

Cambodia New Vision

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October 22, 2001 (Excerpts)

Address to the Closing Session of the National Conference:
**“Peace, National Reconciliation and Democracy Building:
Ten Years After the Paris Peace Agreement”**



On October 18, 2001, Samdech Hun Sen presided over the first-phase full demobilization program in Kampong Chhnang. Each demobilized soldier is entitled to US\$ 240 equivalent to CR 946, 800.

“... This is truly a remarkable moment for organizing this conference, as the Tenth Anniversary of the Paris Peace Accord marks a milestone for Cambodia's march into the new century with a vibrant peace, ample national reconciliation and strengthened democracy. The Paris Peace Accord laid the foundation for dramatic political, economic and social transformation that all of us have currently witnessed in Cambodia. During the past decade, the Cambodian people have confronted the legacy of more than three decades of bloody wars by taking the opportunity to join hands with the international community and rise together from the ashes to create an active, a hopeful and a prosperous Cambodia. Once a backward country shattered by genocide, internal strife and armed conflicts, Cambodia has ushered

into an era of information and communication technology (ICT) and would like to become a real partner in regional and global affairs on par with many countries in the region.

In this sense, I wish to take this important opportunity to do joint stock-taking of Cambodia's achievements in the past decade, share with you our experiences and challenges of national reconstruction by recalling some important events and the reasons for our march toward national reconciliation. This allows us to achieve peace, ensure national and territorial unity, strengthen democracy and promote the respect for human rights in Cambodia...

Indeed we still remember that the search for the settlement of the Cambodian problem was
(Continued on page 2)

October 08, 2001 (Excerpts)

Address to the Workshop on ‘Demographic and Health Survey (DHS) 2000’

... The Demographic and Health Survey 2000 whose result is being disseminated now is of crucial importance as it is a timely response to the immediate needs and requirements of Cambodia in preparing the Socio-Economic Development Plan 2001-2005 and the Poverty Reduction Strategy Paper (PRSP)... The papers to be presented by all presenters and the brainstorming on each topic will become a comprehensive database, information and a strong foundation for the development of a vision and policy for socio-economic development, poverty alleviation and improving the welfare of the population.

... The RGC has considered that it is important to establish a database on the economy, social development, demography and health, such as the data of the Demographic and Health Survey 2000. In the 21st century statistics and information are of crucial importance and have become a powerful instrument for understanding economic and social situation in each country. We can say that a powerful person is those who has a full grasp of all kinds of information, which allow him or her to make an informed decision with wisdom. And a strongman is a leader who can resolve all kinds of problems for the people with
(Continued on page 6)

October 08, 2001

Comments on the “Strike by the United States and Allies”

Talking to the Press after his address to the opening ceremony of the workshop on the "Dissemination of the Demographic and Health Survey (DHS) 2000," Samdech Hun Sen gave following comments:

tion against terrorists... as terrorism would cause destruction not only to the American people, but a tragedy to the whole world...”

On new Government in Afghanistan...

(Continued on page 7)

On the strike by the US and allies...

“... As predicted, a war has occurred... but I hope that this strike will not cause severe civilian deaths and damages... I am quite confident that leaders of the operations would do anything they can to incapacitate the terrorist networks... For Cambodia, we have already taken a clear position on a war or any other forms of opera-

In This Issue

- 1) Ten Years After the Paris Peace Agreement — p.1
- 2) Demographic and Health Survey Workshop — p.1
- 3) Terror Attacks in the United States — p.1
- 4) Address to the First-Phase Full Demobilization — 8
- 5) List of the October-2001 Release on the Web — 8

(Continued from page 1)

made during the cold war, the arms race and ideological confrontation, when Southeast Asia was divided into two antagonistic and accommodating blocks. Domestically Cambodia was faced with the threat of the return of the Pol Pot genocidal regime, which was supported by the United Nations. The country also had to confront with an economic embargo unjustly imposed by a number of countries that had sided with the Pol Pot genocidal regime, thus punishing the people of Cambodia who had been liberated from the deadly hands of the bloody evil.

It was not a journey filled with both joys and sorrows, but a dangerous travel for all of us, being the weak and the victims. Nevertheless, it was not our idea to wage a war in order to put an end to the war. It was that reason that we had resorted to negotiations with our twofold strategies:

First, *achieve a political settlement on the basis of preventing the return of the Pol Pot genocidal regime, and*

Second, *maintain societal achievements attained after the overthrow of the Pol Pot regime in 1979.*

Our common efforts and endeavors led to a historical meeting dated 2 December 1987 between His Majesty Samdech Preah NORODOM SIHANOUK and HUN SEN in Fer Antardenois, France, to pave the way for negotiations for political settlement of the Cambodian problem, although some countries and some parties, especially the Khmer Rouge did not agree. Since then, bilateral and multilateral meetings took place successively at different places and in different forms: from SIHA-

NOUK-HUN SEN, SIHANOUK-HUN SEN-SON SANN, SIHANOUK-HUN SEN-SON SANN-KHIEU SAMPHAN, Jakarta Informal Meeting (JIM) I, JIM II, Informal Meeting on Cambodia (IMC) in Indonesia to the first Paris International Conference, which was a fiasco in 1989 etc. We had traveled half the world: France, Indonesia, North Korea, China, Japan and New York. I think I was among those Cambodians and foreigners who had the most numerous negotiation partners. On the military front, I always avoided launching offensives in many battlefields at the same time. But on the front of negotiation tables I did not have any choice but to negotiate with many partners at the same time, for it was the sine qua non conditions for national reconciliation and restoration of peace for the Cambodian people. *It was not so easy for a man of more than 30 years old to interface with many brains, including experienced politicians and leaders with sophisticated expertise in military matters, politics and economics. It was a daunting task, but we were happy to accomplish it, since it was the only best avenue for the martyred Cambodian people who had gone through many decades of sufferings.*

The art of compromise had led to a framework settlement and a draft agreement prepared by the five powers, members of the Security Council, and the establishment of the Supreme National Council based on the formula 6 plus 6 or 6 plus 2 plus 2 plus 2 equal 12, which I proposed at JIM-I in Bogor, Indonesia in 1988 and the signing of an agreement between His Majesty Samdech Preah NORODOM SIHANOUK and myself in Bangkok and Tokyo in 1990, but was opposed to by the Khmer Rouge leaders. Af-

ter that a 12-membered SNC was established to confront innumerable obstacles, which we had to tackle with in order to arrive at an agreement, while the Khmer Rouge still had the ambition of using military forces to settle this problem.

I take opportunity of this forum to break a secret on the reason why the Khmer Rouge had to bow their head. Two incognito meetings between His Majesty Samdech Preah NORODOM SIHANOUK and myself took place in Jakarta in June 1991 and Their Majesties Samdech Preah NORODOM SIHANOUK and Samdech Preah Reach Akkak Mohesei the Queen decided to come back to Cambodia with or without political settlement on the basis of establishing a National Presidency headed by His Majesty Samdech Preah NORODOM SIHANOUK as a Chair and assisted by HUN SEN as a Deputy Chair. The Constitution, the flag, the national anthem, the National Assembly, the Government and the administrative structure of the State of Cambodia (SOC) would have been left intact, including H.E. HENG SAMRIN as the Chair of the State Council, H. E. CHEA SIM as the Chair of the National Assembly and HUN SEN as the Prime Minister. The decision made by His Majesty Samdech Preah NORODOM SIHANOUK to return to Cambodia was a very effective means that force the Khmer Rouge and their supporters to search for a solution to save the situation. At the SNC meetings in Pattaya and Beijing His Majesty Samdech Preah NORODOM SIHANOUK was a neutral Chair of the meeting and a neutral Chair of the SNC and led to a ceasefire, which provided an important opportunity to push for a political settlement.

During the negotiations for the Paris Peace Accord many problems had emerged. The biggest issue, however, was the settlement of the military aspect, which was difficult to come to an agreement. What I remembered the most is the secret that I will break today: a HUN SEN's prepared cake was sent back by others to HUN SEN to eat, i.e. the issue of demobilizing 70 percent of the armed forces. The Khmer Rouge proposed that each party should have retained only 2,000 military personnel. Thus, the Tripartite Coalition Government should have retained 6,000 military personnel and the Government of the Former State of Cambodia, which controlled 90 percent of the territory and possessed a 140,000 strong army, should have retained only 2,000 military personnel. This proposal was to pave the way for the Khmer Rouge to come easily to power by military means, using their disguised forces in the zones under their control. At a secret meeting between myself and a representative of a big power or otherwise called a working breakfast I raised the idea of demobilizing 70 percent of the armed forces. I did propose this myself, since it would have been opposed by the Khmer Rouge. This formula was sent through this big power to His Majesty Samdech Preah NORODOM SIHANOUK, Chair of the SNC, who put it on the SNC agenda. Everyone, including myself, KHIEU SAMPHAN and SON SEN, who represented the Khmer Rouge, supported this proposal. Thus, the military aspect of the problem, which was the most difficult to tackle in the agreement, was settled by sending a HUN SEN's prepared cake back to HUN SEN to eat. It is only ten years after had I broken this secret.

(Continued on page 3)

(Continued from page 2)

I wish now to touch upon the period of implementing the Paris Peace Agreement. After signing the Paris Peace Accord Their Majesties the King and the Queen, and Members of the Royal Family returned to Cambodia and were welcome by the people of Cambodia with pumps and circumstances. But KHIEU SAMPHAN and SON SEN was met with a demonstration. The United Nations sent the United Nations Advance Mission in Cambodia (UNAMIC) to prepare for the United Nations Transitional Authority in Cambodia (UNTAC)'s operations. Three of the four parties had implemented the Paris Agreement, especially by imposing the cease-fire, concentrating their forces for eventual demobilization, opening up their zones and institutions for UNTAC's inspection. The Khmer Rouge not only failed to implement the agreement, but also disturb other parties and UNTAC in implementing the agreement. Taking advantage of the other three factions concentrating their forces for eventual demobilization, the unilateral demobilization of a 220,000-strong self-defense force and the downsizing of 38,000 national and regional forces, the Khmer Rouge took control of some parts of the country by force and deployed their forces near the areas designated for organizing the elections. UNTAC, which was a guarantor of implementing the agreement, had taken a strong position with the weak and the party respecting the agreement, but did not take a strong position with the Khmer Rouge. Zones controlled by the Khmer Rouge was not open to UNTAC for entry. Two Khmer Rouge soldiers holding a bamboo stick could prevent UNTAC Chief and UNTAC Military Commander from entering Pailin.

Every time the Khmer Rouge attacked the SOC positions, UNTAC spokesperson always announced that both the Khmer Rouge and the SOC had violated the cease-fire agreement. It was unjust to penalize both the offenders and the victims. We asked for the correction, but UNTAC turn a deaf ear to our reasonable proposals. It continued until I was forced to warn UNTAC by resorting to the following: when the Khmer Rouge was about to mount an attack on Siem Reap I asked H.E. HOR NAMHONG to inform UNTAC Chief that if UNTAC could not control its own spokespersons in blaming the SOC, we would take out our forces from Siem Reap, thus giving the Khmer Rouge forces the leeway to attack UNTAC barracks. After that UNTAC Chief asked the SOC to protect Siem Reap. At that time, H.E. Benny Widyono was UNTAC Representative for Siem Reap. If Mr. YASUSHI AKASHI did not tell Mr. Eric Falt, Your Excellency's office in Siem Reap would have been attacked by the Khmer Rouge, because I had withdrawn my troops from the area. UNTAC took a strong stance with the weak and had pressured those who have upheld the accord, but failed to take action with the Khmer Rouge. The most serious was that apart from being idle in front of the Khmer Rouge violation, UNTAC gravely abused the party respecting the agreement. The fact that UNTAC used helicopter forces to siege the Takeo and Prey Veng Provincial Government Offices and a number of districts in Kompong Cham was not acceptable. Our patience with foreigners wearing UN batches should have its limit. Therefore, at almost all meetings with UNTAC leaders I stated that UNTAC should bear responsibility for any eventuality caused by actions

of some UNTAC personnel who had behaved like armed robbers. It was a warning to stop them from behaving like robbers and punishing us using any means in any form.

I wish now to talk about crisis resolution by UNTAC in the post-election period. This crisis was deep and UNTAC was not capable to resolve it. A war could have broken out in Phnom Penh and in other provinces and municipalities. I am breaking another secret: myself as a Prime Minister and General POL SAROEUN, then Commander-in-chief was detained in a house arrest for three hours in the afternoon of 2 June 1993 by a group of people who did not recognize the election results. It was a good luck that myself and General POL SAROEUN was saved by a 018 mobile phone. That's all I want to reveal and keep this for my book to be written in the future. But I should talk about the reason why a group of people did not recognize the election results in order to share experience with those who long for democracy in Cambodia. UNTAC created this problem for itself. Following are the reasons:

First, UNTAC amended unilaterally the Election Law without the SNC consent. More importantly it removed the article allowing all political parties the rights to stamp or to seal the ballot boxes. This tantamount to distrust vis-a-vis all political parties taking part in the elections. However, the most serious is that UNTAC seized power from the SNC and violated the rule of law. The Election Law was adopted jointly by the SNC and UNTAC, but it was incredible that the amendment was made solely by UNTAC without the SNC's consent. But it happened in Cambodia during UNTAC.

Second, UNTAC adopted on its own just some hours before the election a new regulation on establishing a safe barrack for ballot boxes at night. No political party is allowed to get near to the ballot boxes, except UNTAC personnel. This is a new arm created by UNTAC to the detriment of the confidence of Cambodian political parties and people.

Third, many irregularities were not resolved in accordance with the law, such as ballot papers were dropped from the ballot boxes; many stamps (for stamping the ballot papers) were dropped on the road; and the ballot papers were either more or less than the voters etc.

It was the three reasons that made a group of people did not recognize the election results, for it was the worst election in the world in the 20th century. I am a little bit harsh, but it was true and we should speak frankly if we are reasonable, honest and fair. It was a lesson to be drawn for UN operations in other countries. This is a candid assessment of UNTAC operations in organizing elections in Cambodia.

Who did resolve the crisis? Even UNTAC could not resolve such bad and grave situation like this. May I raise three key factors, which help resolve this problem:

First, His Majesty Samdech Preah NORODOM SIHANOUK played a crucially determining role in resolving this dangerous crisis. If our reverent King did not take the initiative to resolve the crisis a tragedy of immeasurable proportion would have happened and we would have not been able to meet today. A proverb says that "if one drinks water, one should remember where it

(Continued on page 4)

(Continued from page 3)

comes from; when one eats fruit, one should remember those who had planted the fruit tree." In a similar vein, each and every Cambodian should show respect for the crucial role of our reverent Their Majesties Samdech Preah NORODOM SIHANOUK and Samdech Preah Reach Akkak Mhesei the Queen. In this sense, for Cambodians from all walks of life His Majesty Samdech Preah NORODOM SIHANOUK is the "Supreme Heroic King-Preah Maha Vorak Ksatra" and the father of national peace. However, some foreigners, including those in UNTAC unjustly accused His Majesty Samdech Preah NORODOM SIHANOUK of taking power from some political parties or staging a constitutional coup. In their writing a number of foreigners did not give due consideration to the key role of our reverent King in the settlement of the problem in search for peace and national reconciliation.

Second, political parties in the National Assembly followed His Majesty the King's decision. The dissolution of the SOC government before the deadline set by the Paris Peace Agreement and the participation by all elected parties to the National Assembly in the Provisional Coalition Government were the short-cut solution which was not stipulated by the Paris Peace Accord, but was the wisdom of His Majesty Samdech Preah NORODOM SIHANOUK, followed by the political parties. This solution did not only manage to avoid bloodshed, but also created favorable conditions for drafting a new Constitution which otherwise would not be adopted as it required a two-third majority, since no political party had no more than 50 percent of seats in the National Assem-

bly.

Third, not all but a number of foreign countries provided assistance. On the contrary, a short-cut solution of His Majesty Samdech Preah NORODOM SIHANOUK allowed the United Nations to pull out from Cambodia. Otherwise the United Nations could have bogged down in the quagmire like in Angola.

The second Kingdom of Cambodia was established with the departure of UNTAC after spending some US\$2 billion, although Cambodia was put in a situation of two zones governing by two governments. The war was protracted in the areas along the Cambodian-Thai border and the leopard spots were scattered across the country... The Khmer Rouge had their own government, with their Head of State, Prime Minister, a radio station and printed money for circulation in their zone. At the negotiation held in May 1994 in Pyongyang, People's Democratic Republic of Korea, they required the government to accept the minimum government in lieu of a new Constitution. They rejected the cease-fire proposed by the new government and the two Supreme Patriarchs of Cambodia. They put up attacks on the people, including killing of foreigners. Pol Pot's 'iron corroded by rust' strategy had clashed with the government's "win-win" policy. It was a decisive period of Cambodia's national reconciliation.

As the one who had initiated the "win-win" policy and who had personally gotten this "win-win" policy implemented, I wish to underline its real content as follows:

First, providing guarantee for security, life and physical safety to all those who had

volunteered to defect from the Pol Pot's political and military organization in order to join the government and the mainstream of the society.

Second, their career and profession were protected through the process of integration, except for those who had political function.

Third, their mobile and immobile private property is being recognized by the government.

Providing the three guarantees responded to the interests of those who served in the rank of the Khmer Rouge and the population living in the zone controlled by the Khmer Rouge. It become an effective means to crack down on Pol Pot's militarist policy and the «iron-corroded-by-rust» strategy. Ultimately, the Khmer Rouge's political and military organization was dismantled. Peace and national reconciliation were fully restored. National and territorial unity, the lack of secessionist zones and the reconciliation within the framework of one Constitution, one monarch and one government emerged in this sad country. Now this is the diamond opportunity for socio-economic rehabilitation and reconstruction through the government's triangle strategy.

The political and military organization of the Khmer Rouge was dismantled and the national reconciliation was promoted through a combination of the following factors:

First, Their Majesties the King and the Queen played a crucial role in national reconciliation.

Second, coordination among political parties through the multi-party democracy and the motto of «Nation-Religion-

King» by putting long-term, national interests ahead of short-term, party interests.

Third, political correctness of government's «win-win» policy and socio-economic and other sectoral policies, wholeheartedly supported by the armed forces and the people.

Fourth, the support by the international community of the process of national reconciliation, democracy, the respect for human rights and the rebirth of Cambodia.

Fifth, bad policies of the Pol Pot genocidal regime from 1975 until the end. In this context, I take this opportunity to stress that boycotting the elections stipulated in the Paris agreement by the Pol Potists was merely a suicidal policy. Should they took part in the elections as provided for by the Paris Accord, they would become a legitimate political party, whether or not they have seats in the National Assembly or represented in the government. Their army and administration would have been legally integrated into the government as provided for by the Paris agreement. It is possible that no one would be initiating to bring them to justice. Nevertheless, the Cambodian people are lucky for such a mistake made by the Pol Potists. When Sdech Krom Khun took the floor, His Royal Highness did not answer the question asked by a journalist why not all the parties took part in the implementation of the agreement. I wish to answer now that it was this fifth factor. Pol Pot made a mistake by boycotting the elections and made a political suicide. Should the Khmer Rouge took part in the elections, whether they had won seats or not in the National Assembly or in the government, their party would

(Continued on page 5)

(Continued from page 4)

have been legitimate and their armed forces and administration would have been integrated into our national entities in compliance with the Paris Peace Accord. May be, at least KHIEU SAMPHAN would have sit here with us and made a statement. But now this place is not for them. A law was adopted to bring them to justice, this is where they should sit. This is my answer for that journalist who ask whether KHIEU SAMPHAN or NUON CHEA could come here. It was their own decision. In fact, the authors of the Paris Peace Agreement, including the five members of the Security Council gave the Khmer Rouge the opportunity to take part in the elections. But the Khmer Rouge did not use this chance. The Paris Peace Accord allowed for two Khmer Rouge to represent in the 12-membered Supreme National Council (SNC). It was the Khmer Rouge themselves who had made this mistake. Therefore, the Khmer Rouge's mistake was a good luck for the people of Cambodia, thus correcting the erroneous policies pursued by those countries who had wanted to install the Khmer Rouge. This mistake also brought about the collapse of the foreign policies and the Khmer Rouge's policies. Now, they asked us to bring the Khmer Rouge to justice. I am grateful for the mistake made by the Khmer Rouge. A Khmer proverb says that "if you had discovered that someone did not tell you the truth, you should not insist that he had lied to you." However, this world is very complicated. If one did not tell everything and the whole truth, we will not be able to find justice, since justice for the rich is a difficult thing. I am a human being, therefore I should speak out.

Sixth, the people living in different zones and the antagonist armed forces did not resort to revenge. This is another important factor, which allowed the government to successfully implement the «win-win» policy. It is good for Cambodia for not revenging each other nor considering each other as winners or losers. Everyone is the winner and peace and national reconciliation are for everyone. Thus, an internal border between different zones collapsed and the people visit each other as one nation benefiting from similar development and interests and governed by the same Constitution and laws. The once antagonist armed forces have come to live together without division or discrimination, wearing the same uniform and filled with the same nationalism and patriotism.

Overall, through a win-win policy, the Royal Government managed to dismantle the political and military organization of the Khmer Rouge. The remaining remnants of the Khmer Rouge defected to the Royal Government, some of them were captured to stand trial for genocidal crimes that they had committed in the past. What was intended in the Paris Peace Accords of 1991 but could not be ensured by UNTAC, is now a reality because Cambodians have come together among themselves, not at the behest or prodding of external forces. In this sense, I am proud to say that the «win-win» policy is the core and the most important instrument of our peace philosophy. This is also the most important lesson that we have learnt, after many decades of critical tests and struggles, in order to accomplish a full peace and tranquility at present. The key point of our "win-win" policy is to recognize that there is no winner in

waging a destructive war and revenge will never bring peace to the country and its people.

In retrospect, we are proud to say that Cambodia and the Cambodians are currently at peace, in one integrated, self-contained territory, without separatists and antagonist armed groups, for the first time in more than three hundred years after the assassination of PREAH SREY SOKUNBOT by SDECH KAN. Since then until 1998 there were at least two armed, antagonist groups and sometimes there were five different armed groups in this small country. This is indeed a uniquely historic, highly laudable and noteworthy accomplishment. This peace has been brought about by relentless efforts, mutual accommodation and the fine-art of compromise. Of course, this genuine peace was restored with the benevolent leadership of our beloved monarch, His Majesty King NORODOM SIHANOUK, who is the "Supreme Heroic King-Preah Maha Vorak Ksatra" and father of our nation, and the result of a strong coalition between the Cambodian People's Party (CPP) and the FUNCINPEC.

The past decade is witness to the strong foundation for Cambodia's decisive move towards a lasting peace, sustainable development and tangible progress, as manifest in the impressive economic growth and continuous efforts to strengthen democratic institutions, respect human rights and alleviate poverty. However, despite recent improvements in all aspects of the society, much remain to be done. In this context, I wish to highlight the main challenges and some of the key issues that confront Cambodia in the next decade:

First, it is difficult to achieve peaceful settlement of armed conflicts and national schism.

But, the continuity of peace and the strengthening of peace culture are even more demanding and difficult to keep. To this end, we should work harder and double our efforts to maintain and preserve the key ingredients of peace. This includes promoting the non-violent culture and the respect for human rights, revitalizing democracy and good governance, and in particular rigorously attacking poverty in the country and improving the living standards of the people.

Second, accelerate the reform of the state through the implementation of the action plans for demobilization, administrative, fiscal and macroeconomic reforms, as well as restructuring in forest management, fisheries and land management with the view to strengthening the rule of law, improving the efficiency and quality of our administration and service delivery and especially consolidating the foundation for the market economy.

Third, introduce an administrative system, based on decentralization and deconcentration, to increase accessibility of essential services to the local people at grassroots level. The communal elections to be held in the future will strengthen democracy at the grassroots level and will improve the efficiency of the public services and full public participation in development at the levels of their villages and communes.

Fourth, deepen the legal reform and establish a national program for judicial reform; and

Fifth, formulate and implement with strong determination the measures outlined in the Governance Action Plan (GAP), which the Royal Government of Cambodia (RGC)

(Continued on page 6)

(Continued from page 5)

considers as the backbone for the success of the reform programs and the poverty reduction strategy.

Sixth, build up institutional capacity and work together with the donor community, the private sector and the civil society in a joint effort, shared intellectual and financial responsibilities to develop human resources and ensure Cambodia's long-term competitiveness in a globalized world economy and the rapidly developing IT revolution.

Now we can say with strong conviction that in the new century and millennium Cambodia has emerged as a united nation with the aim of avoiding past conflicts and division, being a real partner in the community of nations for the prosperity of mankind...

(Continued from page 1)

efficiency so that they can live in peace with dignity and prosperity. Therefore, an understanding of statistical ideas, and the potential for their application, is so important to the leaders at all levels. Any leader requires as much information as possible about the characteristics of the situation and environment to make informed decision...

Attention is given by the RGC to compiling information into statistical compendium, such as the Population Census of 1998, the Survey on Children and Employment of 2000, the Socio-Economic Survey of 1999, the Report on Human Development in Cambodia and the Demographic and Health Survey 2000...

... The RGC should also have good understanding of the vulnerable groups such as: women experiencing domestic violence, abandoned or parentless children, rural poor families, urban squatter families, street children and returnees... This could include better understanding of the constraints and incentives faced by the poor and the ways in which various income groups respond to government policies and programs as well as the distribution effects of tax reforms, public expenditures and specific poverty alleviation programs... This survey will make a positive contribution to the preparation of good plans, sound policies, programs and projects related to the demography and health of the people with a view to strengthening and improving public health services in the future. At the same time, we can use the survey results to build up national capacity in collecting, processing and analyzing health and demographic data.

The Demographic and Health

Survey is an instrument to evaluate the progress in health status in the Kingdom of Cambodia. The survey results also highlight the challenges that we have faced. For example, the Demographic and Health Survey 2000 shows that maternal and infant mortality rates are still high in Cambodia and the situation of child malnutrition has not been improved to the extent that we want to see. In this context, the RGC will pay attention to the challenges raised by the Demographic and Health Survey by giving priority to the improvement in the health status of women and children.

... Both the Cambodian counterparts and their development partners should work closely to address the challenges mentioned in the survey results. The results made public today aim to provide the public health policy-makers, especially the Ministry of Health, relevant national and international organizations with key information about the demographic and health status in the Kingdom of Cambodia. This information will allow them to take effective measures to address the pressing issues highlighted in the survey and improve health services, especially public health services with a view to upgrade the well-being of the people and promoting sustainable development in Cambodia.

The Demographic and Health data have removed some constraints caused by the lack of reliable data to formulate government's policies and programs for poverty alleviation. *Following the Population Census 1998, we have accurate demographic data at village and commune levels, and additional data are made available by the Demographic and Health Survey 2000.*

There is a close correlation between the people, poverty, food production and the environment. Improving the people's well-being and prosperity is a daunting task requiring the art of management, patience and time... In the area of demography and health, attention will be given by the RGC to the problems of maternal and infant mortality and birth spacing, because the maternal mortality rate and fertility rate is still high. The couple should only have as many children as they want and as they can support. Mothers and children should be provided with health services before, during and after birth. Most of women have not used family planning. Therefore, we should work more on family planning to raise the awareness of birth spacing to reduce the family size so that each family member can get bigger share of property and more attention from the whole family. In Cambodia, at present especially in rural areas the rate of birth delivery at home is still high, compared to the numbers of delivery at the health centers. This is a big problem as birth delivery at home is dangerous, lack emergency services and hygiene... It is true that social and economic conditions are the main reason why many women have to deliver their children at home more than at the health centers. However, the fact that many women are not aware of the risk and the danger of delivery at home and the benefits of doing so at the hospital is also a reason.

Abortion rate is also high and this includes the use of traditional method, which is very dangerous. The government shares this concern, as it will impact on women's health in the future. Moreover, Cambodian women are faced with many other challenges, such as

(Continued on page 7)

(Continued from page 6)

psychological barrier to employment and study, the problems of prostitution, trafficking, the increase in HIV/AIDS, domestic violence etc. *These are the top priorities for the government. Based on these data and analysis, the RGC will launch in 2002 a Poverty Targeted Program to address the needs of poor populations living in remote outback areas, especially the problem of malnutrition among the population.*

... The information from the Demographic and Health Survey 2000 is of critical importance for the RGC and myself as the Prime Minister... *During the last four years budget disbursement for education has more than doubled from CR 102 billion in 1998 to CR 223 billion in 2001 and disbursement for health has more than tripled from CR 43 billion in 1998 to 140 billion in 2001...*

More efficient use of government budget will ensure that budget increase will result in better public services for the poor people living in rural areas of Cambodia... I wish to make a humble contribution to improvement of statistics by drawing your attention to the following:

First, Cambodia is unusually rich in terms of availability of household survey data of various kinds, which have been carried out with the support of various donors, albeit there are problems with comparability. But this is important for government policy analysis and formulation... The major surveys in recent years are the Socio-Economic Survey and the Health Survey. *Hence, the Ministry of Planning should enhance its capacity in managing the data and promote its wide dissemination. Data*

should be made publicly available, including in the form of printed materials and also on CD ROMs.

Second, expanding the coverage for the use of the Internet in government business by promoting e-government, especially by disseminating data, such as social and economic indicators and policies to improve the quality of public services and public management by promoting transparency and good governance. In this sense, I urge all government ministries and agencies to launch their own websites to disseminate sectoral information and data on-line.

Third With technical assistance from international financial institutions and donors, the RGC has compiled numerous statistical compendium, such as the General Population Census, which was conducted in March 1998 for the first time for more than three decades. Other sources of statistical data are and Children and Employment Survey 2000 and the Demographic and Health Survey 2000 (DHS), which we are releasing to the public today... However, for some figures official estimates are not consistent with the surveys, creating a problem for interpretation and analysis. This may raise some problems when a baseline needs to be chosen for the purposes of monitoring progress during the period of the PRSP...

(Continued from page 8)

Demobilization, to continue the traditionally good cooperation in implementing this phase and the next phase of demobilization. *We expect that this demobilization program will be brought to a successful completion during the second term of the government, when another 15,000 soldiers will be demobilized...*

I wish to table for those who will stay on with the RCAF the following recommendations on the military reform and demobilization:

First, continue to discharge your duties of defending the independence, sovereignty and territorial integrity for the supreme interests of the country.

Second, participate in the implementation of the five-year RCAF reform.

Third improve quality and strengthen capacity of the military by improving defense policy, strengthen discipline, upgrade moral and loyalty of the military vis-à-vis the country and the people of Cambodia.

Fourth, continue to participate in the rehabilitation and reconstruction of infrastructures, roads, bridges, dams, dikes, as well as in mine clearance to save peoples' lives and to contribute to the socio-economic development and poverty reduction of the people.

Fifth, continue your cooperation to maintain peace and social order, crack down on crimes and other offenses and get ready to give a helping hand to the people during a natural disaster.

... I would like to express our profound gratitude to the Governments of Japan, Sweden, the Netherlands, the United States, Germany, Canada, Australia, the WFP and the World Bank for providing loans and grants to implement this demobilization program... On behalf of the RGC, I hand over to each demobilized soldier government's contribution to the amount of US\$ 240, equivalent to CR 946,800...

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“... We have in fact given thought of this issue as we are certain that the strike by the US and allies aimed to destroy no Afghans or the Afghanistan... but to remove the threat of terrorism while liberating the Afghans from being hostages to the terrorists themselves... It is true that there is going to have a new government with which Cambodia is prepared to establish (diplomatic) relations... Currently Cambodia has no diplomatic relations with the Taliban Government in Afghani-

stan...”

On Assistance to Afghanistan...

“... Cambodia could think of a possibility to share its expertise in de-mining with the Afghans... We learned that there are lots of mines and unexploded ordnance (UXO) in Afghanistan... As Cambodia used to share this kind of expertise with the post-war Kosovo in former Yugoslavia, we could still do the same to Afghanistan as a contribution to the process of rehabilitating and developing of Afghanistan...”

October 18, 2001 (Excerpts)
Address to the First-Phase Full Demobilization Program

... Our objectives are to downsize and improve the quality the Royal Cambodian Armed Forces (RCAF) in line with the new situation of our country, as we are marching with strong determination to maintain peace and national reconciliation, strengthen democracy, uphold the respect for human rights and especially promote economic development with a view to gradually reducing poverty of the Cambodian people...

I can assure you that the valuable investment by the international community in this demobilization project is of paramount importance for Cambodia's development. As I stated at the CG Meeting held recently in Tokyo through this demobilization program the RGC will be able to turn our massive, now not any longer needed, swords into new plowshares.

... I would like to share with you my own views just to reaffirm government's vision on military reform and demobilization. As you are aware the Royal Government launched in February 2001 the Defense White Paper, which provides defense and security guidelines and calls for reforming and restructuring the RCAF. *The reform process aims at a substantial reduction in current manpower levels so that RCAF's strength will be in a range of 70,000 to 80,000 personnel.*

... We will turn all demobilized soldiers into a powerful force to contribute to sustainable economic development and poverty reduction of the Cambodian people. Prompt implementation of the full military demobilization program is crucial for budget savings and redi-

recting resources to the priority sectors: physical infrastructure, social and economic sectors, especially education, health, agriculture and rural development... This demobilization program will create favorable conditions for the government to implement the reform of public expenditure, especially focusing on shifting resources from non-productive to priority, productive sector.

Without such expenditure reform we cannot expect that the RGC will be able to improve the quality of basic public services, especially basic health care and education, whose objectives are to pull the majority of our people from the shackles of poverty, illiteracy and disease. This will end up by creating a socially connected, educationally advanced, and culturally vibrant society in Cambodia.

Allow me to remind you about the crucial contribution of our armed forces in creating what we have today. It is time to remember those who had planted and cared for the trees, when we enjoy eating their fruits and sitting under their shadow. Over the last three decades, Cambodia had gone through wars and armed conflicts. But we could prevent the return of the genocide regime...

It was you, RCAF officers and ranks-and-files, both those who will be demobilized and those who will continue their career in the RCAF, had served the country with heroism and courage and had made sacrifice for the country... The Cambodian people of this and the next generation will remember you forever with gratitude and your name will be recorded in the nation's golden book of history.

The October-2001 Releases
Available at www.cnv.org.kh

08/10/01	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Address to the Workshop on "Demographic and Health Survey 2000 – DHS." Comments on the Terrorist Attacks in the United States of America
18/10/01	Address to the First-Phase Full Demobilization Program (Kampong Chhnang)
22/10/01	Address to the Closing Session of the National Conference on "Peace, National Reconciliation and Democracy Building: Ten Years After the Paris Peace Agreement."
24/09/01	A Welcome Message to the Delegates to the Seventh "ASEAN Telecommunication Regulator Council."

... I would like to express our deep gratitude, sincere affection and homage to our compatriots who are fathers, mothers, brothers and sisters for allowing their loved children, brothers and sisters, husbands and parents to serve in the army, contributing to the noble cause of our country. I convey my greetings to the families of fallen soldiers, and the handicapped and injured soldiers who are being hospitalized, and wish them sooner recovery. Very soon you will become civilians after successfully serving your country in the army. The fact that you are made civilians does not mean that the Royal Government abandons or forgets your services to the country.

It is merely a transfer from the army to become a civilian citizen. You still can exercise your own political and social rights. In particular, you still can contribute in your own way to the implementation of the government's reform programs aimed at promoting economic rehabilitation and development, and rapid alleviation of poverty.

... I urge all demobilized soldiers to get actively involved in vocational training courses to obtain some skills and learn

seriously from them in order to strengthen your own capacity for your new profession. By doing so you will improve your family's economy. In the same vein, you should closely cooperate with the local authorities and the people in order to get over all obstacles in your efforts to build up new lives and improve your own livelihoods. Your success in the new career will greatly contribute to the development of our nation.

To make your lives even easier, from this podium I wish to appeal, on behalf of the RGC, to all Municipal/Provincial Veteran Committees, the authorities at all levels and the local people to create better conditions, display brotherhood and sympathy to demobilized soldiers and their families. *Please help them to find plots of land for building houses and cultivating crops, commensurably with their merits and their services to our country and people.*

I urge major government agencies that have played a crucial role in the project execution, such as the Council for the Demobilization of the Armed Forces, the RCAF Demobilization Committee, the RCAF Supreme Command and the Secretariat of the Council for

(Continued on page 7)