



03 February 08—Samdech Akka Moha Sena Padei Techo Hun Sen accompanies HE Samak Sundaravej, the Prime Minister of Thailand during the review of the guards of honor upon his arrival.

28 February 2008 (Unofficial Translation of Selected Comments)
Comments at the Cambodian Vision 2008 Conference

“... In just months from now they will bring the following topic for their electoral campaign. They would tell people, in relation to the country's economic growth pattern from 2005 through to 2008 that ranges from 13.4% in 2005, 10.8% in 2006, to 9.6% in 2007 that Cambodia is going backward. I am talking about this so that they cannot make a big fuss during the election campaign. They would say that Hun Sen sets the growth only at 7.3% for the forecast of 2008 and they would thereby interpret that the Royal Government's low-rate prediction signifies the falling growth. I bring this matter up so as to warn our people of their campaign slander.

“... In relation to revenue from fuel or gas, over the past one year, we have managed to change the mind of those who have been bogged in the Nigerian oil curse. I brought this matter up with the visiting President of the World Bank,

the General Director of the International Monetary Fund (IMF) about this important issue as well. I told them maybe it is counterproductive to talk about spending money while we have a lot to talk about earning it.

“... Some questions raised to us have been naive as what we intend to use the money from oil and gas for. I would say it is a naive question, which is posed by foreign partners not Cambodian ones. They also could have been our partners in planning national development policy. We have national development plan, annual development plan, three-year rolling development plan and each one is going to be sponsored by capital from so and so sources - some of which is marked to negotiate for financial assistance, etc. If we were to have money from fuel and gas why can't we use them?

“... I am here to stay and I am
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18 February 2008 (Unofficial Translation of Selected Comments)
Rehabilitating the Cambodian Railways — Banteay Meanchey

I am so glad to join with all of you and HE Harahiko Kuroda, President of the Asian Development bank (ADB) in this official and joyful event today to rehabilitate the Cambodian two direction Railways - Phnom Penh - Sihanoukville, which is to the south-west, and Phnom Penh - Poi Pet, which is to the northwest of Cambodia. It is indeed a great day after the tragedy in 1970s. It has been a long time that the two lines of Cambodian railways have not been an interest

for anyone, during which period the Cambodian seaports, airports, rubber plantations and other companies like Telecom have all been attracting investors.

As I have mentioned earlier I compared the Cambodian railway to a bride awaits for a long time to be asked for an engagement. But because some make-ups have been initiated, we have now come to her wedding party. Because
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23 February 2008 (Unofficial Translation of Selected Comments)
Building Sihanoukville's Special Economic Zone

My wife and I are so happy to participate with all of our people in Sihanoukville to build infrastructure for a Special Economic Zone (SEZ) which is a joint effort by Cambodia and China. I would like to take this opportunity to express my sincere appreciation for the Cambodia Development Council (CDC), especially the committee in charge of SEZ for their coordinating efforts with the local authority so that the starting point has come sooner than expected.

of Cambodia. Cambodia has got SEZ in many places, which normally cover areas of hundreds of hectares. This SEZ here is the biggest and could become a city of its own which is about more or less similar size of the current city judging by stages of constructions and developments. This has been a wonderful and special occasion because this is the fiftieth anniversary of relationship between the Kingdom of Cambodia and PRC.

I would like to express my sincere appreciation to the partners from the People's Republic of China (PRC) who has just given out his report about how the partnership has been built between a consortium from China and the Kingdom of Cambodia represented by HE Lao Minh Khin and local partner companies. SEZ that is taking shape today is the biggest in the Kingdom

In past recent years, the two countries' relations have taken a fast pace through the exchange of visits by senior officials - HM the King of Cambodia
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bodia, and other leaders including the Prime Minister, visited the PRC and the reciprocal visits by HE former Party Head and President Jiang Zemin, former Premier Ju Rongji, former President of the National People's Congress of China HE Li Peng, HE Premier Wen Jiabao, Deputy Premier Wu Yi, who have all been those that promoted initiatives and investment projects in Cambodia.

Many Chinese companies expressed their interest in putting investment in Cambodia. SEZ in Sihanoukville will take an initial investment of 320 million US dollars whereas the total investment capital will be 3 billion US dollars. The Chinese company is also building for Cambodia its powerhouse which is otherwise difficult to seek for investment from other sources.

China seems committed to investment in the development of Cambodia's infrastructure. It has taken up project to build hydropower in Komchai

Mountain, Ta Tai river, Pursat, Kirisom, and special economic zones, etc.

What I can say is that China say the least but does the most. China already finished a road between Kratie and Steoung Treng and from there to the border with Laos along with a 1000-meters long bridge over the Mekong, which is one of the best roads in Cambodia. Soon China will help build the longest bridge and road in Cambodia.

Talking within the framework of ASEAN China has offered what they called early harvest initiative for new members of ASEAN that includes a list of 400 items from Cambodia to China with 0% tax rate. Cambodia does not have goods to export to China yet. This is clear that SEZ, with more investment from China, will play an active role in increasing the number of goods from Cambodia to China.

According to estimates, at the end of the year there will be at least 30 factories while 800

workers are needed. In the second stage, which will be complete in 2011, there will be 150 companies and there will need about 40,000 workers and the last stage will be done in 2015 with 300 companies and over 80,000 workers are needed.

Cambodia is a small country with a population of 14 million. Why there is a need for such a big SEZ... Production in SEZ will be for export which will be tax free but if they export to our market they will be taxed. I have a strong belief that Cambodia's economy will jump up and China will have benefits from many investment projects.

According to advice from a Japanese expert who happened to note that in the People's Republic of China, SEZ were run under the late HE Deng Xiao Ping directly, so here SEZ will be placed under direct chairmanship of the Prime Minister. I noted that the sub-decree seems to have missed the Minister of Interior and the local authority...■

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waiting to hear from Ambassadors, from contract companies in fuel and gas exploitation in Cambodia if anyone of them would ask on behalf of their companies to negotiate the price, from which Cambodia would suffer loss. I hope I would be re-elected to wait for this. Chevron came to meet me the other day and it has, according to my knowledge, prepared for a scenario that it will build a factory on Koh (island) Wai. I do not know how many years more. They talked about spending money and also blamed us about corruption. We are ready to ponder the Nigerian example for Cambodia's better sake.

There is a rumor that I met with HE Thaksin in Phnom

Penh last Friday but at nine o'clock this morning HE Thaksin might be arriving at Bangkok already. Some said former Thai Prime Minister Thaksin came to see me in person and secretly. I would say if he was here I would not keep it from the public. He is my old friend. We have been on telephone talks frequently after he was removed from power in the coup. I called him the day he was ousted by the coup to convey my considerate feeling. I have nothing to gain from keeping it a secret and I have full right to communicate with anyone or any country in the world.

As far as issue of UNHCR is concerned, I would urge the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and International Cooperation,

the Ministry of Interior inspect and give a report to me on issue of refugees who are citizens from some foreign countries - Pakistan, Afghanistan, Nigeria, etc. I would ask UNHCR on what count they had the right to bring those refugees into Cambodia without prior consultation with the Royal Government of Cambodia. Take for instance, it is absurd that Afghan people have taken refuge in Cambodia when their country is not under the Taliban anymore.

My question is why some foreign nationalities found residing in Cambodia have been presented with the status of political refugees in Cambodia by the UNHCR, whereas the Government has no consent...■

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insult someone for his handicap. To say it in another way, if they insult me as the Prime Minister, how cruel could they be with simple citizen at large? We have just approved in the law for handicap person protection that all institutions set aside some of the jobs and placements for handicap recruits.

There are ten imbalances to be fixed in Cambodia. The first is between supply and demand, where food provision has been successful, while recording a surplus of two million tons last year. We also have made progress in solving issue of housing, and also means of transportation which we also have seen much improvement. Also, in priority 5, we have made endless efforts building schools for children and human resources development. As the ruling party, we do not promise what we can not realize.

Before ending my briefing with our people here, I would like to make some clarifications. Last week the Cambodian People's Party welcomed lawmakers from Funcinpec Party - HE Sin Pisen, HE So Rector, and from Sam Rainsy Party HE Ahmat Yahya, HE Ngo Sovan and Sok Pheng. HE Sok Pheng - because he is the lawmaker for Kompong Thom, he is now given the post of deputy head of the CPP work team for Kompong Thom province, whereas HE Ngo Sovan will be deputy head of CPP work team for Kandal province or my deputy because I am the Chairman of the team.

Scanning news this morning I was stung by the fact that the Sam Rainsy Party's Eng Chhai Ieng accused CPP of buying their lawmakers while on their side they have been doing so without any ill remark from
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of her poor condition, it has been hard indeed to solicit investment consensus. Thanks to helps provided by ADB and some countries, we have now expression of interests to invest in the railway sector from countries like Belgium, France and Australia... I would also share equal appreciation to the efforts of the local authorities of Banteay Mean Chey province as well as de-mining engineering teams to get the site free of dangers from UXOs and mines. I would like to take this occasion to specially thank ADB for its help in this first project of railway in Cambodia in addition to various projects it has contributed ranging from roads, airports, electricity, to irrigation. OPEC has also made similar contribution to the project of this kind. I would also thank the Government of Malaysia for providing Cambodia some 4,200 tons of rails, which is equal to 106 kilometer railway at the cost of about two million US dollars.

Indeed, it has taken Malaysia two Prime Ministers to get the rails to Cambodia. In 2002, when Cambodia hosted the ASEAN meeting, Dr. Mohdahir bin Mohammed informed Cambodia, as well as the whole ASEAN Summit of Malaysia's intention to do so. IN 2006 when I attended the ASEM Summit in Helsinki, Finland, we also had a meeting among related countries - like Singapore, Malaysia, Thailand, Cambodia and Vietnam. HE Prime Minister Badawi of Malaysia with the consensus of the group agreed to send the rails to Cambodia via Thailand.

Therefore I would like to express my sincere thanks to the Royal Government of Thailand for providing assistance in allowing shipment of the rails from Malaysia through Thailand to its border with Cambodia. This decision was prom-

ised by the former Prime Minister of Thailand and thereafter implemented by the successive Prime Minister Chulanand.

The development has also been seen through by two Presidents of ADB, except in Cambodia, it is still Hun Sen, because the people voted for me. Take for instance in Banteay Mean Chey province, the Cambodian People's Party has won four out of six seats. I think CPP will score another electoral victory because people know that they vote for CPP, Hun Sen will continue to be Prime Minister. Indeed, as is said by HE Kuroda and HE Sun Chanthol, Minister for Public Works and Transports that we should give our respect to the vision of the previous leaders. Cambodia was under the French colony in between 1929 and 1942. The country's leaders had constructed some 386 kilometers of railroads and what we have to give higher consideration is the fact that in between 1960 and 1969, the road between Phnom Penh and Sihanoukville was constructed under Samdech Preah Norodom Sihanouk who was the Cambodian head of state at the time. We should think of the source of water that we drink. It was because of Samdech Preah Norodom Sihanouk, who took the throne in 1941, that there was this possibility to modernize the country's railway in 1960s.

The railway in Cambodia that was built in those days had been considered the most advanced that every Cambodian was proud of. Some of the people who had the chance to take part in that important project are still alive - take for instance HE Keat Chhon, HE Ing Kiet, HE Va Kimhong and some other officials. The war in 1970s pushed Cambodia backward for about 70 years if we compare our rails to those

of other countries. When the war started, the 48 kilometer section of the rail between Serei Sophoan and Poi Pet was destroyed.

If I am not mistaken, between 1979 and 1996 usable rails in the southwest and in the northwest also were destroyed. At the time Melai and Pailin reintegrated with the country and when Gen. Keo Pung led his force to integrate with the Royal Government from the area of Oral region, a number of our rails between Phnom Penh and Sihanouk had been safer from ambushes. However, we had an incident in 1994 at Phnom Voar, which took the lives of three backpackers who is French, Australian, and British.

After the forces on the northern side of the national road 6 and those inside the region of Oral, Taken Koh Sla and other places in Banteay Mean Chey, Melai, Phnom Proek, Sampeo Loun, Pailin, Samlot, Mong Russei, Phnom Dhibadei integrated, such destruction had come to a stop. It is not the rail that is wrong here. It is the politics that is causing such destruction. Thanks to the win-win policy that we now have come together to witness the rehabilitation of the railways. Though it is not as modern as in other countries, we have put back in operation the rails that the war had stopped them. The rails between Phnom Penh and Sihanoukville take 48 kilometers and between Phnom Penh and Poi Pet take 338 kilometers, both of which cost a total of US\$ 73 millions... There is also money to cover the transportation of rails from Thailand's border with Malaysia to its border with Cambodia.

I can say with pride that now Cambodia is free from fighting and this clearly shows that no one loses in the win-win policy - each and everyone is the winner, while the nation by

and large is winning as well. Thanks to the move of rehabilitating the railways today, we will be able to speed up internal integration, which is more important in addition to administrative and political integrations of forces in conflict. We have removed completely and for all, the barriers that divided Cambodia by four forces - the Phnom Penh Government, the tripartite coalition who controlled three different parts and parcels of the country in between 1979 and 1993, and later between the Royal Government and Democratic Kampuchea, who controlled some parts along the Thai-Cambodia border.

In 1996, I put out a policy that its implementation leads to creating infrastructure like roads that link from one place to another, which partly helps reducing poverty as well. We also are conducting mine clearance in these areas, which together with the railways will integrate our country internally. The construction also serves the purpose of improving communications between Cambodia and Thailand in accordance with vision of the former leaders. It also serves as a chance to connect countries within the framework of the Greater Mekong Sub-region, whereas it will be part of the rail links in ASEAN - running through Singapore, Malaysia, Thailand, Cambodia, Vietnam and their neighbor - China.

The part between Cambodia and Loc Ninh in Vietnam will be 257 kilometers long and we have a deficiency of US\$ 500 millions, which I am sure that the President of ADB would agree to act on behalf of Cambodia in mobilizing the above mentioned financial need to get final connection of the rails, and from here, the idea of connecting all countries member of the Greater Mekong
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11 February 2008 (Unofficial Translation of Selected Comments)
Educational Achievements in Kompong Thom's Santuk District

I am so glad that I return to the province of Kompong Thom once again though to a different district at this time... I would like to take this opportunity to express my sincere appreciation to HE Chea Chanto, the Governor of the National Bank of Cambodia, and Madame for the efforts made in developing a nice large area in preparation for daily increase of students.

I also thank the provincial military as well as the party officials at the communal level for setting aside a part of their land for the construction of the Junior College. It is indeed a good example shown by the Cambodian People's Party (CPP) as well as the military for making contribution in the building of the school.

On behalf of the Royal Government of Cambodia I would also like to express my deep thanks and sincere appreciation to those involved in making this achievement possible, which I do not mention here aside from the CPP working team under the leadership of HE Nguon Nhel, the First Vice President of the National Assembly in the province of Kompong Thom as a whole, and the district of Santuk.

As is stated by HE Governor of Kompong Thom, Nam Tum, many achievements have been made and have yet to be inaugurated. As you can tell it will take me at least two years to officiate all the schools that are built under my support throughout Cambodia.

I will have to come again to Kompong Thom's Sandan district this year. This time I will tap the first rubber after I was there planting them. In April 2002 I went to the College of Taing Krasaing and I recommended that we should

have a junior college for each commune so as to allow students, especially female students have the possibility to continue the study until they finish the nine-year education as is stipulated in the Constitution. As of now, six years later, I have requested my advisor to conduct a review of the situation.

As for Santuk in particular, there are nine communes with 72 villages. We have here 49 primary schools or about four in one commune. We have seven junior colleges which mean we need two more to achieve our goal of one college for each commune.

In Kompong Thom as a whole, we have 81 communes with 435 primary schools as before when we had only 103 schools. We have 63 junior colleges for 81 communes or about 80% of the number needed to meet the goal. In the past we had only three. I think we should set 2010 as the goal for that achievement of one college for each commune.

In the whole country we have 1,625 kindergartens or one for each commune in the country. As far as primary school is concerned we have 6,465 schools for 1,621 communes or an average of four to six per commune. As for the whole, I think we could achieve the goal of one college for each commune by 2011 or 2012.

We have to implement this goal on the basis of what I used to say "building on what has already been achieved", whereas the burden should be on adding only more teachers and buildings. I would call that a creative or responsive solution to our wide ranging need and still limited resources. I could foresee that the situation

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weight. Is not this a way to tell that the country has been on the right track of reducing poverty? In this world no country or financial institution would lend us money if they are not sure of our ability to pay back. Take for instance they have agreed to give us a package of loan for the railways only after they have studied our ability to pay them back in principal and in interest. I wish to take this opportune moment to present you dignitaries who have changed their sides from the Sam Rainsy Party to the Cambodian People's Party. HE Chao Phally who is a member of the Board of Directors of the Sam Raisy Party and former Sam Raisy Party's senate member is now working as my advisor, and there are many others.

... I have seen in a newspaper that some one has written a letter asking me to stop appointing these dignitaries to positions in the Royal Government of Cambodia. I would like to give feedback now that I will appoint them all if they join the Government. They may argue about the budget

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kilometers, Kien Svay of 19,4 kilometers, Sa Ang of 24,6 kilometers and Koh Thom of 39,4 meters. We also have a vision that by 2009 the road will stretch all the way through to the border with Vietnam.

This area is going to be a prosperous one because we will have electricity wired from Vietnam with excellent road condition as well. It is indeed silly for those who have argued that Cambodia loses its border to Vietnam every day at the rate of around 100 meters per day.

How much land Cambodia would have left after 365 days? But in reality we have from here to the border an-

constraint but I also argue that I need human resources for the Government's work.

The opposition party should be well aware of their actions when people start walking out of the party. The Khmer saying goes "cold water attracts all sorts of fish." I wonder what is going to happen when s/he gets hold of power, as being not in power they accused so and so with immoral expression like "politicians selling their heads." It is so annoying that one is pointing fingers at others whenever s/he makes all the silly mistakes. Some members of parliament like Mr. Ngo Sovan and Sok Pheng do not bother to think about immunity or salary. They join the Government so I have to work on their appointments. CPP is working on helping people throughout the year except one month that is for the election campaign. Our working teams go to see people, listen to them and help them eleven months a year. It is absurd that when they could not do a single good thing for people they blamed us for being able to do so...■

other 39 kilometers. If it was true like what they have said or lied the people, we would not have Cambodia by this time.

I would say that the topic of pointing finger at anyone of selling land to foreign country is a despicable subject. It dishonors the Cambodian nation and race. What can we do if this is the de facto territory that is left to us from our ancestors? We resolutely defend what is inscribed in the Constitution. During the last Khmer New Year I quietly went to the border with other people. I went all the way to the Chrey Thom River.

I stood watching the river over
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in which our students have to pack food with them to school will soon be over with. We have 66 tertiary institutions, in which 29 are state-owned. In addition to over 4,000 Buddhist pagodas, we have 1,370 Buddhist law schools - all three levels.

Some politicians - maybe because they have nothing to boast - claim that we should not compare current condition to that under the Pol Pot's regime. I think perhaps they are frightened by these achievements and I would urge them to unveil their situation rather than telling people a lie. It is important indeed to know full well who we are and where we are from. We also should know what has been the mistake and what could be done to fix it.

Achievements along this line have been the results of the correct political platform of the Royal Government of Cambodia led by the CPP. I would take a note here for you that during the Chinese New Year, the city of Phnom Penh has been so empty because people have gone out to enjoy festivity in other provinces such as Siemreap, Sihanoukville, etc. We have good security and better infrastructure that allow them to go wherever they wish to.

This is the year of the Rat and Cambodia, Laos, Thailand and Myanmar will soon celebrate the new year of the Rat too. According to the zodiac, this year we have a symbol of gold rat and its interpretation is that the land price is soaring. In fact the price of land or property is dependent on the country's stability for without it these properties would be valueless. What we have achieved today is completely different with what we had under the Pol Pot regime.

Take for instance the Pol Pot's

regime implementation of the national democratic revolution, in which no personal property was recognized - from currency to diamond or jewelries - they are valueless. In between 1970 and 1975 the price of land is flat.

This is closely related to peace, national reconciliation and stability. Apartment buildings in Phnom Penh are so expensive and as far as I know once they start the foundation, customers pour money in and builders do not need to go to the Bank for loans. It is absurd indeed that some politicians because of their ambition and enviousness claim they will confiscate those when they could. They naively repeated what Pol Pot had done and they would not be successful for that.

According to our history, in 1512, the internal war between Sdech Kan and Sdech (King) Srey Skunbath brought the latter's to death in Stoeung Sen. We should therefore safeguard HM's tomb or stupa. It has to be well preserved and maintained. Because of this incident I would conclude that the national democratic revolution indeed took place in Cambodia before the works of Karl Max and Frederick Engel. It was a revolution in those days to liberate people who for their whole lives had been named outcasts and under the supervision of the Buddhist sect.

Many politicians took my handicap for their political gains. They called me "A Kvak" or the "blind" when they see for themselves that I am blind. I have been blind of one eye when I joined with other leaders to fight against Pol Pot. I have brought peace for the country through the win-win policy, and many more, etc. What they do not know that it is inhumane to

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04 February 2008 (Unofficial Translation of Selected Comments)

Educational Achievements in Kompong Speu's Baat Doeng

It is indeed a great pleasure that I am here with all of you to put into formal use a new achievement - the Hun Sen - Bat Doeng College for the people in Kompong Speu's Udong district in particular, and for the country as a whole. I remember that a director of a school here in Udong called into Bayon radio program and said that he wanted to see a college built in his district. HE Say Chhum came to see me one day before talking about his intention to build a college in the district of Thpong. On his way to Thpong I called HE Say Chhum to go by Udong to check. That is how this construction proposal came about.

We have now set a new standard for the building of colleges. We build a two floor building of 20 classrooms and eight WCs, an office of direction, and a building with five classrooms for training students about sewing. To have a college right next to the primary school is a good strategy because no student will drop out of school for reason of being too distant from the next level education facility. The college also will be acquainting students from other eight junior colleges nearby in addition to those adjacent primary schools.

In the past we had to travel a long way to get to school. We have gradually reversed that now by bringing the school closer to homes. In Udong district, where there were no college we have now up to three with short distances for primary schools in each commune. Despite these developments, ill-intent people said that the country is poorer and poorer. In 1979, I think it was the poorest time of our country because we had no shoes on, or anything that is worth a living on. It is quite a contra-

dictory remark. In one instance, a child said to his father who always discredited the Royal Government that he was feeling unwell when he had to go to study in the school built in the name of Samdech Techo Hun Sen. The kid told his father about his school which has evolved from rickety roofing to better condition, and asked why the latter always make such an inappropriate remark.

It is now time that politician changes side. I urge self-restraint by all political parties because changing the party is the right of the people. Politicians in all political parties, the opposition parties also included, have changed sides. HE Kien Vang has been reported to leave the Sam Rainsy Party to join with Funcinpec and HE Ahmat Yahya to the Cambodian People's Party, and the like from Sam Rainsy to Kem Sokha's Human Rights Party, etc. I would urge all to exercise self-restraint and to take no revenge for this incident as it is normal that people can choose the party they like. The Cambodian People's Party welcomes politicians from all political tendencies to share with it the task of rebuilding the country and they are considered the Party's flesh and blood in an instance.

Taking revenge on defected politicians by insulting is not a good way of coping up with the situation as it does not give respect to individual political right. It is politically immature to take up this position. Take for instance, HE Ung Kiet, formerly was Deputy Prime Minister was accused of "selling his head" to the Cambodian People's Party. CPP has no hesitation in gathering human resources and today we

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the CPP. I do not have much to say because HE Chiem Yeap, the CPP lawmaker already responded that CPP did not possess the record of buying politicians. I just suggest that I have the obligation to protect persons and their dignities. HE Sok Pheng and Ngo So Van for instance in front of you today are not pieces of goods to be bought. Language the used like "selling their heads" to CPP is so inhumane and immoral like those used under the Pol Pot's regime.

CPP has not got resources for that kind of business and has no necessity in doing so. It is not a joke that these lawmakers abandoned their immunities and salaries. Days before they said these are intelligent people and placed them in the list for elections. Today they are just a bag of people selling heads - which I think what they said is so insulting. Freedom of a man could not be bought out, not even with a gun pointing in threat. They should not make such negative remarks to hide their weakness.

CPP welcomes anyone and everyone from all circles and will treat them as equal and will not exercise the policy of "revenge" as Cambodia's past leaders had been doing. Pol Pot took revenge on those faithful aides of Samdech Preah Norodom Sihanouk and (the Khmer Republic President) Lon Nol.

I think we should not follow this track. Another matter of concern that I wish to dispel our people's suspicion today also is the fact that some politicians have gone to tell people quietly that they (their parties) will be included in the new Royal Government after the elections.

They argued that Funcinpec is too weak and would therefore get no seat in the National As-

sembly... It is my political clarification that the position of CPP for the fourth term Government, and in case it receives a majority vote as the winning Party, it will go on taking Funcinpec as its partner in the coalition because we have been working together for many years. It would be incredible that Funcinpec wins no support at all. But if Funcinpec wins no seat at all and the CPP wins the rights to set up a Government of its own, CPP will do it alone and no other political party would be invited to take part. We will not have anymore problems like before when the political scene of Cambodia was decided by the two-third majority system. CPP could consider placing some lower rank positions for Funcinpec in case it does not get any support. Other matters will be discussed later. If they score higher and could set up a Government on their own, CPP will walk out and be an opposition party.

I would urge our people to pay attention to this message and be on alert to their scheme of cheating. It is noted that in one of his interview with the journalist under the "Tamarind Tree" (referring to a group of journalists who usually spend time waiting for briefings under the Tamarind Tree before former the National Assembly building) that politicians no longer compete for the post of Prime Minister but partnership...■

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which Cambodia and Vietnam will build a bridge across so as to facilitate our people in their relationship and business contacts. Thanks to this trip I saw how damaging has the road been. I called the Secretary of State of Economy and Finance to work for immediate repairation...■

14 February 2008 (Unofficial Translation of Selected Comments)

Educational Achievements in Kompong Speu's Thpong District

I wish to take this solemn occasion to express my sincere appreciation and praise for the efforts made by teachers, students and their supervisors in making these achievements possible. If we talk about the district of Thpong, it is quite appropriate to say it is the newest or youngest district in the province of Kompong Speu. Though we have the chance to put into official use these marvelous buildings but I am so sorry that we have been late to build up this college compared to those in other districts of the same province. However as is said very often late is better than never.

According to HE Kang Heang's address, the creation of this college goes back to the year 1982 when it was first built as a junior college with helps from the people and community of Prambei Mum but also Veal Pun on the area of six hectares, which has been maintained so far. By 1995, those buildings became rickety and they were being repaired and a new three classroom building was built with help of Samdech Preah Norodom Sihanouk and Her Majesty the Queen Mother. I would take this solemn occasion to express sincere thanks to Samdech Ov (Father) and Samdech Me (Mother) for their sympathetic understanding their children difficulties and efforts to build up this school building.

I also thank HE Say Chhum, former Governor of Kompong Speu and currently the lawmaker of Kompong Speu constituency for his endless effort as the CPP work team assigned to the province in creating all favorable conditions for such a development in this sector of educational infrastructure. He told me he has

had half of the plan fulfilled and I told him I will do the rest to make up for negligence toward the people in Thpong district.

According to the report filed by HE Say Chhum and HE Hem Khan, also member of the parliament, in the whole province of Kompong Speu, we have 302 primary schools over 87 communes, 59 junior colleges throughout eight districts, and between one and three senior colleges in each district. To closely look at the figures given by HE Hem Khan, there were no kindergartens before 1979 but now we have 77 up to 2008. These are great achievements among countless others that I would like to take this opportune moment to mention that the Hun Sen - Anlong Chrei College contributes largely to lessening hardships among students who before after leaving this school had to go to the College in the district of Udong, which is 40 kilometers away, for further education.

In addition to this, the Hun Sen - Anlong Chrei College also helps reducing traveling for education for students from other parts of the district as well. Take for instance those who had to go from Amleang to Udong in the distance of 53 kilometers will have to travel 13 kilometers less to study here. It is going to be 16 kilometers less for those traveling from the Junior College of Toek Phos, 13 kilometers less for those traveling from the Junior College of Khmao Peam, and 16 kilometers less for those traveling from the Junior College of Kraing Sramar in the district of Samaki Mean Chey of Kompong Chhnang province. This has indeed been a significant effort aimed at creating a fa-

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avorable environment for human resource training, a prioritized area contributing for the country's development.

To develop a country, we need people with good health and good education take for instance Singapore and Hong Kong, they do not have even drinking water but they have made themselves rich because of mighty human resources. Cambodia has been named the golden land, with wide ranging of resources like diamond, precious stones, wood and fish, but we have been poor. It is in this remark that we must continue to build up correct policy plus activities that are focusing on capacity building and wellbeing of our people...

I came across Gen. Keo Pung (who led the defection from the Khmer Rouge in the area) and to be frank if he did not took up the defection perhaps we could not secure this school building here. The win-win policy has brought us this situation which not only creates a favorable condition for

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Sub-region can be realized. We may need to have a bridge in Kompong Cham, over the Mekong, and one more over the Tonle Sap, to hang the rails up and on. ADB perhaps can help with this. OPEC may consider one part, while the World Bank could take up one, and so on. We are transforming battlefields into development sites. I have talked to the President of ADB that Cambodia has two million hectares of cultivation land and we can produce twice a year. If we do that we will double our rice export bigger than Thailand and Vietnam. What is the most important, as we agree, is to maintain peace and stability and we will be able to do what we want to and our friends will of course help us...■

national reconciliation but also reconstruction... It is so fortunate that Cambodia grabs in hand the diamond opportunity and what the Royal Government as well as the generous beings would like the Cambodian people to have is achievements in the form of infrastructure because this will have a better and long lasting effect.

Take for instance, at the household level, the best parents could offer to their children is education. Knowledge could not be stolen or harmed in any way. We know that it could be otherwise if those offerings would be in the form of cash or gold, etc. I do not think I have any political messages except this issue of remark that the Royal Government is going to propose the law that allows foreigners to purchase land in Cambodia. I also do not know from where this remark is made or if it is created so as to insult the Royal Government before the elections. We never have thought or even dreamed of doing that...■

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Phnom Penh's Tuol Kok while rejecting the claim of villages that they have given the land for the school use since 1980. I order the district and provincial heads to closely study the school land title and to build the fence for the school. It is still in the jurisdiction of the land survey unit and the Government.

I urge HE Minister of Justice to take this matter closely with the Governor of the province and relevant institutions. We have full rights to protect the state's property and we have to do it. I have prepared to buy the land if it truly belonged to that individual. But this is the land that belongs to the state...■

27 February 2008 (Unofficial Translation of Selected Comments)

Inaugurating Buddhist Achievements — Kandal's Koh Thom

My wife and I are so happy to join with all of our people here in the inauguration ceremony of the sitting statue of Buddha at the height of 93 meters by 33 meters wide, as well as other achievements in the Tuol Prah Raja pagoda in the district of Koh Thom in the province of Kandal. I am so astonished to see such an achievement that is beyond my expectation, though I have been briefed fairly continuously on the construction itself. This, according to what I have seen, is a very pagoda compared to pagodas elsewhere in our country.

I would like to take this opportunity moment to express my sincere appreciation and thanks to Preah Dhammarchar Thean Vuthi who since his youth of 17 years old has devoted his life for the development of this project under guidance of Buddhism. The effort has brought this place to become a pagoda with official head monk as said by the Governor of Kandal HE Chhun Sirun that it is not until 2004 that this pagoda became official.

I have been briefed by HE Men Sam An, Senior Minister and Minister for Relations with the Assembly, and the Buddhist master Thean Vuthi who has also made some significant contribution for the Cambodian Red Cross with my wife, who is actually the President of the Cambodian Red Cross, but what I have learned from those report of the Tuol Prah Raja pagoda is not that impressive as I have seen with my own eyes.

The construction started in 1992 and according to one of his interviews with the Apsara TV program, the Pheah Dhammarchar Thean Vuthi told about a dream he had in

getting to the place - Tuol Prah Raja. It was started in a very difficult condition, which is shared by the whole nation. 1992 was a transitional period to the implementation of the Paris Peace Agreement.

It was then a hard time. The country was still in difficult period. But because of belief that take a deep root in persons step by step the achievement of the 93 meters tall Buddhist statue at the cost of 2,385,000 US dollars is here before us to stay.

It is on this occasion that I would suggest that anything can happen because of belief, and belief would also be taken into consideration in politics and economics. Primarily, if there were no belief, there would not be participation. With belief and participation one can get things done.

I have no other concern but appreciation for all of the Buddhist monks and parishioners and Preah Dhammarchar Thean Vuthi for the efforts they all made to lead the movement for constructing such an immense achievement. What I would have your attention here is that it is possible not because of superstition but because of your efforts all together.

What remains to be resolved now is perhaps how our people can get to the pagoda in a comfortable trip. HE Heng Taikry, HE Dul Koeun, and Mr. Meas Soen have taken this matter into consideration. They have come up with a solution to build an asphalted road number 110 at the length of 88 kilometers with 108 meters of which are bridges and water passages of other forms running through the districts of Mean Chey of 4,6

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21 February 2008 (Unofficial Translation of Selected Comments)
Bridges and Buddhist Achievements in Kandal's Lovea Em

My wife and I are so happy to join with the Buddhist monks and our people here in the celebration of three programs - 1) the inauguration of the Buddhist temple of the Prek Kong Reaj pagoda, 2) the construction of four bridges and 3) the provision of assistances to help solve problems for the people in the districts of Lovea Em of Kandal and Pearang of Prey Veng province.

It is honored indeed to preside over the inauguration of the Buddhist temple Prek Kong Reaj. I planned to come on February 18 but because I had to go to Banteay Mean Chey with the President of the Asian Development Bank to witness the restoration and rehabilitation ceremony of the Cambodian railways within the framework of railways development between Cambodia and its partners.

HE Chhun Sirun the Governor of Kandal province has already stated that this pagoda is one of the oldest in the area about 379 years ago. We may ask why it is called Kong Reaj or "a place where the King stays." It was believed that there was a prince who stayed here waiting for his turn to take the throne. But he failed. According to HE Chhun Sirun the pagoda has been managed and chaired by eleven head monks successively. The pagoda suffered the same ill fate as all Buddhist pagodas in the country, which had been brought to complete ruin. After 1979, the pagoda has been on reconstruction and stage after stage development.

I am so happy to note that there are so many people coming to participate in the inauguration of the new temple of the pagoda. I am so happy to share with you today our decision to open constructions of four concrete bridges which will

serve our people's need for transportation and travel. Among the four bridges, the Prek Tasor Bridge will be completed this year. I order the release of special fund so that the project will be completed.

The four bridges will serve our people's need for transportation and travel on land both in dry as well as in rainy season, especially those who live along the Tonle Tauch River from the district of Kompong Liev, Pearaing of Prey veng to Khsach Kandal and Lovea Em districts of Kandal provinces. I remember I said when I came to the pagoda of Prey Baing that if I were to be re-elected I would find the means to build the national road 8, and it is now being realized. After we connect the two sides of the Mekong River at Neak Loeng, we might have to think of the possibility to bridge this side of the country to Kandal's Kien Svay and on to Phnom Penh at the Sarika Keo point.

This will lead to the integration of some communes of Lovea Em into Phnom Penh. We have now the ability to set a larger area for Phnom Penh to better accommodate more than 1.5 million residents or more, and passers by while enlarging the national road width from seven to larger. I would note that when the French left Cambodia, they left us very small roads unlike the British, whose colonial end left those countries like Malaysia, etc. with larger road. For good and all colonialism never proves to be positive.

In between 1979 and 1981, Cambodia was free of waste because there were not many people and not much food to eat. As of present, one can see on TV the advertisement of drugs or ways to reduce
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 have many dignitaries who leave their lawmaker's immunity and benefit to join with CPP and probably there will be more.

Aside from schooling, I also seek our people's understanding here that in relation to the water reservoir of Kraing Punlei which affects the cultivation of people in Kompong Speu and Kandal provinces. I have made effort to negotiate with the South Korean Government during my visit in March 2006 which I presented three projects to our Korean friends - 1) the Kraing Punlei reservoir 2) the renovation of the national road 3 and 3) information technology assistance. At that time I was asked to choose one out of three for reason of financial constraint. I chose water reservoir, followed by IT and national road 3. As of now we have secured financial assistance for the three requests. It will take some time to study the feasibility and potential of the reservoir, from which 20,202 hectares of land will be irrigated and 253 KW of electricity will also be produced from the dam. The budget has been recorded to be 33.5 million US dollars, for which 26.7 million dollars will be provided by South Korea and the rest is to be provided by the Royal Government of Cambodia as a counterpart fund.

The construction will start soon after public bidding is done. Once it is done, irrigation potential will cover seven districts in Kompong Speu - Udong, Thpong and Oral districts included, two districts in Kompong Chhnang - Kompong Tralach and Samaki Mean Chey and the district of Punnhealoeu of Knadal province. Well, this plan will have to be well studied.

May I inform our people that on February 24, 2008 I will

lead the Royal Government's delegation to the Republic of Korea (RoK) to take part in the swearing-in ceremony of HE Lee Myung-bak, who has been my economic advisor since 2000, as the new President of the RoK. In his curriculum vitae for the electoral campaign, in section on foreign services, he listed his position as advisor to Prime Minister Hun Sen of Cambodia. Also invited are Prime Ministers of the People's Republic of China, Japan, the president of the United States, who according to our knowledge will send Secretary of State Condoleezza Rice instead, etc. I will see to what we can ask for help in relation to the reservoir.

In my visit to India at the end of last 7 and 9 December, I have negotiated and signed already the project of water collection system of Tasal in Oral district of Kompong Speu which will be channeled through for irrigation in Chba Mon, Samrong Tong and Kong Pisey districts of Kompong Speu and Kandal Stoeng and Angsnuol districts of Kandal province. This is what we called the western system that collects the water down to Prek Thnaot, and a small part of the system will indeed benefit the district of Bati in Takeo province as well.

Aside from this we also see to the improvement and capacity enlargement of the bridge of Kun Kru from 4.2 meters to 10 meters in width, and from Bailey to concrete bridge too. We also build another bridge in Samraong Tong district - Trapeang Khyong, crossing the Prek Thnaot river.

I learned that there is a conflict on land at the school of Angsnuol and the case has been decided in favor of an individual who is living in

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