The Cambodian People's Party would not accept anyone's offer to sell land for helping the Party, but on the other hand ask them to keep their land and the Party will do anything it can to help them.

A person in Kompot said that he first had cows, land

and good housing but after some years of helping political party all he has now is a small cottage. That is why I would respond to some doubts about land inaccessibility as it is because of personal decision and the Royal Government should not be blamed for that.

A solution now to resolve issue of land accessibility is to change our cultivation techniques from being extensive to intensive so that more yields could be obtained from same size of land. We have this issue of land inheritance where parents have small plot of land and more children than they could inherit.

In this respect I suggest that we are looking into the issue of intensive cultivation and irrigation system with water availability. It is in both Ministries' concerns – Agriculture and Water Resources – so that our people could increase their productivity. In some places there is a high density of population comparing to the land for cultivation. Some people build houses on cultivation land because their village could not afford more residential construction.

So more and more land cultivation land becomes residential plots leading to loss of production and some were subjected to loss from natural calamity take for instance erosion, etc. We have to tackle this issue of providing land on social concession to the needy people and doing so should not be encroaching upon the fish breeding ground at all.

Talking about agriculture we have to first think about water. If we could guarantee our products, we could export to markets in Europe as they look for rice and agro-products from country like Cambodia, especially those using bio-organism and no chemical fertilizers and techniques.

We need to develop our agricultural products in accordance with demand of the local market as well as those of outside. We have to have a good quality product and also to sustain our supply to those markets. We have more roads to build and here in Kompong Chhnang we have about 600 kilometers of laterite roads.

We have built in our generation rural and national roads. Our forefathers left us with dirt roads and we now left the younger generation to asphalt them. We have enlarged the roads from before that has a width of 7 meters to 11 meters. As you can see now we have more TV stations and some of them have used not analog but digital technology in their broadcast. It is easy now that with one phone I trotted the world and I could receive message in it as well.

Some people said I should make the country developed as in the Sangkum Reast Niyum. I admit that I could not make it the same because otherwise I would have to order diminishing the road from 11 meter width to just 7 meter width. This does not necessarily mean that the Sang-

kum Reast Niyum was not developed as Samdech Ov (Norodom Sihanouk) did a great job but only that at that time the technology was at that stage.

Cambodia after Angkor period declined deeply and Preah Baat Ang Duong, Preah Baat Norodom and various Kings thereafter made great efforts in obtaining independence. It was tremendous to have achieved those. Cambodia was an island of peace while wars raged in Vietnam and Laos.

Also for those generations to come, they should not say to make it like Hun Sen's time because their generation would be in a state, technology and condition different to that of the previous one. We could also not try to match with other nations, like France for instance, because we eat rice and not bread.

One critical fact is that we have to accept the fact of historical fact and all of us must recognize that Pol Pot once destroyed us and all of us – Buddhist and Muslim – survived this regime at the same time. Today I wish to thank our people all over the country that this year we might have a good rice yield as well because of a sound management and favorable weather condition – though some parts of the country do not yet have rain – in some parts near Udong and some parts of Pursath.

In time of drought I wish that all of our people take

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care of wells that were provided in my mother's name, my father's and my wife's.

My mother died due to this incident of July 5-6, 1997, when I was not in the country. In those days insulting statements had been made. So I wish that people should be aware of the consequences of their statement as they have made again in the past few days.

There has been this demand in the past few days for the dissolution of the Royal Government of Cambodia while transferring power to Samdech Ov – Samdech Preah Norodom Sihanouk, the heroic King-Father. There was also a declaration from Kompong Chhnang to establish a front for which – the heroic King-Father would be invited to preside. I wish to make it clear that I see this as a move to launch a coup and I warn you of any reaction Hun Sen might make in protection of the Constitution.

Talking about transferring power to the King-Father, on September 15, Samdech Preah Norodom Sihanouk denied immediately and I was at that time in Paris. The King-Father said he would not accept the position of Prime Minister or President of the Senate or the National Assembly or other functions and the Queen-Mother Monineath Sihanouk told Samdech Kong Sam Ol and Chum Teav Na Nou that Samdech Ov would not accept that. The Queen-Mother told

HE Khiev Kanharith that he would send his nephew out of the Royal Palace... I think they are trying to get me guilty through what is called the transfer of power to Samdech Ov. The King-Father did not accept it but even if they were to accept I would not offer to, because this power is invested in me by the people and it has been written for everyone's knowledge that Hun Sen is the Prime Minister in case of the CPP's victory.

Funcinpec used to make use of the King-Father's name to obtain votes by claiming that voting for it is voting for Samdech Ov and they promise to offer power to him. Have they ever done so? Why are they now coming to take power from the Cambodian People's Party to give to the King-Father?

I would warn them if they were to resort to military option. They gave an interview to RFI (Radio France Internationale) basing their argument of Articles 90 and 78, but they failed to read other related articles stipulating the fact that the National Assembly has a five year term... and is subjected to dissolving only if the Royal Government failed twice in twelve months...

There is no room for such an argument of dissolving the National Assembly because according to the Constitution the National Assembly could not even dissolve itself. When it was dissolved on that condition, an election must be held in 60 days, which means when it failed the

Government twice, the National Assembly would fail itself once.

This is a constitutional coup and not a childish matter. One would say I am probably too harsh – yes I am when it needs to be and when it is a national matter as such. I would tolerate no move in that direction and I could not afford to let Cambodia be meddled by those people.

They wanted the King-Father to get power so that they could accompany him as dependents for their own interests. The King-Father decided to cease providing a stipend of 600 US dollars per month and if it was yet to go into effect I would request the King-Father to do so or I would revise the budget because a person who establish a political party may not be allowed to benefit from being the secretarial clerk of the HM at all.

HM already declared the cessation of stipend for the person since when he declared his party establishment.

As for the person who came to Kompong Chhnang to declare his wish to establish the Front. I doubt the situation is the same as in July 1997 only that this time there involves no military force. But it is quite similar to that of July 1997.

In 1997, he turned to negotiate with Sam Rainsy, Khieu Samphan, etc. while working with me. Now that the two Parties are working with each other in

the coalition Government he turned to negotiate with Sam Rainsy to establish an alliance of nationalists similar to the defunct alliance of democrats.

To me HE Sam Rainsy is better than this person because every time he met with someone he informed me whom he would not work with because he was cheated a number of times already – once in 1998 and again in 2003 so as to increase their bargaining power to take a share from originally 20% to 40%.

I doubt this person has changed because while working with CPP as a partner in the Royal Government, there is this campaign to downfall the partner.

As in the case of CPP, we stripped off four of our senators on the ground that one of them criticized HM the King in the Senate. If the CPP ignored this gesture, what would Samdech Ov think about CPP?

It might be possible that CPP is seen to tolerate people who are against HM. Because of such a possibility could take place CPP decided to remove its senators. As in this case, would he dare remove his men? Writing a letter to warn them is not enough judging on the fact that there is a serious matter of political alliance.

I have just told HE Nhek Bun Chhay to find candidates to replace some members of the Royal Government and I will work with the General

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Secretary if the Head of the Party acts in this way.

I think this matter should be resolved before the next election comes. As a Secretary of State for justice, one acted as if a lawyer to advise the Party's head to seek a divorce in court. In the short time I will remove Senior Minister Serei Kosal, Secretaries of State Kassy Neo, Chea Chan Boribo and Tuot Lux.

I wish to make clear to HE Nhek Bun Chhay that anyone wishes to follow him for such an alliance may feel free to do so. I would not accept anyone with one foot in the Government and another in the opposition Party at all. I continue to uphold the alliance between CPP and Funcinpec but in the case that the President of Funcinpec is not trustworthy as a partner I would work instead with its General Secretary.

In the next election if I were to be re-elected I would continue to work with these people as I need human resources. Those who create problem would not be welcome. Not long ago, I think I should let you know and I am sure the Head of the (Funcinpec) Party has no idea about it - there was this move to inflict harm upon one deputy Prime Minister – HE Lu Lay Sreng, one Minister for Transports HE Sun Chan Thol and the Head of a Parliamentary Commission – HE Ly Thuch. I was able to foil it in time.

They happened to say they should mobilize five or ten

soldiers to inflict harm upon these people. I just warn you that now there are no soldiers from this faction or that faction anymore. HE Ke Kim Yan is here today, and may you want to try it?

He seemed to have said that he helped me a lot. In fact he helped speed up the death of my mother and also created a political deadlock for about a year. I would not deny the kind of help given to our nation. When I was in Finland I was very busy working on the sideline with Singapore, Malaysia, Thai, Vietnam to get the rail given by Malaysia to Cambodia and I asked the Thai side to help bring those rail to the border at Aranyaprathet and we would fetch it from there.

I also told HE Sun Chan Thol about this right away. In the same instance, he asked me to send the helicopter for repairs in Singapore. He said “my younger brother should take pity on me” and then “CPP should not torture Funcinpec” and I should ask “who is torturing whom?”

I think he tortures himself. After a promenade in a foreign country he then returned to Cambodia to create a negative political climate. I used to say that I wish I had a wise enemy rather than to have a friend who is silly. I need a strong partner and not a stupid one.

It is impossible to have confidence in him as he could not even unite his family. Now I would make it clear again that those

who wish to stay on in the Government may do so without having to change party and those who do not wish to do so may leave.

I have recorded my conversations with Samdech Krom Preah and I have stated out clearly three requests – 1) do not accuse Nhek Bun Chhay of selling his head to Hun Sen. Some of the people, I do not understand, continue to use Khmer Rouge in their references. The Deputy Prime Minister works with the Prime Minister is a simple matter or the Minister for Transports with the Prime Minister in the cause of renovating the national road 31 in Kompot province etc.

I am very sorry for Funcinpec Ministers who work hard but are accused of having sold their heads to Hun Sen; 2) do not threaten to remove so and so from their positions; 3) stop his men from insulting my wife as a person who seeks to separate him from his concubine. My wife has been insulted a lot. It is not a matter of our concern and he should not refer to the marital law as backtracking.

Samdech Krom Preah has only two things in hand – 1) using the King-Father again and 2) two-third majority. First, if the people love the King-Father they should vote for Funcinpec, which has been used in three terms already. It was not a good tactic because he has failed to win over a peasant's son – one uses the King-Father and another uses Hun Sen.

They should leave the King-Father untouched and above everyone else. Second, he seems to think of using two-third majority system to cheat Sam Rainsy. I used to say that HE Sam Rainsy had been cheated twice already, if there is this possibility for the third one, he would then be the most stupid.

They now seek to use the role of the heroic King-Father and this would go against the law that makes him the heroic King-Father in National Reconciliation, Unity and Integrity. Other parties would also disagree because in the fighting ground everyone is equal.

I do not understand why they do not leave the heroic King-Father in the top or in arbitrary position. Any move in this direction – no matter if it is successful or not would clearly damage their heroic King-Father and heroic Queen-Mother's popularity.

If he were to take up political stage he would not be allowed by law to stay in the Royal Palace, which is reserved only for those of the Royal families who do not partake in politics. I may recall about the process of choosing the Head of the Supreme National Council (SNC).

In one of our discussions I suggested to Samdech Norodom Sihanouk that there is a need for a Chairman of the SNC and the three options I raised were 1) a co-chairman of the SNC - on the basis that ours were then two equal parties; 2) taking turn to be chairman;

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and 3) Samdech is the sole chairman of the SNC but Samdech Preah Norodom had to leave the position of President of the Tripartite coalition. Samdech Preah Norodom reacted quickly “once as the Chairman of the SNC, I am not involved with any political parties anymore or I have to be above all parties”.

Talking about this I may have to say something about the process of choosing HM the King and this will bring us to talk about the honor of HM and also the Throne Council. He said again and again that he has abandoned a great deal for the throne and I also informed this problem to the current King of ours on my way back via France to give him the report of what happened in ASEM.

HM the King said to me after a long discussion — “May Samdech help the throne.” I said “if I am against the throne, I am against myself. If I am against the Monarchy, I am against myself” because the CPP played very important role to get the monarchy re-established.

When they said Samdech Krom Preah has abandoned his great opportunity to become King, what does this mean? Does this mean that HM the King is taking what is left by someone else? It is an insult. In another interpretation this statement insults the power of the Throne Council.

The Monarchy in Cambodia applies election style

and if he were to stand for that post he may not have the best chance of being elected because the CPP already supported Samdech Preah Norodom Sihamoni already. And the person who truly relinquishes the opportunity is in fact the heroic King-Father, instead.

Talking about this it is worth giving credit to our King-Father for his long-sightedness in making us working on the Enthroning Law or we might have a great difficulty for the fact that we have only one week to elect King. I doubt when he said he relinquished the opportunity, has he ever been made a King at anytime?

The throne in Cambodia does not necessarily mean that the eldest son should be bestowed upon automatically. So he should not repeat his remark of leaving the opportunity for someone else. No one forced him to leave his position of the President of the National Assembly and to write to Samdech Chea Sim and to me for an answer.

I said it is not my power to answer it. I called HE Samdech Heng Samrin for an election to take place so as to choose the new President of the National Assembly. He probably wanted to be begged to stay but no one did. Now he seemed to think of making alliance with a third party to bargain with Hun Sen in 2006, and I warn him this is a fatal move. I am thinking of placing Ly Thuch in Srei Kosal’s po-

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to build a common borderline on the foundation of laws and international practices on the recognition of borderline left behind by the colonialists. It is also a leading instrument in delineation and setting ground border post between our two countries. Our two sides entrusted the joint technical team with the task of delineation and setting ground border post on the spot in this September 2006 and are determined to complete their works by the end of December 2008. After setting border post at an international exit of Bavet-Mokbai, the joint commission on border affairs of our two countries will go on setting border posts at other 06 international exits.

On this solemn and gracious occasion, I would like to avail myself, on behalf of the Cambodian Royal Government, of the opportunity to extend my thanks to the Government of the Socialist Republic of Vietnam for their help in producing all types of common ground border posts for our two countries and transporting the produced posts from production base to the setting locations, agreed upon by both sides... People are fully aware that producing and setting the border posts is a historical task. It is very important for our future young generations and constitutes a symbolic post that define the territorial boundary and sovereignty between the Kingdom of Cambodia and Socialist Republic of Vietnam. This is also in response to the aspiration of our two peo-

ples who have been for long years waiting for it. A new historical page of hope has been open to offer our two countries a clear and permanent border.

It inherits our young generations to live within a border where they carry our development without fear, a border of friendship, peace and cooperation between our two countries and peoples. We surely have a clear goal, that is, to make the border, not just areas of no-conflict but with development where people live without fear and with high and prosperous living standards. The outstanding border post in front of us all, to be soon unveiled by His Excellency Nguyen Tan Dung and myself is an unforgettable achievement and an undeniable symbol of cooperation between the joint commissions on border affairs of our two countries. And I would like to take this opportunity to appeal to the people living at both sides of the borderline as well as people living all over the two countries to help safeguarding this achievements for ever.

Finally, ... I would like to extend to His Excellency Nguyen Tan Dung, Prime Minister, all leaders of the Socialist Republic of Vietnam, ... and all people, my best wishes of good health and ever success and that we all together fulfill this important and historical task completing delineation and setting ground border post by the end of 2008 as so aspired by our two countries.■