

19 May 2011 (Unofficial Translation of Selected Comments)
A Visit to Kok Trabek Village of Kompong Thom Province



19 May 11— Samdech Techo Hun Sen accompanied by Distinguished Senior Doctor Bun Rany with people of Kok Trabek village, Sralao Commune, Baray District, Kompong Thom Province (Kampuchea Thme)

Zone III – Water and Fresh-water Swamp Forest

It is indeed a great chance I have to come to meet with people in the village of Kok Trabek in the commune of Sralao, Baray district of Kompong Thom province. I am very grateful to all information and clarification as to how the problems in Zone III or Freshwater Swamp Forest Area here have been resolved. People living in this area normally live six months with flood per annum. It has been a unique chance for me to learn more about their way of dealing with issues facing their community such as education, health, cultivation and so on.

I have learnt about this village from the media. My wife and I have learnt about life of villagers of Kok Trabek thanks to the

CTN TV program, which has sent its working team all the way to the village so as to conduct an interview with Kunthea, who left the village when he was nine years old to pursue his study in Phnom Penh in 1996. I have provided some form of assistance to the Pagoda Boy Association in cash and rice, from where Kunthea benefited in his endeavor to get education away from home.

Late in the night I saw a program on CTN in which head of the village and party were interviewed and they were talking about their hardships and were asking for some kind of health clinic. I called HE Thaong Khon, Minister of Tourism and leader of CPP work team for Baray district to find out more about the village.

Life of Kunthea from the Kok Trabek Village

As a pagoda boy myself, who left family in search for education when I was 13 years old, I
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Clarification

Cabinet of Samdech Akka Moha Sena Padei Techo Hun Sen
Prime Minister of the Kingdom of Cambodia

It has been a while now that many users of Facebook.com have brought their concerns to the Cabinet of Samdech Akka Moha Sena Padei Techo about the case that their Facebook.com accounts have been automatically connected to/by a Facebook.com account with a username 'Hun Sen' either in Facebook.com Status Box, Wall, Private Messages and/or Chat. Owing to sophisticated and advanced development in communication technology, it is true that the number of recipients of automatic con-

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18 May 2011 (Unofficial Translation of Selected Comments)
Launching the Construction of National Road 41

National Road 41 – Kompong Speu to Kompot

After my visit to inaugurate the Kunkru (Mentor's) Bridge in 2008, it is indeed a great pleasure that I have the chance to be here and meet our people again. The construction of the national road (NR) 41 is to connect the national road 4 in Kompong Speu province through to Dang Tung district of Kompot province. I am so happy that the

vision (for this area) we have is being realized and a road itself will be ready in 2014. However, the construction is now starting thanks partly to own resources but also capital help from the People's Republic of China.

The NR 41 was considered before as a strategic link between the Udong (former capi-
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08 May 2011 (Unofficial Translation of Selected Comments)
Press Briefing during the 18th ASEAN Summit in Jakarta

After the 18th ASEAN Summit and the meeting with Thai Prime Minister Abhisit Vijjajia with the presence of the President of Indonesia, Susilo Bambang Yudhoyono, Samdech Tech Hun Sen gave a press conference in Jakarta clarifying issues of:

Thai-Cambodian Border Conflict – A Stir in ASEAN Relations

It is not very often that I would conduct a press conference. However, I have the need to inform all of you on a number of issues relating to the border disputes between Thailand and

Cambodia. It is known to everyone that the conflict has troubled ASEAN and caused a challenge to the move for an established community of ASEAN in 2015. It should be noted that the ASEAN rotating chair, in spirit of the ASEAN family, has made efforts (to help resolve the problem) since February 22, when the Foreign Ministers of ASEAN met and agreed on sending Indonesian observers to areas of impacts in Thailand and Cambodia.

While giving utmost consideration to prevent new conflict,
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understand Kunthea's condition and difficulties. As I mention on various occasions that I am proud of my past as a pagoda boy and more so with that of Kunthea, who was also a pagoda boy. He finished the senior secondary school in Kompong Thom and went to Phnom Penh where he finally took shelter in the pagoda of Neakavoan. It was there he got acquainted with the Pagoda Boy Association. It was till early 2000 that he received my scholarship to continue his post secondary school education.

What has been astonishing is that he has developed his ability through study with peers to become a songwriter who composed some 900 songs already. He could be acknowledged to be one of the writers who write many poems but no one knows him. On May 5, I invited and his wife to see my wife and me at home so I could learn more about him and his life, but also discuss about requests made from the village.

The Village, the Pagoda Boy and the Kok Trabek's People Proposal

The village condition of Kok Trabek, life as pagoda boy of the Kunthea - the villager, and the proposal from the people of Kok Trabek have been three impressions for my wife and I to find time in our very busy schedule to come and talk to our people today. Upon returning from Jakarta, my wife and I are of similar idea that we set the date to come to visit our people here. We would like to come sooner but prior engagements have required more immediate attention and also we need to let experts study about all matters concerned not only this village but also the Tonle Sap lake basin.

I would like to express my sincere thanks for all concerned,

especially HE Thaong Khon for the great efforts he has made to attract supports in dealing with issues that I have roughly mentioned earlier. I would like to speak to those living in the Tonle Sap basin that we are working out a solution not only for those in Kompong Thom but also - where the three provincial boundaries meet here – Kompong Chhnang and Kompong Cham too.

Political Framework for Zone III

From this freshwater swamp forest forum I have the duty to declare a political framework for sustaining the Tonle Sap Lake, especially the Zone III. Developments in the recent years have been of great concern. I would like to draw everyone's attention on the matter that if we want to have eggs every day we have to keep the hen alive and feed her. If we kill the hen, we would get one good feast but we no longer have eggs or chicks. By this I mean we all depend on the Tonle Sap lake, from where we fish, commute, cultivate, etc., so it is a prerequisite that we need to protect the lake.

Efforts to protect the lake are required not only from those living and benefiting directly from it but people throughout the country, as well as those nations living along the Mekong River like Vietnam and Laos, and others. It has been high time for these nations, between those on the upper stream and those on the lower stream, to think of consequences and find ways to develop in one country without inflicting negative consequences to others who receive of the same river lifeline. It was a great gesture that the Prime Minister of Laos has declared postponing the construction of the dam at Sayaborei in order to conduct further studies of consequences may eventually im-

pact on Cambodia and Vietnam in the lower stream. As people who own the Tonle Sap lake, we should uphold our effort to protect and sustain it.

Old Time Villages Not Affected

To achieve this goal, I have warned our authorities for not taking too extreme measures (while evicting illegal settlements and water reservoirs). By saying that actions taken must not be extremist when it comes to, I mean, villages that exist in the Zone III since like 1930s or even when we could know it. If we were to dismantle the reservoirs existed there since 1930s, it would be a silly mistake as we did not respect to what has been left from the past. We need to demolish newly and illegally built ones as they have frustrated the water flow and nature, which consequently causing shallow condition in the lake.

In Kompong Chhnang province, which also borders one side with Tonle Sap lake, I called HE Lim Kean Hor of the Ministry of Water Resources and Meteorology to take extra care while implementing this policy for the villages in the districts of Prey Kri and Kompong Leng. In Peam Chakaok, where I visited in 1986, I saw people lived floating on water. It was because of this fact that I am concerned that by implementing this policy one may go extremely far by moving these people out.

According to rough study, the village had some 30 households in 1943, 55 households in 1957, 63 households in 1970 and 71 households in 1973. It has been a settlement that has gone one for many generations. As of now the figure of households has gone up to 200. So what remains to be done here is to develop it into an environmentally friendly village, together

with villages of similar condition, so that we can protect our freshwater swamp forest.

9,097 hectares + 10% Secured for People of Four Communes

Today I would like to tell people of Kompong Thom that we have solved problems relating to conserving and sustaining the lake and its environment in the provinces around Tonle Sap already – Battambang, Kompong Chhnang, etc. We have defined the zone and identified areas where people can go on with their routine life. Here in Kompong Thom we have four communes from three different districts that need to be defined and identified as not affected by the national policy. They are Peam Bang of Stuong district, Phat Sanday and Kompong Ko of Kompong Svay district, and Sralao of Baray district. The coverage of the land secluded from the policy is some 9,097 hectares plus extra 10%.

What does 10% mean? In addition to the defined coverage area of 9,097 hectares secluded from the national conservation policy for Tonle Sap Lake for the four communes, I have figured out that there needs to be a buffer zone between the land provided to the people's community and that protected by the state. The 10% area belongs to no particular person but to the community. Take for instance, in Peam Bang commune, the community has been provided with land coverage of 1,485 hectares plus 140 hectares of extra land as its buffer area. I would call on people to help maintain and protect the buffer area and even to grow freshwater swamp forest, where they could benefit from in form of rattan and/or firewood.

Also I must state clearly that the ten percent buffer zones are not for sale to traders, which would

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bring about fussy issues. The land belongs to the community and its people are those who have to maintain and safeguard them while growing flooded forest. Finally, both the state and private people have come together to protect our natural resources and I order that the Tonle Sap and the provincial authorities must see to marking the ten percent buffer zones with boundary poles.

Reservoirs in Zone III Demolished, 64,000 Hectares for the Lake Basin

As for reservoirs, I would like to declare that all reservoirs in Zone III of the Tonle Sap Lake will be demolished except those in the four stated communes. No more reservoirs will be allowed in the area. There have been numerous reservoirs already in the four communes and similar condition has been allowed for other provinces too. As for those who start making new ones recently, I would conclude that they are not the people in the village. People would not have tractors, bulldozers, excavators, etc. People with all these must be someone with resources and power. Real benefit from these actions will not be for the people.

We must be aware of the consequences of these illegal actions that in the long run these lands will belong to merchants and not the people. As I said if it really benefits the people to give out another ten percent to the community would not be a hard thing to do. However, we are wishing to keep some 64,000 hectares area for the Tonle Sap lake basin. It has shrunk indeed from over one million hectares before.

Reservoirs in Zone II and Zone I

Secondly, those reservoirs in Zone II will be allowed for restructuring and adjusting. Zone

II is defined to be area where water is conserved. However, there needs to be a study to set out policy on the adjustment of the reservoir system. Of course reservoirs in Zone II are in higher level than those in the Zone III, however, there needs to have reconfiguration, readjustment in accordance with form and procedure set out by the Tonle Sap Authority.

Thirdly, it is absolutely inadmissible to build new reservoirs, except in Zone I. It is a fact that because people are in short of water for irrigation they intruded into the Tonle Sap area. It is better to try and build a water basin in Zone II and/or I so that people will stop making intrusion to Zone III. So it is primarily urgent that we will have to build water reservoirs in Zone I that is adjacent and closer to the national road in Kompong Thom, which would hamper water flow from Preah Vihear through the Sen River down to Tonle Sap so that people will benefit from this for their cultivation in higher level land areas.

Coordinated Efforts on Fishing Pattern

It is also equally important to maintain the water quality of the Tonle Sap Lake. We should be aware of consequences from using chemical elements of all kinds. It is in national interest that institutions concerned have paid attention to possible chemical leakages or waste dumping in river and/or lake system. As for Zone II where cultivation is its main objective, excessive use of chemicals would result in polluting water, and Zone III that is in the lowest level area will be subjected to serious destruction.

As far as concrete measures to be taken in the Zone III area, the Ministry of Water Resources and Meteorology, with the participation of the Fisheries Department, will have to jointly act

in a coordination efforts to remove fishing traps that are being set up across the whole river and lake. Actions should be taken using both laws altogether – the Water Resources Management Law and the Fisheries Law. From a bird's eye view, over a lake perhaps in Khsach Kandal, I noticed a long fish trap set across the whole lake. That would hinder movement of fish but also navigations too.

More Fishing Zones Allocated for People

Again about fishing, HE Chan Sarun, Minister of Agriculture, Forestry and Fisheries, in his report to me yesterday, in implementation of my initiative to reform the fishing lot and coverage in the Tonle Sap lake, I have noticed that in 2011, a size of 77,773 hectares or about 45.45% of the whole (provincial) fishing area has been cut off from the state control and provided for use in fishing by the people. In 2010, we released some 30,245 hectares of fishing areas along the river for the same purpose.

As for today I approve our people's request to fish in some 300 hectares and I have allowed them to do so in like 400 hectares according to the demand from the party head. I ask HE Chan Sarun to get down to paper work to make this cut official.

Displaced People and Army in Good Shape

It was said the other day (in the Thai media's ASTV) that the Cambodian armed forces were lacking of food, while mockingly urged me to send in food supply to our armed forces. Let me first tell them that over 50,000 displaced people the other day came to camp with only some ten kg of rice, but when they went back home, they had a full load of supply in their pulled tractor's carts. It is everyone knowledge that the

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nections in Facebook.com will be large in number at one time and this trend will continue to unfold.

In addition to recent clarification to the media by Lok Chumteav Hun Mana, General Director of the Bayon Radio and TV Media, concerning the fact that she does not have a personal account in Facebook.com as well as those of her father, Samdech Akka Moha Sena Padei Techo Hun Sen and her mother, Distinguished Senior Doctor Lok Chumteav Bun Rany, the Cabinet of Samdech Akka Moha Sena Padei Techo would like to inform all Facebook.com users that Samdech Techo has never registered as user of any service of Facebook.com, except that someone has been using his name in Facebook.com chats and/or info wall.

In this regard, the Cabinet of Samdech Techo reemphasizes that someone who uses 'Hun Sen' as username in the Facebook.com account is of fake identity, and does not come from sources close to Samdech Techo. Therefore, the Cabinet is seeking your ignorance of the said fake identity username and account in Facebook.com.

The Cabinet of Samdech Akka Moha Sena Padei Techo Hun Sen strongly hopes that users of Facebook.com are well informed and making cooperation from their ends so as to evade possible consequences that can be caused by such fake identity mentioned. In the future, should Samdech Techo Hun Sen decide to register as a user of Facebook.com, the Cabinet of Samdech Akka Moha Sena Padei Techo will inform all users of Facebook.com of such decision.

Phnom Penh, 30 May 2011

Cambodian armed forces in the era of Techo (Hun) Sen drink and wash their faces with bottled water.

The Cambodian armed forces along the Cambodian-Thai border from Ta Moan, Ta
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tal of Cambodia) to the sea port of the country then. It was called the Ang Duong Road, because it was built under the reign of HM the King Ang Duong, who then stayed at the old palace, where we have the Old Palace Pagoda in Udong (Kandal province). The NR 41 was a part of the road link from Udong to the sea, as one other part is now called the NR 51, which runs from Udong of Kandal and meets with the NR 41 at Thnol Totoeng. It was a strategic road born out of vision of our King in those days and we have made efforts to improve it to serve our people better.

A Vision of Kunkru Bridge

Let me elaborate on the vision that starts from the Kunkru Bridge. I learned from the media about hardships and difficulties of people living in and/or travelling through the river of Prek Thnaot in absence of the bridge. There was at the time what was called the Bridge of Kompong Tram. I travelled through the bridge once in 1991 and I noticed the flood from the western part of Phnom Penh city that destroyed infrastructures along with livelihoods of our people.

By the year 2001, with the state of hardship our people endured in the area in mind, both in rainy and dry seasons, I ordered General Kvan Siem, commander of the military engineering team to restore the bridge, while I covered ferry expense for people who travelled across the river. We then built a bridge of 4.2 meters in width and 190 meters in length. It was HE Khi Taing Lim who was minister of Transports and Public Works.

Two Bridges of Great Elections

However, because the road width is larger than that of the

bridge, there was a discussion then between the Ministries of Finance and Economy and the military engineering team to build bridge poles in space that is able to accommodate later a larger bridge up to 7.2 meters in width. Thanks to this we were able to build concrete bridge on the poles, if I remember well, on January 22, 2002, or prior to the first communal elections. The bridge was then inaugurated in 2008, also the year of the national elections. It was by that time that a politician stated that Hun Sen should not impose condition on political retirement by age.

I have declared that I will continue to serve our people as long as they need and support me. I will go on till people no longer vote for me. We won in 2008 as I came inaugurating the concrete bridge of Kunkru. (The CPP) has won 17 more seats too, from 73 to 90 seats in the National Assembly. Let me thank our people in Samraong Tong district, where some 76% of them voted the CPP in 2003 as well as in 2008.

A Road for Four Provinces

We have now brought our people a reality. People that directly benefit from this road would be from four provinces – Kandal, Kompong Speu, Takeo and Kompot provinces. In Kompong Speu province, the bridge will serve people of Samraong Tong, Kong Pisey and Boset district. The bridge will serve also people of Tramkok district of Takeo province and Jum Kiri, Tchouk and Dang Tung districts of Kompot province. However, I know you agree with me that this road and bridge serve far more people than those.

As is said by HE Pan Guangxue, Ambassador of the People's Republic of China, the road will be of great benefit for transporting our famous durians

and black pepper of from Kompot province for a wider distribution to national markets. He also said that the road will be a symbol of friendship, cooperation and development between the two countries. Let me add on that this road will also play very important role in our effort to widely distribute salt that is one of the main production from Kompot province.

Four Priorities Vision

I am so proud of the vision on four priorities that I issued 24 years ago, in 1987. They are water/irrigation, road, electricity/energy and human resources. As far as water/irrigation is concerned, the districts of Kong Pisey, Samraong Tong and Chba Mon of Kompong Speu province, the districts of Angsnuol, Kandal Stoeung and Dangkao of Kandal province have benefited from our western area (of Phnom Penh) development project as we have developed a canal that allows water to run from Kompong Speu through to Kandal and Phnom Penh and on to a part in Takeo.

The PRC has been providing assistance in these prioritized areas ranging from irrigation to road, to electricity and to human resource development.

More New Roads Studied

Despite the fact that so much has been accomplished you and I may conclude that these achievements have not been sufficient yet to address our people's needs. I have instructed Senior Minister, HE Sun Chanthol, to bring up a study of a long-term plan to build another road from NR 4 at Treng Troyoeung (NR 43) through to the NR 3. Another study has been conducted for the construction of a new road that links NR 3 to Kompong Trach on the border with Vietnam. It is an economic zone and the road will serve as a

corridor to this part of the country. We also are in search of financial assistance to build the NR 2 and the NR 21.

Since I am a son of a peasant family, it is indeed my knowledge and experience about a situation where human has to carry bicycle instead of riding it. It is not exceptional, of course as far as the people who travelled through here before the construction of the Kunkru Bridge are concerned.

Infrastructures for Development

No one could have imagined of development in absence of infrastructure and transportation. It was for many reasons and benefits that we are putting so much resources and energy into building transportation networks. Take for instance, some people could have died of simple sickness just because they could not get to hospital in a timely manner from where they live because of no road access or lack of bridges. In the case of Prek Thnaot, in absence of the bridge of Kunkru, sick people could not travel speedily to hospital because they had to wait for ferry, which could delay their journey between one or two hours.

People's lives which could have been saved were lost for these reasons. There are many more benefits one can think of. In order to address the infrastructural development, we have saved money we earned to invest in building bridges, roads, water canals and other needs for people. It was also a bad feeling when we think about a condition in which our people could not send their products to the market for similar reasons. I am sure with the road in place, traders will come to people for their products, like water melons in the farm of the Sendei commune.

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Thank PRC

With all I have said and anticipated about the project of building the road, I would like to express my sincere thanks to the People's Republic of China (PRC), its government and people, for tremendous financial assistance for Cambodia to embolden its rise while addressing the need for infrastructure development and encouraging a large number of investors to come to the Kingdom of Cambodia.

It is quite fortunate for the world that in time of financial crisis and economic downturn, when counties in America, Europe and Asia encountered problem, PRC has not fallen into the crisis. It has retained its growth at around 8% and 9%. The PRC is standing firm and saving the world. It should be noted that the PRC, in time of crisis, did not reduce assistance or financial help to the Kingdom of Cambodia at all. China has maintained its commitment even when the country was affected by deadly Sichuan earthquake which caused destruction no less than that of the Tsunami in Japan months ago.

During my visit to Sichuan, I remember that there was a policewoman not only breastfed her child but also to orphans whose parents died of the quake. I have sent through the Party Secretary of Sichuan province my respect and appreciation to her. Again I thank PRC for its unfaltering help to Cambodia, even at that very sad and bad time, to expedite its investment in development of the four prioritized areas. With its financial assistance provided, I am sure the diplomatic mission of the Chinese Ambassador Pan Guangxue would be one of the Chinese busiest diplomats to Cambodia.

HE Pan Guangxue has joined me seven times already to inaugurate the (1) Prek Tamak concrete bridge on January 24, 2011, and to launch the constructions of (2) the Russiejrum Kraom hydropower on December 28, 2010, (3) the Tatai electric dam on January 1, 2011, (4) the national road 59 on February 15, (5) the Phnom Penh container port on March 9, (6) the national road 57B on March 21, and (7) the national road 41. According to our schedule we will be celebrating two more events to build the Takhmao Bridge on July 1, 2011 and the Jroi Janva Bridge after the water festival.

Thank Institutions Concerned

I would like to take this opportune moment to express my sincere appreciation for efforts made by the Ministry of Transport and Public Works, the Ministry of Economy and Finance, and all institutions concerned in negotiating the project with the Chinese counterparts so that the project could commence today and will be ready by 2014. It should be noted that this road will cost 46 million USD, which will be deducted from the package of financial loan of 400 million USD approved by HE Xi Jinping, Vice President of the PRC, during the visit to Cambodia in early December 2009.

I also thank local authorities concerned and the armed forces for making efforts to help facilitating the project and I am calling for continuing cooperation from them. I also thank our people living in the area to join with the project as they would be the ones to really benefit from it. Equal thanks go to the de-mining team, which, according to the report of HE Keat Chhon, Minister for Economy and Finance, has spent 461,476 USD. The Ministry of Economy and Finance also share 1.5

million USD to mitigate impacts from the project.

Good and Naughty Friends Should Be Distinguished

After the Chinese New Year, the Year of Rabbit, in my rest in to Kompong Som, we had a fight at the Preah Vihear temple. After the Khmer New Year, the Year of Rabbit too, there was another fight for twelve days at the Tamoan and Ta Korbei temples. In fact I would not want to bring it out before our Chinese friends because they said that Thailand and Cambodia are both friends to China. I told the Chinese Ambassador plainly one day that though both are friends of China the both should be distinguished between who is good and who is naughty.

I would urge other countries like Vietnam or Laos to do the same. It would be undiplomatic but our friends should be aware as to who has harm to whom. Some would find it hard to make a straightforward decision because of relevant interests. Take for instance, according to the news, Vietnam and Thailand are preparing for joint naval exercise. It is also true in the case of Laos. It is now clear that Cambodia could not depend on anyone but on itself and the way to do it is to embrace peaceful means, not war.

Some politicians in the opposition have always made it a fuss as to why the Royal Government of Cambodia does not bring the issue to the UN Security Council or call for the convening of the Paris Conference. Have they ever looked through the conference papers if anywhere in them that a border conflict between Cambodia and Thailand can be solved? I hope they would learn more about the role of the UN Security Council and study all relevant papers from the Paris Peace Agreement.

ICJ—the Remaining Option

There is only one option left. That is to propose to the International Court of Justice (ICJ) to interpret its decision. As for the conflicts at the Ta Moan and Ta Krobei temples, if no solution could be reached, after the Thai elections, we would challenge them to go to court. I think that is the best way to deal with the issue. I told Prime Minister Abhisit in Indonesia that we should use the court to resolve the matter. Going to court is indeed not a particular way for Cambodia and Thailand to go to but a practice performed by many in the world. When Cambodia cannot proceed and Thai would not budge too, ICJ would be the best way and a solution provided would carry weight for both sides to explain it to the people. Otherwise, fighting would not end.

Money for Development, Not for Weapons

We have now come to a situation in which both sides stay where they are waiting for a peaceful solution by means of negotiation. We do not intrude on them and they would not do on us too. Cambodia is in need for money to build roads, bridges, canals, schools, and hospitals. Cambodia does not want to waste money on rifles and ammo at all.

However, being forced by the other side, we must have what we need to defend our country. About 50,000 shells of 105 mm and 130 mm fired on us was not a simple matter. With our artillery responses, the Thai side called for negotiation.

A Warning Message for Thai Neighbors

Let me have the attention of Myanmar and Laos, who are Thai neighbors, that if the region were to allow Thailand to succeed in what they wanted to do on Cambodia, other

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Cambodia has always exercised its responsibility and responded in a timely manner to the Term of References (TOR) as is proposed by Indonesia. In light of the latest agreement on the setup, Cambodia has taken further step to give its signature on the Letter of Acceptance, which defines the role and mandate of the observers as well as tasks to be fulfilled by hosting countries – Thailand and Cambodia.

As you all are aware that Thailand has not yet given its signature on the Letter of Acceptance while created further condition by demanding Cambodia to withdraw troops from the area that is in fact Cambodian own territory. The Cambodian foreign minister has rejected the condition that we cannot withdraw its troops out of the territory that belongs to Cambodia. That has led, as you may have noticed, to a tense situation in the Summit. Cambodia has indeed raised the issue not for worsening conflict but for solving it.

Cambodia's Compromising Stands

With understanding and care expressed by regional colleagues, especially from the President of the Republic of Indonesia, who is also rotating chair of ASEAN, this morning we have a meeting that eventually led to some compromises on a number of issues. It is indeed a rare opportunity for us to be meeting trilaterally where Thailand and Cambodia are working in the presence of the ASEAN Chair and President of Indonesia. It was not just a discussion between Thailand and Cambodia. We also had inputs and reconciling recommendations from the President of Indonesia too.

In acceptance of the recommendation by the ASEAN Chair

and President of Indonesia, the two sides have agreed to let the foreign ministers of Thailand and Cambodia to continue to work for one more day under the coordination of their counterpart - foreign minister of Indonesia. This is nothing less than recommendation from the ASEAN Chair, or the third party, for us to search for solution to the conflict.

The continuing session is necessary because Thailand has not yet given signature in approval of the TOR to start dispatching Indonesian observers (to areas of impacts). It was Thai position to hold the General Border Committee's (GBC) meeting before giving its signature to the TOR. It was Cambodian position to have Indonesian observers dispatched to impact areas in Thailand and Cambodia before holding the GBC meeting. In order to resolve the differences this morning I have accepted compromise for signing the TOR without having had to immediately send Indonesian observers to areas of impacts, while the GBC can hold its meeting.

HE Hor Namhong, Deputy Prime Minister and Foreign Minister of Cambodia, is ready to discuss with his Thai and Indonesian counterparts in the meeting in which a communique will be issued after the signing of the TOR with follow-up negotiation could be conducted an hour or a day after. What we see here is that the conflict area of Preah Vihear temple, after it was passed back to ASEAN by the UN Security Council to coordinate the solution, has now been facilitated by Indonesia, who is the ASEAN Chair.

It is to everyone's knowledge that the TOR on Indonesian observers has been developed since February 22, and having been revised seven times, de-

03 May 2011 (Unofficial Translation of Selected Comments)
Celebrating the May 8 CRC/RC Day

May 8 ICRC/RC Day

Allow me to extend my warmest welcome to all for taking your valuable time to participate in the May 8 Day of International Red Cross and Red Crescent, which the Cambodian Red Cross Committee has celebrated every year. This year the celebration has proceeded under the theme of "Forces of Volunteers, Effectiveness of Humanity." Because I have intended to be present in this wonderful event, and as I have to attend the ASEAN Summit on May 8, the Cambodian Red Cross Committee and partners

have kindly brought the event forward to be held today on May 3, 2011.

I would like to take this opportunity to express my sincere thanks and complete support for the new strategy for the next ten years (2011-2020) after the completion of the strategy that was set out for implementation for the period between 2003 and 2010. It is true that in the 1980s, some thirty years ago, only a small number of Cambodian people survived and returned to Phnom Penh (after the
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mands neither for withdrawal of Cambodian forces and/or people from (its territory) nor holding GBC/JBC meetings prior to the TOR signing too.

Border Conflicts' Two Aspects

I would like to clarify Cambodian position in relation to the border dispute between Thailand and Cambodia is of two aspects. One is the dispute at the Preah Vihear temple where there was a large-scale war last February. As far as this aspect is concerned, any negotiation with regard to the area must be conducted with the presence of ASEAN, who has been mandated by the UN Security Council. Secondly, as to disputes anywhere else on (other parts of) the border such as that in areas of Ta Moan and Ta Krobei temples, about 100 Km from the temple of Preah Vihear, bilateral negotiation can be upheld.

This morning I told Prime Minister Abhisit (of Thailand) and President Susilo Bambang Yudhoyono of Indonesia that Cambodia does not rule out all bilateral negotiation mechanisms but where there is the mandate from the UN Security Council, ASEAN must be in-

volved.

ASEAN for Detente and Evasion of Armed Conflict

It is my conclusion that despite condition set by concerned parties, I have observed a general trend among ASEAN member states and friends, Cambodia and Thailand included, that we all want to work for detente and evasion of armed conflict, while seeking for solution to all related problems by peaceful means. Neither Cambodia or Thailand nor ASEAN member countries are interested in having conflict and are committed to resolve them peacefully, by negotiation and with the involvement of the ASEAN Chair, as well as existing mechanism. I am here not to wage a war of words but to clarify to you all that the situation has evolved for a settlement. Though it is impossible to predict its outcome, you also agree with me that negotiation is a difficult task but it is still better than waging war that kills and destroys people's lives and properties. I would like to take this opportune moment to thank my ASEAN colleagues, especially Indonesia, for playing active role in coordinating the problem we have presented...■

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regime of Pol Pot fell). It is also true that Phnom Penh then had only some thousands families and now it has expanded into a city of some two million inhabitants.

Grateful for CRC

Please allow me to share my view on remarkable activities and achievements that have been attained by the Cambodian Red Cross over the past one year, since May 8 the year before. In the name of the Royal Government and people of Cambodia, who have benefitted from the CRC actions and programs, I would like to give my high evaluation and appreciation for the efforts made by every level of CRC committees, the CRC youth also included, in the past one year. I would especially thank Lok Chumteav Bun Rany, the President of the Cambodian Red Cross, for her effective leadership that brings about these wonderful achievements.

I have said on several occasions that the Cambodian Red Cross has been quite visionary and capable as they have been making use of the local authorities of all levels by appointing provincial governors as honorary presidents and certain many of provincial deputy governors as presidents of the CRC provincial committees. It is indeed to their benefits that by being honorary presidents and presidents of the CRC provincial committees, wearing the CRC caps, these governors and deputy governors have the chance to act and help their people in need of assistance.

In fact providing assistance through the national budget would require so much administrative procedures and sometimes would take month for the treasure to find it administratively apt to disburse the requested sum. With the CRC

structural reform and so much fund accumulated from fund-raising activities, CRC has got the best means and ability to stay close to people who, for man-made or natural disaster, have turned to be victims and/or vulnerable in concerned places. Their response have been rapid and in accordance with the need of the victims. It is in this context that everyone should be of the view that helping the CRC is in fact helping oneself, helping the people and also helping to establish a complementary role in providing helps between the public authorities and their humanitarian assistance agency – the CRC. From this podium, please allow me to humbly thank HM Samdech Mae, who, as Honorary President of the CRC, has provided great encouragement for humanitarian mission of the CRC and its leaders at local and central levels. About two thirds of their lives, HM Samdech Ov and Samdech Me have always attached their activities with the humanitarian mission of the CRC from its inception in 1950s. Young generation Cambodians should learn from their exemplary actions.

2011 Three Outstanding Works

As I said earlier, I have seen that there are three remarkable and outstanding activities and achievements accomplished by the Cambodian Red Cross over the past one year. Firstly, together with the Royal Government, the CRC rendered effective response to the Koh Pij stampede calamity after the water festival celebration in Phnom Penh. Secondly, in similar cooperation, timely assistance was provided in February 2011 for the displaced persons caused by the Thai army's aggression in the Preah Vihear province. Thousands of displaced people have been saved.

Thirdly, also because of the war

of aggression by the Thai army in the province of Uddar Meanjei, a major situation of displaced people has been brought upon Cambodia and the CRC, again in complementary cooperation with the RCG. The CRC offered assistance to tens of thousands of displaced persons. As of today, many of them have returned to their homes but some two hundred families are still waiting and in need of further assistance. We also have information that the Thai displaced people have also returned. We are waiting for the result of today's talk to see if we can send the remaining people back to their villages.

These three events were outstanding as I said and in addition to various other duties and activities that CRC accomplished in the last year. The CRC has also been active in time of needs such as rescuing people from fire and flood disasters in addition to their duties in providing help for the vulnerable, disabled, orphans, family of uniform, etc. in accordance with its slogan of 'where there is hardship, there is presence of CRC.' Again, for this, on behalf of the Royal Government of Cambodia as well as those who benefit from the CRC activities and program, I mark these helps with gratitude.

CRC Dealing with Disasters

Now that the displaced people have returned to their villages and homes, we all could understand that the CRC has duty to go on. In their discussion with the honorary president of the CRC in the Uddar Meanjei province, the CRC president has mentioned about the need to see that people with burned-out and/or partly destroyed houses will be provided with either newly-built or repaired ones. It is in this note that the CRC wishes to utilize fund to be contributed by all of our people today to see this matter

done.

It has to be noted too that the CRC, aside from what has been said, has made efforts also in providing drinkable water from underground and also in repairing and building homes for our people. I would say that the effort for providing safe underground water by the CRC has been remarkable and has been possible thank to contribution from charitable people to the Cambodian Red Cross. Also, it is seen by all that the CRC has extended its activities into other areas too like mother and child care, traffic control and facilitation, and issues of HIV/AIDS and Mines, with the contribution and active participation from its volunteers. Also here, I think it is appropriate to give high evaluation to the Cambodian Red Cross for their timely action that, together with other countries, provides help to people in the quake and Tsunami inflicted part of Japan. The share it was able to provide for the Japanese Red Cross was small but it was quick to do so.

Actions on Mines/UXOs

As far as mines and UXOs was concerned, my appeal to the Cambodian Red Cross and the Mines and UXOs awareness and actions is to take focal attention to areas of recent battles where in February there had been some clustered bomb shells and UXOs as well. As for Uddar Meanjei, because the war took place in a large scale, where Cambodia sustained some over 50,000 shells, 105 mm and 155 mm, it is quite possible that there might be some UXOs. This does not include those fired on our troops at the front.

It is in this knowledge that I urge the CRC and Mines Action related institutions to raise our people's awareness on unexploded ordnances, while

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removing them from the scene must be handled professionally for the sake of life for our people. Talking about some 50,000 shells and actions that need to be taken to deactivate and remove them from being threat to life, I would insist that is the reason why war should not be an option.

CRC Youth Actions

The CRC, together with the RGC and the local authorities of all levels, has been playing a vital role in making considerable contribution in resolving major disaster such as the war displaced population, which recently are the cases in Preah Vihear and Uddar Meanjei provinces. The CRC also proves to be actively involved in providing helps through the CRC youth under the uniform of virtue and morality. It is a pride not only for the CRC but of the whole nation. I would like to take this opportune moment to express my appreciation and consideration for the wise leadership of the CRC at all levels that brings out this remarkable achievement.

Traffic-related accidents have been a major issue these days and it has been fruitful that participation from the CRC youth has been involved to streamline the flow of traffic. In another instance, the CRC youth has been acting as a mentoring icon for friends to properly behave in their way of living and studying in all educational institutions. Youth should be looking at them and change their pattern of thought while redirecting their lives away from disobedience and drug.

Wider Participation

It is also my notice that participation from all circles of society in the CRC activities has illustrated clearer than ever the Cambodian tradition of sharing in. Take for instance, this forum

is a bit different from the one we had last year as so many generous people have been invited and the response has also been immense. Such response, I am sure, is motivated by the heroic model of participation by their Majesties the King Father and Queen Mother, who have made their contributions quarterly and annually. In my recent visit to their Majesties, they contributed a sum of twenty thousand USD through me.

One fact that culture of sharing has grown bigger is because people have faith as in absence of faith no one would ever make contribution. In this case faith in the CRC has brought about contribution that allows the CRC to carry out its sustaining duty and role but also improve human resources concerned. You all know that faith starts from using in transparency and accountability the share our people have made for the stated purpose.

Transparency and Accountability

In social as well as in religious world, faith stays at the core of actions. If whatever amount people share in faith of social action or religious purpose have not been made good use of, sharing from people will grow less every time. I would in this belief express my appreciation to the CRC for its policy of uplifting transparency and accountability through its undertaking of structural reform, which include majorly issue of decentralization of power to its local level committees.

With measures in place, they have access to fund that is available at their disposal right at the place of operation so that they have critical means to deal with urgent events.

I would say that this is a good example for the government

and its institutions as they seem to have problem in power sharing between those at the central and those at the provincial level. I am sure ministers of all institutions could take a good look at how the CRC implements its decentralization and de-concentration modules. While the CRC could decentralize power to local level committees, why those institutions of the government could not? I would urge that the committee in charge of sub-national democratic development, led by Deputy Prime Minister HE Sar Kheng, could find it worth studying from.

If I am not mistaken, for its provincial level committees, the CRC has allocated fund from hundreds of thousands USD for bigger provinces and between eight and ten thousands USD for smaller ones. It is quite daring that the CRC central level provides this much resources to local ones, while the government so far could not decide on this matter. Again, I am sure this can be a model that we should look into so that a wider power and means will be available for effective use in a timely manner.

Force of Volunteers, Effectiveness of Humanity

Under the theme of 'Force of Volunteers, Effectiveness of Humanity' this event has recalls properly what it has done in the past one year. It is with the force of volunteers and effectiveness of humanity, we have been able to overcome all sorts of difficulties, the provision of care, food and shelter for some forty thousand displaced people within a short span of time included.

We have achieved our gold of leaving no one to die of hunger after they fled their homes to safer areas.

The CRC, with its financial disposal, has provided our peo-

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neighboring countries would not be safe either. This is my message that if they succeed in crashing Cambodia, they would be bold to do the same on others. In my conversation with HE Thien Sein of Myanmar, I learned of similar problem that Myanmar has with Thailand too. With Thailand, Myanmar has got an area of some 100 square kilometers to resolve and Laos has got this issue of Xay-aburi that has not yet been solved since 1987-88.

Thailand had fights with Myanmar, Malaysia and Laos. Now they fight Cambodia. I would urge our friends to look at Cambodia and our other neighbors like Vietnam and Laos. We do not have border problems with each other because our borders have been made ones of peace, friendship and cooperation. We also want to achieve that with Thailand. I hope that any Thai Government born out of the forthcoming July 3 elections could resolve internal rifts, and would not export conflict to outside the country and refrain from being in conflict with other countries...■

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Krobei to Jak Jreng, Ta Sim, Viel Intri, Preah Vihear temple, and Ta Thao, are provided with running water and when they fought, drinking water is at their disposal. The Cambodian soldiers, I wish to assure you, will not be starved unlike yours (Thai soldiers) who have gone disarrayed. Was not it true that from the yellow shirt forum someone claimed that one hundred soldiers have gone missing?■

ple with food and it has been possible because the share and contribution provided by charitable people to/with the CRC. I am so glad that the CRC decides that this motto is to lead their actions on...■