

**29 January 2007**

**HNUE's Degree of Doctor Honoris Causa Conferred**



29 January 07— The Hanoi National University of Education (HNUE) Confer Upon Samdech Hun Sen the Degree of Doctor Honoris Causa.

... I am profoundly honored and pleased, and as well as on behalf of H.E. *Sok An*, the recipient of Honorary Doctorate in Tourism, I am glad that *Hanoi National University of Education* and *Vietnam National Economics University* decided to award me and H.E. *Sok An* the Honorary Doctorate Degree in Education and Honorable Doctorate Degree in Tourism.

On this auspicious occasion, on behalf of the Royal Government of Cambodia, myself as well as on behalf of H.E. *Sok An*, I would like to express my sincere gratitude to the managements and the assessment committee as well as doctors, professors and all members of *Hanoi National University of Education* and *Vietnam National Economics University* for presenting the Honorary Doctorate Degrees in Education to me and in Tourism to H.E. *Sok An*.

Indeed, this inspiring honor that both of us are receiving right now is also the honor for the

Royal Government, Cambodian people and the whole nation. At the same time, this proud honor has clearly highlighted the responsibility and sacrifices that we all have made for the causes of strengthening *peace, stability, democracy, respect of human rights and dignity, and sustainable and equitable development* in Cambodia.

At the same time, this profound honor also reflects the friendship between the *People of Cambodia* and the *People of Vietnam*, which is not a newly established one. The friendship between our peoples and countries has gone through both in time of peace and war as well as in the time that Cambodian people are rebuilding and rehabilitating their country. Indeed, we have recently been in the process of strengthening and expanding a new type of cooperation between the two countries, especially, in our joint efforts to deepen our good

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**24 January 2007** (Unofficial Translation of Selected Comments)

**Excerpts on Interpretations Concerning Royal Palace**

*During the feedback session at the 11th Government-Private Sector Meeting at the Cambodia Development Council (CDC), Prime Minister Samdech Hun Sen clarified two issues regarding the Heroic King-Father's articles about the so-called CPP's motivation against HM the King Samdech Preah Norodom Sihamoni and attempt to replace the Norodom's with the Sisowath's in the Royal Palace. Excerpts of comments are as follows.*

... I have two important things to add on to this feedback session and I am sure RFI already

broadcasted the news yesterday.

I received a call yesterday about this issue but I had the letter from the Royal Palace the night before last. I wrote and sent already a letter to the Heroic King-Father and Queen-Mother already. In the last few weeks there have been two problems.

First the letter dated 9 January that there is a plan to replace HM the King Norodom Sihamoni by someone from the Sisowath's line in the 21st century.  
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**19 January 2007** (Unofficial Translation of Selected Comments)

**Press Briefing on Position vis-à-vis Funcinpec**

... This is indeed the first Cabinet meeting of 2007 and is the continuation of what we have achieved from the past years. Before starting our agenda for today I wish to make some statement to the press who are present here in relation to some urgent issues. In fact the Cabinet meeting never makes such a press statement to the people but because rumors have been quite fast affecting the level of trust that Funcinpec has to bear.

May I make it clear to the monks, people and our compatriots that there has been a rumor spread by the press that Hun Sen ordered Funcinpec to withdraw its lawsuits over the issues of violation of trust and sale of the Funcinpec headquarters. Before my departure to Cebu to participate in the 12th ASEAN Summit there was an intermediary seeking my role of

coordination leading to the withdrawal of the legal suits. There was an intention to write to me on that matter but I responded that there was nothing to be resolved that involved the Prime Minister at all because all legal cases are in the court's jurisdiction.

Upon my return from Cebu, the Philippines, having reviewed all matters related we discovered that we have taken all measures concerned. As far as the preparation the upcoming elections is concerned social safety has been good and the remaining issue is the legal suits of Funcinpec.  
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neighboring relationship, cultures, broad cooperation and long-lasting peace.

I would like to take this opportunity to thank the Government and the people of Vietnam for their continuous support in road infrastructure sector, human resource development and health, and recently, providing Cambodia with preferential treatment for 40 products without asking any preferential treatment in return.

I would like to take this opportunity to recall of the event after the Liberation Day on the 7<sup>th</sup> January 1979, even though the country was freed and the people of Cambodia were rescued from the genocidal regime of Pol Pot, the war was still going on many years after that. Indeed, during that time our people have nothing, no rice, no proper clothes, no education nor proper shelters. We can say that 100% of Cambodian people were living under extreme poverty where everyone suffered from losing their loved ones and life threatening diseases. Today, we have gradually rebuilt our country as much as we possibly could in the most difficult situation. On the one hand, we must rebuild and rehabilitate our country by starting from zero and the ruin of socio-economic infrastructure. On the other hand, we must protect and totally prevent the return of such genocidal regime. Moreover, we must also fulfill such mission in a situation when our country was under economic sanction and aid blockage for the development of the country.

In the education sector after the Liberation Day on the 7<sup>th</sup> January, 1979, we have tried our best to build human resource through mobilizing those teachers who had survived from the genocidal regime and offering them with pedagogic training courses in Phnom Penh city, and then they can go and spread

the knowledge to one another in other cities and provinces in order to open schools across the country.

At the initial stage, we firstly reopened primary and secondary schools for students to attend classes again. At the same time, we have gradually reconstructed and improved classrooms, study materials and courses as well as continuing to develop pedagogy by focusing on meeting basic requirements of the education sector which is necessary and urgent, including enhancing schooling quality through providing books and teaching materials, expanding training of teachers and lifting up the various examination requirements.

As a result, the quality of education and the system as a whole has gradually improved and since then the education sector, building schools and training centers is one priority of my ambitions to transform the Cambodian society to a rapid progress in development; highly educated population; deep culture; and prosperous, harmonious and dignified living.

Presently, Cambodia is entering a new phase in the development of education sector by emphasizing on strengthening the basic education and the quality of schooling under the framework of developing a systematic and comprehensive national economy. In the long term vision, we have linked the education with poverty reduction strategies by incorporating the financial plan of the education sector with the general public expenditure management program.

Furthermore, it should be noted that the government policy aiming at developing human resource with high quality and efficiently using of our nation's intellectual capital is not the efforts to address living standard issues of our population at

the present time or in the short term, but it is a long-term vision for development and investment in strengthening competitiveness of Cambodia in the future, in particular in this 21<sup>st</sup> century, the era of globalization and economic competition that is based on knowledge and information technology.

In this sense, the Royal Government still considers the *Human Resources Development and Education* as a long-term strategy. At the same time, the *poverty reduction based on foundation of human resources development* is the key to assure the sustainable development and equal distribution of economic growth, because knowledge and know-how can improve the living standard of people and society as a saying goes “*education is a key to solve all social and economic issues*”. Therefore, a good society is the one which fabricates of people who know how to live together, respect, care, share and help each other without violence and discrimination of sex, races, positions and classes.

At the same times, the liberalization policy of the education sector and the strengthening of private sector partnership both within the country and abroad that were issued by me 10 years ago, now produce the good outcomes. Certainly, a lot of public and private educational institutions have been established and mushroomed. The Cambodian students are enthusiastic to absorb knowledge tirelessly. They have full rights and abilities to access to all kinds of information for their studies and improve their knowledge through libraries and information technology.

Indeed, being a Cambodian citizen and the Prime Minister, I do not have any comparable happiness than seeing the good progress of education sector in Cambodia during the last several years, though many challenges remain to be addressed.

However, we have made countless progresses in the education including progress of tertiary education which is the main policy of the Royal Government, especially to enhance opportunities for all citizens in *development, poverty reduction, institutional building, respect of human rights and dignity and democracy*.

In this spirit, the conferment of the honorary doctorate degree to me is the contribution to create important priority in tertiary education and a new movement for the excellence and quality of education. I would like to take this opportunity to dedicate the conferment of this honorary doctorate degree to be a forceful and organized step to promote national academic standardization with control of quality and value of education. Obviously, if we can do this, Cambodia's educational institutions will improve the quality of human resource development.

Therefore, during my frequent participation to confer degrees in various tertiary education institutions, I have always raised economic issues, market and management; especially I focused on development and sustainability of the tertiary education because I would like to see the tertiary education institutions to permanently stay, develop, progress in financing, management and quality and play a valuable role in the society. Moreover, I would like to see our tertiary educations continue to fulfill its historical mission in developing human resource, research study and international cooperation in the fields of education, culture and science to contribute to the reconstruction of the economy, the enhancement of social development and the protection of national culture and identity.

Being the recipient of the honorary doctorate award of the

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cinpec against its former leader and a number of its officials who have already been expelled from the Government and from the Party while they are now establishing a new political party.

In consideration of the fact that we have to provide safety and security for the forthcoming elections, I have thought of a number of options among many others aimed at reducing tension. Out of my respect to the leadership of Funcinpec I have proposed to its leaders HE Keo Put Reasmey and HE Deputy Prime Minister Lou Lay Sreng, Funcinpec Deputy Head and HE Deputy Prime Minister Nhek Bun Chhay, its Secretary General to give some heed to my recommendations - for a reconciliation out of court system so as to bring about detente.

I have made it clear that it is a proposal for consideration and it is not an order. I thanked the leadership of Funcinpec for taking this proposal positively by stating that it would give its consideration on this issue in the next meeting of its permanent committee. In between 4:30 of January 17 to about 10:30 of the same day, I have done numerous things to resolve this affair.

It is unfortunate though when I take up the conciliatory role, some have made statement that Prime Minister Hun Sen forced Funcinpec to withdraw its legal suits. I think this argument cannot be accepted and I wish to make it clear that what I would like to see is reconciliation for a calm atmosphere aimed at reaching out to a successful election.

As the legal action on violation of trust is a criminal case and this should be dealt by reconciliation out of the court house so that this could be a contribu-

tion to lessening issues relating to complicated matters in the court while withdrawal of the case itself cannot be undone. What is a misfortune here is the fact that some politicians have tried to benefit from the role of reconciliation while opening attacks on officials of Funcinpec and splitting the coalition of Funcinpec and CPP - whose officials are working together around this table.

When one says it is an order, first it is an insult to the Prime Minister for it is not his way of handling issue. It is a serious insult as he is also a leader from another political party of complete sovereignty. Second, it is an insult to the leadership of Funcinpec meaning it is a subordinate of the CPP and under the control of the Prime Minister, while on the contrary the leadership of Funcinpec has a fair wisdom and positive intention.

I have delivered to our Buddhist monks and people the current issues of concern and I wish to make a postscript on the reason why those officials have been expelled from Funcinpec. It is because they are so stupid in their actions again and again that its Party's congress had to restructure its Party and leadership. I take the liberty of appealing the Ministry of Justice and Funcinpec to bring actions against those ill-intentioned politicians who have made use of these matters concerned and would urge them to continue their legal and court procedures to the end. What we want here is to see who is wrong and who is right.

I would request the Ministry of Justice to contact with the court in handling this measure as quick as possible. They may otherwise forget to think that though reconciliation may happen out of the court house, there will have to be some kind of approval from the Judges as

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rice quality our people do not like to grow them anymore. New species is high in yield but lacking good tastes.

We still have food security as our main concern. Last year we had a surplus of about two million tons of paddy or about 1.3 million tons in husked rice. We have yet to come up with statistics of this year because we have to wait till April to do so. But we are sure that we will have a better yield this year compared to last because we have cultivated a larger area of rainy season rice. We also expect that dry season rice will be better as well. Yet, we still have problem of irrigation which is shown by the fact that in some places people could grow one crop or even hardly one crop due to water inaccessibility.

For those who have less land we should try and orientate their cultivation from extensive to intensive. In Kandal Stoeung district of Kandal province, with the Japanese assistance

well. The criminal case is not similar to that of the civil procedural case, whereas the latter could be withdrawn.

In this respect I would urge those silly and ill-intentioned persons to stop using problems like these to cultivate own influence or frighten other people and harm the relationships between Funcinpec and CPP. I would urge those at the local levels to first think properly before giving their consent.

What I have stated so far is a clarification on issue which some bad persons intended to turn my conciliatory role into a political agenda of a handful of people who have been expelled from the Government as well as from Funcinpec. I would urge that this is a matter for urgent attention of the press ■

that provides water accessibility people should be helped to cultivate Sen Pidor rice and other vegetables. Positive experience of Kandal Stoeung should be replicated to other areas. My wish for the betterment of Cambodian living standard is yet to reach as I wanted to see Cambodian income for each person reaches 3000 US dollars per annum.

I would share some of my following recommendations with the Ministry of Agriculture, Forestry and Fisheries and Ministry of Finance who are parental institutions of CARDI --

1) To provide further support on the investment in agricultural research because we all know that there would be no development without research;

2) To focus further on research as well as other activities so that effective production could be reached according to master plan;

3) To study the possibility of expanding services by establishing subordinate stations to make our people in large number understand the use of new seeds, composts and growing techniques;

4) For other institutions concerned - Phnom Penh Municipality and Khan Dangkor - to provide complete security to CARDI for the latter's sake of full research activities;

5) For international and donor communities as well as other development partners - to provide further assistance to CARDI.

6) For CARDI to strengthen and expand agricultural research especially in high-yield seed selection, soil improvement and sustainable cultivation on the soil in cooperation with national and international institutions... ■

09 January 2007 (Unofficial Translation of Selected Comments)

**Inaugurating CARDI's Physical Infrastructure**

... This is a pleasant day for me to join all of our people and monks here to officiate the physical infrastructural achievements at the Cambodian Agricultural Research and Development Institute (CARDI) for which the cost of building is somewhere near 2 million US dollars. It has now become the most important research center in area of agriculture in the country.

According to statistics out of over two million hectares of cultivated area, CARDI provides its seeds to about over one million already. I am so glad to see that our officials have made great effort not only in research but also in extension of rice cultivation with new seeds along with new technology and working pattern for our people. What impresses me is that we have started from 1,200 kg per hectare to currently 2,400 kg per hectare in average.

It is quite appropriate that I recall a few things about the beginning of CARDI. In 1986 Cambodia was still under unjust economic sanction and embargo for the "mistake" we made and that was the overthrowing of Pol Pot... One day Mr. Svami Nathan of IRRI (International Rice Research Centre) came to Cambodia and as Prime Minister I suggested to IRRI to set up a Rice Seed Research and Development Center as well as other seeds for Cambodian farmers. In one of my visits to Battambang I had a chance to see a Japanese assisted Rice Research Center at Tuol Samraong and it is my intention that I have to find a chance to build more of this.

I got a flat response from him that the IRRI at the Philippines is going to set up one rice research center in Vietnam for the three countries - Vietnam, Laos and Cambodia. His argument

was because Vietnam has more population. It is a way to turn down one's suggestion diplomatically. By 1987 we had a response from the IRRI Australia on this front but not through the Government channel. It is because this instance that IRRI Australia is heavily involved with CARDI...

The land on which CARDI is situated also has a long and complicated background. We had in the beginning reserved a size of about 170 hectares of land but in 1992 there was a complicated situation when we had this establishment of the Supreme National Council. There was ill-promoted demonstration whereby car tires were set on fire. In the end there is a need to reconcile and the land size was reduced to just 70 hectares as we have today.

In those days I said that I would never let CARDI die because it is indeed my own child. Its death is tantamount to mine. Now it has proven to be a correct sacrifice because it has now developed several rice species and its seeds have been cultivated in over one million hectares of land. I am grateful to CARDI for naming a rice species in relation to my name Sen Pidor (Aromatic Rice) which is currently very popular as it can be cultivated in rainy as well as dry season. The fact that Cambodia has increased its export of rice could not bypass CARDI's efforts.

It is not easy to just change people's habit. When HE Kong Sam Ol and later HE Say Chhum became Minister for Agriculture, we imported new seed from Vietnam. Thanks to appropriate showcase people tended to take turns to grow the new rice species. Later, as HE Minister Chan Sarun mentioned the other day, because of

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which has turned out to be a great success. We also have a project to develop an online system for use in management of land, human resources and vehicles of all kinds in the whole country. There are more to be mentioned but I still hold on to the request for the segment between Chaomcaho to Kampot on the NR 3 and it could be this year that we would get the project going and the road could be enlarged from 5 to 6 meters to eleven meter width. Tourists from Korea also are taking the lead and we have direct flight from Phnom Penh and Siemreap to Korea with one flight from each destination everyday. We could increase the number of flight in the future. These perhaps are what I should list out as achievements scored in the past ten years of relations between Cambodia and the Republic of Korea.

My judgment is that if we were to look at potential of the two sides in expanding investment size, trade area, cooperation in all fields, including human resources, the two countries have more to do for each other's benefit. I will receive tomorrow the Minister for Labor from the Republic of Korea who is on a visit here and Cambodia will propose sending laborers to Korea - not just for salary but for training and taking back with them new technology for Cambodia's need for development...

HE Minister recalled the history of the National Pediatric Hospital which began from October 15, 1980 which was then called the Central Hospital for Children. There was one American working for World Vision before 1975 and after the Pol Pot regime he came back. In his meeting with me in Kompong Cham, he asked for the hospital to be operating again with help of World Vision.

There have been many attempts to get this place for different purposes, including the suggestion from UNTAC to get this place for their police. After UNTAC we had this demand to sell the land so as to build a hotel. I turned them all away. I also went through some criticism. Twenty years later we have a nice hospital standing here.

Another incident which leads to the construction of the new building here is what happened in Batheay of Kompong Cham province. Patient's parents were asked who they voted for prior to get the patients treated. The physicians left the patients unattended when their parents said they voted for CPP. The CPP work team learned about such incident and instructed for transferring the patient to the National Pediatric Hospital for treatment. The second incident happened to our people from Samraong Tomng where patients were told to get an operation in the canal in response to their vote for CPP.

I would advise our medical staff no matter what level you might be you have to help patients. That is the ethical moral of a medical staff. I am a CPP member, member of the National Assembly and a Prime Minister from the CPP but I do not talk about Party in my work. I would hold those making such blunder to get reprimanded. No matter which party you belong to, as long as the person performs great s/he would get reward.

Once again I would urge Ambassador Shin Hyun-Suk to convey my sincere thanks and appreciation to the people and Government of the Republic of Korea for this assistance here and elsewhere and would urge KOICA to do speedy survey leading to approval of the Kraing Punley Reservoir and the Cham Chao - Kompot seg-

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under the leadership of Samdech Preah Norodom Sihanouk of Sangkum Reastr Niyum, there were movements of emigration in search for land for agro-industrial development. Unfortunately, the coup of March 18 led the country into war, which made Samdech Preah Norodom Sihanouk's objective unmet. I would mention just a few that Samdech Chao Sen Kosal came to grow rubber here in the district of Punnhea Krek, In Tam came to Dambe, in Memot people called it Sirikmatak area (kilometre) and new farm land of Yeay Tob, who is the younger sister of Samdech Nhek Tiulong, etc. If there to have no wars, the area above here could have been plantations of durian, coffee, rubber, pineapple, sugar cane, etc.

We had the national road 7 from here to Kratie (but we did not have yet the Kizuna bridge) and it has been enlarged from 6 or 7 meters to 11 meter width. If not because of the war this area could have become an agro-industrial zone already. Now we have here the processing plant for cassava, for rubber, etc. In my book Cambodia's Ten Years March I have written in 1989 about the need for reallocation of labor forces for services in defense, socio-economic development, including also the need for de-mining and eradication of malaria. I have also listed roads but also schools and hospitals to be provided to relocation areas. I wish to take this district as a pilot project for development. We will have to learn about development in relation to human resources, school dropout, and means to fix those issues.

We have not stopped here. I have discussed an issue with HE Chea Sophara, Secretary of State for Land Management, Urbanization and Construction, HE Hun Neng, Governor of

Kompong Cham, and HE Kong Uk Chhoeung from this area about the possibility of building another junior high school in the Dar Commune, which is 12 kilometers from here. Dar could be a center for those living in Kampoan, Koki, Triek, Saam, Punnheakrek. It will be upgraded into a junior high school for the school year 2007-2008 and I would urge the Ministry for Education, Youth and Sports to get their teachers ready. I would offer first of all a two-floor school building of 12 classrooms and HE Chea Sophara would take care of it completely.

Another reason why I have selected January 5, 2007 to inaugurate these schools is because everyone knows that I have started my political life in Memot from April 4, 1970 as I decided to join the Marquis in response to the appeal made by Samdech Preah Norodom Sihanouk. I joined the Marquis to fight against the regime of Lon Nol and foreign aggression. At another juncture on June 20, 1977, I left the district of Memot to lead the struggle movement for national liberation against the regime of Pol Pot's genocide, which later achieved the victory on January 7, 1979.

However, another instance of event that shocked me the most happened right before the building - where it used to be a building from 1967 and was later converted into the hospital of region 21. My first son died on November 10, 1976. My other son who is also here today was born not far from this place. January 5, 2007 is indeed our 31st wedding anniversary. We got married in the commune of Chrab, Tbong Khmum District with twelve other pairs. My love story was a long one. Rumor of my love with Bun Rany was there since 1973 but I never saw her in real. It started from the fact that a soldier un-

der my command saw her and thought it would be nice to have me married with her. In March 1974 I went to see her and mistook her for another person when I bumped into her. She was fooling me that Bun Rany was not there when I asked for her. I learned that it was her after I talked to another soldier from the front with me and he said "the girl you asked was Bun Rany."

I requested the Commander to get married so as to let her know my intention but my commander said I had to wait until Phnom Penh is liberated. When Phnom Penh is liberated, I was wounded in my eye on April 16, 1975 and I went into a coma without knowing about the liberation of Phnom Penh. A week later I learned that Phnom Penh was liberated and Bun Rany already got married. I took a rifle and shot in the air and my colleagues rushed to see if I shot myself for those matters. My star had been full of dangers not just simple hardships and comforts. Later I communicated with Bun Rany again at the time she was forced to get married. We got married on January 5, 1976 in the presence of HE Uk Bun Chhoeung at that time.

My shock on November 10, 1979 was when my wife was pregnant and she had to go to work in long distance. She then was sent to work in a place at the current reconstruction site of Hluong Preah Sdech Kan and she was moved to Koh Thmar when she was near her time. I took her to Memot because there were medical staff around. I was on a mission with a commander that night in Peam Chi Lang. I returned at around 5:30 the next morning just to see my first son with his mouth full of blood, his back broken and my wife was in cold. I was able to control my anger. My son died is one thing but when I requested to get him

a proper burial and took care of my wife, I was rebuked that I could not do anything to change the situation.

I was accused of being a traitor for a long time but I knew it was not my time yet. I could have revenged because I had a pistol with loaded chamber already in hand. I did not do it. To be frank, the place where my son was buried was nowhere to be seen or known and the current tomb was just symbolic of his death and rest place. My wife later had Hun Manet who is also here today. A song was composed about "Life of a Women Who Lost Husband." She had to bear the criticism and accusation after I left Memot on June 20, 1977. I had some troops under my command but I killed my anger and crossed over to Vietnam. If I were to take with me the troops, we could have a fight with Vietnam and there would not be any contact with them.

I was jailed in Vietnam and later Vietnam sought their apology from me as they did not believe me in the first place of what they called it a strange phenomena. I told them to get ready because Pol Pot was to launch an attack on the border. They did not believe. On September 30, Pol Pot was on a trip abroad and the attack started. A member of the Vietnamese Communist Party's Political Bureau Van Tien Dung and Vice Minister for National Defense came to say he was sorry for not believing me, which in turn led to the death of many Vietnamese people. It was then that I received my rights to take asylum.

In one of the operations, I came along to Memot to look for my wife but I saw no one or nothing. All I had at that time was tears. Many songs have been written to reflect life in those days like - the Pitiful Child, the

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Hanoi National University of Education and on behalf of H.E. *Sok An*, the recipient of the honorary doctorate award of the Vietnam National Economics University, I would like to express my gratitude to His Majesty Preah Bat Preah Boromneath *Norodom Sihamoni*, the King of the Kingdom of Cambodia, His Majesty Preah Bat Samdech Preah *Norodom Sihanouk*, the King Father of independence, sovereignty and national unification and Her Majesty Samdech Preah *Mohaksattrey Norodom Monineath Sihanouk*, the Queen Mother of Khmer in freedom, dignity and happiness and wish Your Majesties good health and longevity to lead and stay as the shade for the coming generations. I would like to dedicate the honor that I have received today to Senate and National Assembly, especially Samdech *Chea Sim* and Samdech *Heng Samrin* and the leaders of the Cambodian People Party that have always provided me with advise and helped directing all of my activities.

I would like to dedicate this award to my advisors and assistances as well as officials at all levels, armed forces, professors, lecturers, teachers and all Cambodian people who have always supported my leadership and it is learning place for me.

I also would like to dedicate this award to my late mother and to my beloved father, brothers and sisters and what I have today is the real wealth of my parents and family. I would like to share today cheerfulness with Lok Chumteav *Bun Rany Hun Sen*, my beloved wife, my children and grandchildren who have always been a part of my life sharing both happiness and difficulties.

Once again, I would like to thank *Hanoi National University of Education* and *Vietnam National Economics University* for awarding honorary doctor-

05 January 2007 (Unofficial Translation of Selected Comments)

### Opening Junior High School Bun Rany—Hun Sen Memot

... My wife and I are very pleased to return to the district of Memot once again to put into use various achievements in addition to the Bun Rany - Hun Sen Junior High School. I would like to thank dignitaries, *Oknha* and *Lok Chum Teav* for taking precious time to come along to the pitiful land and people of Memot of *Kompong Cham*, where my wife and I have a lot of memories from younger age.

Your presence is a source of encouragement not only for those who have sponsored the project but also for the whole people of Memot district as well as people throughout the country in their efforts to defend and develop the country's socio-economic life. On behalf of my whole family who are mostly present here to convey our respect and appreciation to elderly people, brothers and sisters and the people of Memot, all of who have been my second most thankful people after my parents for the generous assistances they rendered to me, especially my life in the most difficult war period between 1970 and 1975, and also to the present.

Before coming to the reason why I choose January 5 as the inauguration day, I would like to mention about achievements to be put into use today. We are putting into use forty school buildings of 237 classrooms and a fence of 8,190 meters. The forty school buildings con-

ate to me and H.E. *Sok An*, especially to the management and assessment committee as well as professors, lecturers and staffs of *Hanoi National University of Education* and *Vietnam National Economics University* who are here for my honor. Finally, I would like to wish all of you with the five gems of Buddhist blessing. ■

sists of 11 buildings of 90 classrooms in the Bun Rany - Hun Sen Junior High School in Memot district with a fence of 1,348 meters. Aside from this as you all can see that we are meeting in the football field and it should be planted with grass soon after the meeting is over. The design of the Junior high school and its adjacent buildings have been partly copied from the University of *Svay Rieng*, the *Seila Veti Keat Chhon* in *Chhlong* but its main content is my wife's idea. It consists of lodgment for teaching staff and its capacity is to lodge up to thirty families. Of course what is achieved here is the Memot standard but I have a dream for the whole country to have similar or better standard of education facility to this one. We have put into use 9 junior secondary schools - two school buildings of nine classrooms in the *Buna Rany - Hun Sen* in *Dar Commune*, three school buildings of 15 classrooms for the *Bun Rany - Hun Sen Salan II* in *Dar Commune*, plus a 1,250 meter fence, two school buildings of nine classrooms in the Junior High School of *Bun Rany - Hun Sen Koki* plus a 383 meter fence, two school buildings of nine classrooms in the Junior Junior high school of *Bun Rany - Hun Sen Kdol Phsar* plus a 501 meter fence, two school buildings of nine classrooms in the Junior High School of *Bun Rany - Hun Sen Chey* plus a 1,108 meter fence, two school buildings of nine classrooms in the Junior Junior high school of *Bun Rany - Hun Sen Kdol Phsar* plus a 501 meter fence, two school buildings of nine classrooms in the Junior High School of *Bun Rany - Hun Sen Kravien Thom* plus a 576 meter fence, two school buildings of nine classrooms in the Junior Junior high school of *Bun Rany - Hun Sen Cham Bak* plus an 826 meter fence and two school

buildings of nine classrooms in the Junior High School of *Bun Rany - Hun Sen Baos Ta Oeung* plus a 440 meter fence.

In Memot district every commune receives a school but we have less number of Junior High School provided than the local wish. Our strategy is to add further buildings and school in particular primary schools so as to upgrade it to Junior High School. We have succeeded in some places to realize the strategy but we could not move quickly on this approach in Memot yet. We therefore have to set up a standard, after years that students have to travel to study away from homes, that each school is provided with two school buildings of nine classrooms, in which three will be used as director's office and six will be divided into three sections on a pre-calculation of two classrooms for class 7, 8 and 9.

The idea of building fence around the school yard is to protect it from encroachment as has happened elsewhere with regard to school and Buddhist pagoda. We also put into use today more primary schools - 7 school buildings of 42 classrooms - in the Primary School of *Bun Rany - Hun Sen Memot*, one building of six classrooms for the Primary School of *Bun Rany - Hun Sen Samraong*, one building of six classrooms for the Primary School of *Bun Rany - Hun Sen Chhlong*, and one building of six classrooms to the Primary School of *Bun Rany - Hun Sen Memong*. In Memot I have provided schools to 45 places in the 14 communes.

Why do I provide so many schools to this district? There are many reasons but one of them is to make Memot a district of development which is a vision from before the war in 1970. Before the war of 1970

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 tury. I have informed in my letter to the King Father and Queen Mother that the issue does not exist. I do not have this information from both lines - Norodom and Sisovath, and more than that they both are close relatives. Who creates this problem?

Preah Baat Ang Duong had three sons - Preah Karuna Norodom who became King when Preah Baat Ang Duong died in 1860. Another son is Preah Baat Sisovath who ascended the throne after Preah Baat Norodom's death.

The third is Sivatha. After Preah Baath Sisovath Monivong died in 1941, Preah Baat Norodom Sihanouk ascended the throne.

In 1955 Samdech Preah Norodom Sihanouk abdicated to lead the Sangkum Reastr Niyum and contested in the national election after the Geneva Conference.

The throne was succeeded by the King Father Suramrith, whose death in 1960 kept Cambodia a country without King. The Constitution was then amended to make a Head of State. We then have Samdech Preah Norodom Sihanouk as a Head of State and not HM the King. In between 1960 and 1970 Cambodia had a throne but never had HM the King but a Head of State.

In 1993 we brought back the Kingdom of Cambodia and later in 2004 Samdech Preah Norodom Sihanouk retired whereas the Throne Council had to organize an election to choose a new King in his succession. Samdech Preah Norodom Sihanouk comes from the Council's election. Choosing a King in Cambodia is truly a democratic way.

I recalled that on August 31,

2004 in Beijing, I was accompanied by HE Deputy Prime Minister Sok An and Secretary of State for the Office of the Council of Ministers HE Prak Sokhon went to see HM the King Father to request his approval for the amendment of the Constitution to alter the point where HM the King possesses no right to choose his heir.

HM the King Father did not agree and recommended that issue of selecting someone to be his heir be decided by the Throne Council. The Cambodian Constitution stipulates that Kingdom of Cambodia's King is a Constitutional Monarch.

We also brought more options regarding the way to go about the election and simple majority is the formulation that we had agreed upon in that meeting. As far as candidates to be King - I think we should let the cat out of the bag - HM the King Father proposed two of his sons - Samdech Preah Boromneath Sihanoni or Samdech Krom Preah Norodom Ranaridh.

I said to HM the King Father at that time that I never heard Samdech Krom Preah says anything about wishing to be King. I called Samdech Krom Preah to clarify his position. He asked "how can I make thing clear that I do not wish to be King?"

I suggested that we write a letter to be signed by CPP and Funcinpec that we supported Samdech Preah Norodom Sihanoni to take the throne. And this happened on September 4, 2004 in Beijing.

One more factor that one should keep in mind is that Article 7 of the Constitution stipulates that HM the King is a Head of State for life. I used to mention before that the Cambodian throne will be in stability for the next 20 to 30 years be-

cause we have a King whose age is younger than I am.

When I said the process of making a King in Cambodia is a democratic one because HM is to be elected by the people's deputies - who are President and Vice Presidents of the Senate, the President and Vice Presidents of the national Assembly, the Prime Minister - all of whom are from the people's selection.

Thus HM the King is being selected by the people. If one fails to get elected to the mentioned position, one could not become a member of the Throne Council.

The second story is even bitter and shocking. It is HE Khek Vandri who went as far as to inform HM the King that the leadership of the Cambodian People's Party is unhappy with HM because HM tends to listen too much to the Heroic King Father. What does HE Khek Vandri mean in this respect? Samdech Chea Sim already went to see HM the King and I already sent the letter to HM.

I would like HE Khek Vandri and Funcinpec give a clear explanation of his intention. Does he wish to seek a split between HM the King and the leadership of CPP who currently hold top country's institutions?

I thank the Heroic King Father for letting us know about this, or else HM the King could be unhappy and suspicious of the CPP leadership. The incident is bad and I seek explanation from HE Khek Vandri and I would do nothing to harm him. But I am sure when the King Father put it down on paper the story must be a true one.

I urge you to step out of darkness to daylight, where have you got this news? And you have to explain it to HM the

King and the Cambodian People's Party. CPP has a political consensus - not just a simple majority, in providing support to HM the King. We see HM the King as a national pride and a good constitutional monarch because HM always abides by the Constitution.

The fact that I supported HM the King, the same as other leaders of CPP, is not because I and my wife are accepted to be an adopted son and daughter, or brothers of the King Father in case of Samdech Chea Sim and Heng Samrin but because HM the King has got noble characteristics and qualifications for the position and for our people to give HM their supports. Leaders of CPP would not be appeased as long as there is no proper and clear explanation.

Whether HE Khek Vandri did or did not intend, two possibilities arise. Firstly, it intends to create uneasiness between the CPP leadership and HM the King or the split between the Monarchic institutions and the legislative and executive institutions. Secondly, it could be an intention to sour the relationship between HM the King with the Heroic King Father.

CPP had in the past sacked two of its Senators - one for making comments and the other for writing articles that affected HM the King in the first term of the Senate. If CPP were to give no heed to this how could HM the King feel about it? Would not it be said that CPP keeps those members who insulted HM the King?

I wish to appeal to everyone to leave the King Father, the Queen Mother and HM the King in peace so that HM could help with the state matters for the sake of our country and people. CPP would not hesitate to sack again those who HE Khek Vandri would assure us that they made such remarks ■

22 January 2007 (Unofficial Translation of Selected Comments)

### Inaugurating Buildings in the National Pediatric Hospital

... It is indeed a great pleasure for me to join you all in inauguration a huge building on a former rice field in the centre of Phnom Penh. I would like to take this opportune moment through H.E. Shin Hyun-Suk, the Ambassador of the Republic of Korea (RoK) who is present here to express my sincere appreciation and thanks to the Government of the Republic of Korea and the fraternal Korean people for such a grant aid to this national pediatric hospital a huge and modern building for the sake of poverty alleviation and development in Cambodia.

Ambassador Shin Hyun-Suk of the Rok concluded just now that the building is the result of the renewed relations between the Kingdom of Cambodia and the Republic of Korea in a period over ten years. H.E. Shin Hyun-Suk said that the decision to re-establish this diplomatic relations has been a farsighted and courageous one. Therefore I wish to remind briefly the process of getting the relations re-established.

In 2005 in the ASEAN + RoK Meeting in Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia, I said that if there were no effort for such a relationship back in those days, we would have no ASEAN + RoK today or there would be an ASEAN member without diplomatic relations with RoK - and it would be the Kingdom of Cambodia. Everyone knows that Korea has been split into two parts since 1950s to be South Korea and North Korea. I had in the past made efforts to overcome the situation in which Cambodia has diplomatic relations with one Korea and not with the other.

I brought this issue up in 1991 after Cambodia, under the Supreme National Council of Cambodia, occupied its seat at the United Nations where there

are two Koreas there. I once again push for it in 1992 in Phnom Penh but could not get a breakthrough. I suggested to the RoK Ambassador in Bangkok that there should be relation at the level of a mission of representation of Korea because of historical reality. I am grateful that the Government of the Republic of Korea accepted my suggestion as the two Koreas are fully members of the United Nations and their representations in Cambodia should both be at Ambassadorial level.

The negotiation was conducted at my house and the light went off. We continued to get the agreement ready at the house of my sister which is behind my residence. There were a lot of hindrances but we had made great efforts to get it undergoing. One year after the representative mission had been upgraded to Ambassadorial level. What we should see now is if that decision in those days was wrong or right. This hospital building is just a small token of example of what Cambodia has achieved from the RoK. I visited the RoK three times already - the first was in 1996, the second in 2001 and the third in 2006.

In the course of these visits, we have reached an agreement on a number of loan agreements for information technology, the national road 3 from Kampot to Tropeang Ropeo at the cost of over 70 million US dollars. We also had this Project of Krang Punley reservoir to the north of Phnom Penh. There have also been return visits to the Kingdom of Cambodia by President Roh Moo-hyun last November which is the first visit in the history of diplomatic relations between the two countries. The President stayed three nights and joined us in opening the Angkor-Geongju exhibition,  
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Mother's Sad History ... etc. When I met them again after January 7, what shocked me again was when my son called me "uncle" meaning he did not recognize me and this lasted for about two months. I am sure many would have a hard feeling and be shocked if this happened to them.

My suffering is only a small part of sufferings that people of Cambodia endured under the regime. It is in this instance and meaning that I appeal to all political Parties to hold on to the peace that we have achieved. Thousands of children never know who their fathers or mothers were. Whoever causes national division would not be forgiven at all.

The coup of 1970 brought about Cambodia's 28 years of destruction and we just ended it in 1998. Crimes against humanity and the genocide should not be forgiven. Those perpetrators must be brought to trial so as to seek justice for the Cambodian people.

It also is a warning to other rulers to refrain from doing same thing again, putting it in the Cambodian historical context. Peace that we hold in our hand must be maintained no matter one may believe in so and so political tendencies. They should not think of taking power unconstitutionally. We have to participate and contest in the forthcoming elections.

In Kompong Cham we have 7 political parties registered and there are in all 12 parties throughout the country. No matter how many political parties there are in the contest we have to seek power through the elections and should refrain from using threats and violence. I would urge the CPP members that our votes must be achieved by good actions and we have to cling onto good deeds to get the

votes. I appeal to all contesting parties to hold on to an ethical conduct so as to allow our people to give their voice in a free, fair and just manner. Politicians should learn the skill from the commercial media because when they advertise their products they have to follow the rule of not criticizing other people's products.

I urge the CPP and its coalition partner in Funcinpec to best perform their duties because as the head of Government, I would be held responsible highly for providing safety, security for the whole nation, and that includes also the security and safety of the elections. The armed forces - police, army and military police - have to perform their neutral roles for all political parties and these are what I wanted to stress as my 2007 New Year message for the people of Cambodia.

I would appeal to all political parties not to make use of any death for own political gains as we had in the past a dead body was claimed by three political parties. The competent authorities have to make their best to hold the persons responsible for any crimes they committed. CPP would not be stupid to commit such acts as we have performed good actions so far.

Well, I would request our students here to do the best they can in school while refraining from getting themselves involved in gangster activities or drugs. We should all try to make Memot a district without gangsters or drugs. My son here is the first Cambodian students who have finished his study at the US Military Academy at Westpoint, though he was born in Memot compared to other children in Phnom Penh. Places where one is born, the family to which one is born should not be in point. The point is everyone gets equal chance and access to education ■