



**KINGDOM OF CAMBODIA**

**Nation Religion King**

**Ministry of Foreign Affairs and International Cooperation**

# **INFORMATION BULLETIN**

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## **Address by Samdech Prime Minister to WFP Conference**

Following is the integral text of the address of Samdech HUN Sen, Prime Minister of the Royal Government of Cambodia, to the United Nations World Food Programme (WFP) Conference on "the Role of Food Aid in Cambodia", held in Phnom Penh on 8 February 2001:

*Excellencies,*

*Ladies and Gentlemen,*

It is a great honor and pleasure for me to address the opening session of the conference on "**the Role of Food Aid in Cambodia**". I would like to take this auspicious opportunity to express my appreciation to the United Nations World Food Program (WFP) Cambodia Office for organizing this conference, which provides a forum for discussing the most pressing issues facing Cambodia in the new century: Food security, nutrition, poverty, safety net, decentralization and partnership. It will also help to better define the role of food aid in Cambodia and therefore the role WFP will play in the future. This conference compels us to think together about policies and concrete measures, aimed at improving the plight of millions of Cambodians living in all the corners of the country.

I wish to extend a warm welcome Ms. Dianne Spearman, Director of the Strategy and Policy Division WFP. On behalf of the Royal Government of Cambodia (RGC) and myself, I would like to take this opportunity to express our profound gratitude to WFP for providing a total US\$9 million in emergency flood relief operations in addition to WFP's other commitments. We highly appreciate and thank Ms. Monika Midel, Director of WFP Cambodia Office, and all WFP staff for their hard work and commitment to help Cambodia during this crucial time of a natural disaster.

This conference is organized very timely. On 27 October 2000, the RGC adopted the Interim Poverty Reduction Strategy Paper (IPRSP), which forms the thrust of Cambodia's policy response to the pressing issues, to be discussed at this conference today and tomorrow. More importantly I would like to emphasize that besides participating in the formulation of the Poverty Reduction Strategy, WFP has made concrete contribution to implement this policy through a Memorandum of Understanding (MOU), signed with the RGC, on an assistance of US\$58 million for 2001-2003. This also marked a shift in WFP strategy from providing relief assistance in the early 1990s to village-based food-for-work (FFW) assistance in targeted areas. The goal of this assistance is sustained food security for the hungry poor while simultaneously starting the process of phase out of international food assistance.

Another thrust of the food-for-work program is to promote direct government involvement in project implementation.

*Excellencies,*

*Ladies and Gentlemen,*

I wish to take the opportunity provided by this conference to share with you, Ladies and Gentlemen, my main concepts about the Government's long-term strategy and policy with regard to our top priorities, poverty alleviation and sustainable development with equity in Cambodia, with a focus on agriculture and food security. I wish also to highlight how the WFP's new approach fits into the government strategy for food security and poverty reduction.

As you are aware, after more than three decades of war, Cambodia has faced chronic food shortages and widespread malnutrition. Rice yields in the country have been one of the lowest in the world. Despite significant progress during the last 10 years, rural infrastructure bears all the hallmarks of destruction, disrepair and neglect. Roughly half of the population of Cambodian children aged zero to five years are malnourished that over 30% of the population do not meet their minimum dietary requirement and on average face food deficits ranging from 1 to 2 months during the hungry season. This is one of the highest ratios among countries in Southeast Asia. Therefore, improving food security will have a strong impact on the health status and welfare of the rural population.

The IPRSP was drafted with wide consultation and participation of Cambodia's players and development partners. The main concept behind the IPRSP is that the RGC has responded to poverty by taking measures to accelerate economic growth, improve the distribution of income and wealth and promote social development. To ensure rapid realization of our poverty reduction objectives, the poverty reduction strategies are based on three main components:

- (i) long-term, sustainable economic growth at an annual rate of 6 to 7 percent;
- (ii) equitable distribution of the fruits of economic growth between the have and the have-not, between urban and rural areas and between males and females; and
- (iii) sustainable management and utilization of the environment and natural resources.

On the basis of our broad strategy, we have formulated the following policy response to poverty: (i) promoting opportunities; (ii) creating security and safety; (iii) strengthening capabilities; and (iv) generating empowerment.

The RGC has developed policies and strategies, incorporated in the Interim Poverty Reduction Strategy Paper (IPRSP) to address the core roots of the above problems, while recognizing that food aid is vital during the current period. In the Cambodian context, food aid provides a key safety net for the poorest during the economic transition period. Conscious of this overarching need, the RCG has formulated its agricultural development strategy, which is designed to address the problem of food security and improve nutrition of the population. In Cambodia, conditions leading to food insecurity include chronic poverty due to protracted warfare, weak access to arable land, rapid population growth, coupled with slow growth in agricultural productive. This led to stagnant growth of per capita food output. Moreover, the country's infrastructure is still poor and fails to respond to the needs of the economy. Other factors include the prevalence of disease, poor water, sanitation conditions and other security concerns, such as landmines.

Thus, the government strategy is based on a two-pronged framework:

**First**, embracing rapid, sustained and equitable agricultural growth;

**Second**, empowering the poor.

The first prong is the growth-mediated approach whose main thrust is to invigorate and modernize the agricultural sector, generate employment, enhance household incomes and improve the access of the less privileged to food. Modernization, in the context of Cambodian agriculture, a small holder and dynamic agriculture (making use of appropriate technological innovations) where farmers have control over their production environment. Among others, the growth-mediated approach calls for the maintenance of a consistent macroeconomic and agricultural policy framework that promotes an environment conducive to increased private sector participation in agricultural development and encourages public and private sector investment in essential infrastructure, provision of public goods and human resource development. Such a strategy seeks to promote rapid and sustainable increase in productivity through the adoption of suitable, productive and cost-effective technologies such as small-scale, farmers-controlled, private irrigation facilities and crop diversification.

The second prong is the entitlement-mediated approach, which empowers farmers, rural poor and other vulnerable groups to enhance their ability to participate in the growth process. It focuses on improving these groups' access to land, water and other production inputs for sustainable livelihood, food security and overall socioeconomic development. By promoting decentralization and deconcentration, the government will also give a voice to the poorest to clearly express their

opinion and concerns and will in turn provide budgets and other support to these levels to respond to these concerns.

The RGC will ensure a favorable policy environment conducive to successful implementation of agricultural development in Cambodia. The key is to preserve and maintain a liberal and market-oriented trade environment, deregulate further the exportation of agricultural products, improve access to international markets, develop products quality standards by encouraging private investment in appropriate infrastructure and facilities for production, transportation, post-harvest handling, storage and processing. These are the immediate priorities of the RGC. In this spirit, the Cabinet met to discuss the role of free trade as a tool for poverty reduction in Cambodia.

Moreover, attention is paid by the RGC to provide increased budget funds to address the critical elements affecting the rural poor, including rural roads, primary health care, sanitation, rural water supply, education and vocational training for rural people, community development, household farming system, rural credit (seeds, fertilizer, rice banks, micro-enterprises) and improved information at village. The RGC's rural development strategy aims to:

- (i) promote the decentralization of planning, finance and implement rural development projects and programs;
- (ii) facilitate an integrated rural development approach which is participatory, area-based and multi-sectoral;
- (iii) provide a forum at each administrative level for dialogue and joint actions both among government departments and between the RGC and the civil society, and balance between the vertical line ministries and the local authorities, and
- (iv) define, utilize and mobilize the comparative advantages and appropriate capacities within the government, civil society, the private sector, international and local agencies and rural communities themselves for development purposes.

At the same time, the RGC recognize that spending on agriculture and rural development is still not sufficient to respond effectively to the above policy. Attention, however, is given to mobilize external assistance and increased budget disbursement for agriculture and rural development. During the last four years budget for the two ministries has almost tripled. In the year 2001 Budget Law, expenditure for agriculture and rural development increased from 2.6 percent to 3.5 percent of current outlays. At the same time, after implementing pilot projects in the education and health sectors, the Priority Action Program (PAP) has been expanded to the Ministry of

Agriculture and the Ministry of Rural Development for 2001 to improve disbursement to the two sectors at the grassroots level.

*Excellencies,*

*Ladies and Gentlemen,*

On behalf of the RGC, I highly appreciate WFP's food -aid programs, which satisfy short-term relief food requirement and longer-term development needs of the population. In those areas where agricultural and rural development programs are just beginning to have impact and many communes are still food-insecure, WFP provides a food-based safety net and prepares for future development interventions. To enhance systems of social support for poor and disadvantaged people, food aid programs have been implemented as a means to help vulnerable groups: promote orphanages, TB-health-programs, and literacy and vocational training for widows; combat HIV/AIDS; assist street children and former prostituted etc. and for emergency relief.

WFP's food-for-work program constitutes a valuable contribution to assisting rural infrastructure rehabilitation and contribution and helping to meet nutrition needs of the populace. Food-for-work is different from pure food aid as it promotes community participation and ownership of development. Labour-intensive food-for-work offers additional food-income and temporary, and creates assets in rural and urban areas. Many rural roads, schools and health centers have been constructed or rehabilitated and land cleared for resettlement; irrigation facilities, dikes, dams, ponds, water gates and canals have also been rehabilitated or constructed in order to enhance agricultural yields. Overall, the benefits of the food-for-work program are threefold:

**First**, it helps to improve the living standards and ensure food security rural areas;

**Second**, it contributes to rural development through the rehabilitation and construction of physical infrastructure and other social infrastructure at the grassroots level;

**Third**, it contributes to the maintenance of social stability and ensures a balanced settlement of the population, creates employment in both urban and rural areas. Food-for-work programs create employment and generate revenue in rural areas, effectively preventing migrating and temporary settlement of the population into urban areas, especially to Phnom Penh, for instance following the recent floods, to seek jobs or to eke out their existence.

The RGC welcome WFP's plan to provide food-aid assistance to the demobilization program, which will contribute to social peace and stability in the country. Moreover, the RGC

highly appreciates WFP's contribution, in conjunction with UNDP and other bilateral donors, to the Seila project, within the framework of decentralized rural planning and development. This program constitutes one of the key elements of RGC's state reform program, directed at the devolution of sectional programs to provincial and local levels to ensure their direct development impact on rural poverty reduction. In this sense, Seila has also contributed to increased community participation and ownership of development projects.

Through this collaboration, WFP is playing a crucial role to help the RGC implement its policy of decentralization and deconcentration, on the one hand, and poverty reduction, on the other. Moreover, the "Vulnerability Analysis and Mapping", developed by WFP to identify the areas where the food insecure people live, will be used by the government to make targeted interventions as part of the implementation of the full PRSP.

Overall, the RGC advocates a two-pronged approach to food security. One the short to medium term, the government regards food aid as an "additional" to all other resources available to people through their own efforts and gives them an opportunity to help themselves out of the poverty trap. At the same time, to address the root cause of the problem, the RGC has adopted a long-term policy of agricultural and rural development in order to create a favorable environment conducive to of agricultural and rural development. This is designed to pull the majority of Cambodians living in the rural areas from the shackles of poverty. WFP can be Cambodia's valuable partner in the future in preparing the way for this. WFP's program is complementary to other development efforts and can serve as a "stepping stone" towards long-term development.

I hope that this conference will help to further define the role food aid should play in Cambodia to bring about sustainable and long-term development for all parts of society. I wish to take this opportunity to express once again, on behalf of the RGC and myself, our deep gratitude to WFP for the assistance provided to Cambodia and Cambodians during the difficult time and its continued assistance to prepare a bright future for our people.

In conclusion, I would like to extend my best wishes for successful and fruitful deliberations during the conference and for your good health and successful completion of our common mission.

I sincerely thank all of you for your attention.

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**Closing Keynote Address by Senior Minister  
at the International Conference on Small Arms Proliferation  
and Trade in the Asia Pacific**

Following is the text of the closing keynote address delivered by His Excellency Mr. HOR Namhong, Senior Minister, Minister of Foreign Affairs and International Cooperation, at the International Conference on "Small Arms Proliferation and Trade in the Asia Pacific", held in Phnom Penh on 19-20 February 2001:

*Your Highness Prince Sisowath Sirirath, Co-Minister of National Defense,*

*Your Royal Highness Sdech Krom Khun Norodom Sirivudh, Supreme Privy Counselor to His Majesty the King of Cambodia and Chairman of the Board of Directors of the Cambodian Institute for Cooperation and Peace,*

*Dr. Erfried Adam, Director of the Office for Regional Cooperation in Southeast Asia of the Friedrich-Ebert-Stiftung,*

*Excellencies*

*Distinguished Participants,*

*Ladies and Gentlemen,*

First of all, I wish to express my sincere thanks to both the Cambodian Institute for Cooperation and Peace and the Friedrich-Ebert-Stiftung for inviting me to give this closing keynote address at this very important international conference. The issues of small arms and light weapons are key problems that have been discussed at both regional level especially at the ASEAN Regional Forum (ARF) and the international levels, the EU as well as the United Nations itself. The conference is highly relevant because of its social values, insights and contributions to peace and security to the world at large. It depends on how best we should work together more effectively in order to address the common challenges of the danger of the proliferation and illicit traffic of small arms and light weapons.

Although I have not been able to attend during the past two days of this International Conference, nevertheless, I have been fully informed on the outcomes of the meeting. The conference had raised a number of essential issues concerning the need to curb the illicit and trafficking of small arms and light weapons. But it is important, as underlined by several speakers, that the Asia Pacific region must take the leadership in managing the Basic issues of small arms and light weapons. At the same time, a number of speakers and participants have raised the issues of the growing profile of the problems and challenges arising from the uncontrolled small arms and light

weapons in our region, which could have devastating effects. I strongly share the views that this issue has serious implications for peace, security, stability and development at national, regional and international levels.

Many speakers, starting from the opening session to the last session this afternoon, emphasized the need to build greater trust and confidence between and among the countries in this region and beyond, as well as between and among key players and actors on the imperative to promote not only greater public awareness but also the imperative of engaging in transparency and accountability in this area. I believe that this must be done by both sides-supply and demand. At the same time, we need to build better database of information and documentation of small arms and light weapons, as well as their transfers and transactions. We need certainly to share more information, although this may pose the question of political sensitivity, confidentiality and security. However, we will be able to overcome these problems only by doing so.

For Cambodia as a country only just emerging from a long period of war, conflict and destruction, we still have fresh memories or smells of the sounds of the guns or small arms. As H.E. Sok An, Senior Minister and Minister of the Council of Ministers, and H.E. Tea Banh, Senior Minister and Co-Minister of Defense, stated yesterday the commitment and determination of the Royal Government of Cambodia to the complete ban and elimination of small arms and light weapons which we do not need. The Cambodian government is committed to work constantly to contain and restrict the use, sale and transfer of these weapons throughout the country and to concentrate its entire efforts and resources on national reconstruction and development. Cambodian competent authority has so far, since 1997, confiscated 91, 269 pieces of assorted small arms and light weapons, out of which 37, 009 pieces were publicly destroyed.

*Excellencies*

*Ladies and Gentlemen*

I am very pleased to note that this international conference has been attended by top people from both the track-one and track-two levels of the ARF and from a wide spectrum of participants. I wish to underline the issues of small arms and light weapons are the fundamental issues at the heart of His Excellency Samdech Hun Sen, who has strongly committed to build a more stable, more peaceful, small arms-free society for Cambodia. Reduction of small arms and light weapons is very much linked to sustainable development and economic progress.

Taking into consideration the discussion during these two days, I wish to share with you some of my thoughts on some of the ways in which we should do together in order to move the

agenda of stopping the illicit trafficking of small arms and light weapons in our region and in the world at large.

First, we should continue to raise the profile of small arms and light weapons as the way we had done with respect to landmines. This is vital, as we need to mobilize the global public opinions worldwide to succeed in this area.

Second, we need to promote and consolidate confidence-building measures (CBMs) at the track-one level of the ARF. In this context, I am very happy to say that Cambodia is very supportive of the current efforts to move ahead on the need to curb small arms and light weapons, as illustrated in hosting of the upcoming track one meeting on the ARF, following this track-two conference. Trust and confidence are vital to the exchanges of not only ideas but more importantly information and data. We should work in a gradual approach on this as each one of us will have to proceed at a comfortable pace.

Third, we must promote good governance in the area of small arms and light weapons- especially the basic questions of accountability, and transparency. While recognizing the sensitivity and the politics of the issues, I strongly believe that we can share the common views on the importance of enhancing regional stability as well as international peace and security. Moreover, given the danger and negative effects of the transnational crime, we have to make every effort to closely cooperate and interact with one another more effectively and in the spirit of joint responsibilities.

Fourth, combating illicit trafficking of small arms and light weapons are not only just the responsibilities of the national governments alone but also the share responsibilities of regional organizations and the international institutions such as the United Nations. In this respect, I am very pleased to note that the ASEAN Regional Forum, the European Union and the United Nations will continue to cooperate on this issue. In particular, I share the view of His Excellency Mr. Jayantha Dhanapala, Under-Secretary-General for Disarmament Affairs of the United Nations, that the regional organizations such as ASEAN should play a leading role in addressing the issues and implications of small arms proliferation and illicit trade. However, I am of the view that these crucial problems require cooperation from all countries and international organizations in the world.

Fifth, I believe that we need to work at all levels-local, national, subregional, regional and international-in order to manage these growing problems in its multidimensional aspects. This is vital for building a peaceful and stable world for all.

In essence, this two-day conference has raised many challenging problems that we will continue to ponder on how we should move ahead in coming up with more practical plans of actions, policy options and alternatives for dealing with these crucial questions. This is, I guess, our individual and collective responsibility.

Finally, I wish to take this opportunity to thank all the participants for taking time and making every endeavour to actively participate in this very important international conference. I am also very pleased to congratulate the Cambodian Institute for Cooperation and Peace and the Friedrich-Ebert-Stiftung for organizing this very successful conference.

Thank you very much.

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## **Co-Chairmen's Summary Report of ARF CBMs Seminar on Conventional Weapons Transfers**

Following is the Co-Chairmen's Summary Report of the ARF CBMs Seminar on Conventional Weapons Transfers, held in Phnom Penh on 21-22 February 2001:

1. The ARF CBMs Seminar on Conventional Weapons Transfers was held in Phnom Penh, Kingdom of Cambodia, on 21-22 February 2001. The Seminar on Conventional Weapons Transfers was hosted by the Royal Government of Cambodia, and co-sponsored by the Governments of Canada and Japan, and the UN Trust Fund. It was co-chaired by H. E. Dr. CHEM Widhya, Permanent Secretary, Ministry of Foreign Affairs and International Cooperation, Kingdom of Cambodia, and H. E. Mr. Donowaki MITSURO, Special Assistant to the Minister for Foreign Affairs of Japan, Mr. Denis CHOUINARD, Deputy Director, Head of Research, Non-Proliferation, Arms Control and Disarmament Division, Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade, Government of Canada.

2. The Seminar was attended by distinguished representatives of Australia, Brunei Darussalam; Kingdom of Cambodia; Canada, People's Republic of China, the European Union, Republic of India, Republic of Indonesia; Japan, Democratic People's Republic of Korea, Republic of Korea, Lao People's Democratic Republic; Malaysia; Republic of Mongolia, Union of Myanmar; New Zealand, Republic of the Philippines; Russian Federation, Republic of Singapore; Kingdom of Thailand, United States of America, Socialist Republic of Viet Nam, and the UN Department of Disarmament. The list of delegates appears as ANNEX A. The Agenda of the Seminar appears as ANNEX B. The Programme of Activities appears as ANNEX C. Papua New Guinea was not able to attend the Seminar due to technical difficulties.

3. His Excellency Mr. HOR Namhong, Senior Minister and Minister of Foreign Affairs and International Cooperation kindly opened the Seminar. His opening remarks appears as Annex D. H.E. Mr. Rey Pagtakhan, Secretary of State for Asia Pacific of Canada, also graced the occasion by contributing his opening remark, which appears as ANNEX E. H.E. Mr. Gotaro Ogawa, Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary of Japan also delivered an opening remark, which appears as Annex F.

4. The first session began with a presentation by Mr. Kao Kim Hourn, Executive Director of the Cambodian Institute for Cooperation and Peace, on the outcome of the Track 11 Conference on Small Arms and Light Weapons Proliferation and Trade in the Asia Pacific held

on the 19-20 February, 2001, in Phnom Penh. The recommendations made by the track two event were actively considered by the delegates.

5. The value of the United Nations Conventional Arms Register (UNCAR) as a confidence building measure and the need to strengthen the United Nations Conventional Arms Register constituted the focus of the first session. H.E. Mr. Rafael Mariano Grossi, Chairman of the 2000 Group of Governmental Experts on the UNCAR provided the participants with an overview of the history of the register and of its value as a confidence building and transparency measure. He pointed out that although the register covers over 90% of the trade in the seven categories of major conventional weapons there remains work to be done. Although participation has remained consistent at around 90 states, a large number of states, as of yet, do not participate regularly. The importance of submitting nil returns was stressed because it would improve the level of transparency and participation. Mr. Nazir Kamal of the United Nations Department for Disarmament Affairs explained the process of submitting a return to UNCAR. He also presented the simplified means to submit a nil return. The final presenter on UNCAR, at this session, Dr Owen Greene of Bradford University, described the achievements of the register in the first ten years of its existence, in particular, its reinforcement of the emerging norm of transparency in the international community and its facilitation of dialogue and also discussed issues and priorities for its future development. The session concluded with a presentation by Lt. Gen. Chau Phirun who presented Cambodia's views on the register and informed the audience of the recent submission of their first return to UNCAR. This was noted and applauded by the seminar.

6. In plenary session 2, Maj. Gen. Nem Sowath, Deputy Director General of Defense Service, outlined the concept of Cambodian Defense White Paper, expressing Cambodia's striving effort to integrate itself into the international community. He indicated that because of the importance of the development and security, it is essential for Cambodia to restructure its armed forces to meet the new challenges and to reveal her authentic strategic security policy in order to promote CBMs.

7. Mr. William Malzahn, Officer of the US State Department, recommended that all ARF members should participate in the UNCAR and should provide national points of contact on Arms Register.

8. Mr. Beijer of the European Union presented the EU's Experience on networks of information sharing, consisting inter-alia of (1) Export control, which is not subjected to the Common Rules, (2) Convergence of national policies through application of a Code of Conduct

established in 1998, (3) Improving administrative rules by using the best practices approach, (4) Develop rules in new areas in the computer age, and (5) Reinforcing Arms Brokering rules.

9. The combating of Illicit Transfers of Conventional Weapons was discussed in session three. Dr. Herbert L. Calhoun of the United States of America described the evolution of codes of conduct emphasizing the importance of developing codes of conduct concerning small arms and light weapons. Mr. Paul Beijer of the European Union spoke about the EU-US declaration referring to it as a statement of intent, which demonstrates a common EU-US vision on various matters including export controls. He spoke of the development of a draft set of elements for an international code of conduct and expressed a hope that a regional approach will initiate thinking in this area. Mr. Zhang Hong Bin of the People's Republic of China spoke of the importance of addressing the root causes of armed conflict and the importance of a country and region specific approach to these issues. He also highlighted the importance of sovereignty. Mr. A.M. Fachir of Indonesia presented a paper on small arms and light weapons that was received by the participants. Of note is the need to empower the existing relevant regional mechanisms and consolidate their activities.

10. Session three continued with a presentation by Brigadier General (ret) Henny J. van der Graaf , project manager EU assistance in curbing small arms and light weapons in Cambodia. The seminar was encouraged to hear about the dedication of the EU to assist Cambodia in eliminating accumulations of small arms and light weapons. Col. Sar Moline of Cambodia presented Cambodia's ongoing efforts to deal with small arms in the country. In particular he stressed that disarmament can not be successfully conducted unless there is close and broad cooperation and coordination between national, regional, international levels as well as the local communities, NGOs and international organizations. Mr. Bernard Lynch of Australia presented a proposal for an ARF Declaration on Small Arms and Light Weapons. This proposal was welcomed by the delegates who agreed to continue further deliberation in the light of the forthcoming UN Conference in July. Mr. Youn Jong Kwon of the Republic of Korea briefed the Seminar on the results of the Small Arms session of the ARF EGM held in Seoul.

11. In session four, Ambassador Mitsuro Donowaki reviewed intensified efforts being made by the United Nations and by various regional organizations in preparation for the United Nations Conferences on the Illicit Trade in Small Arms and Light Weapons in All Its Aspects.

12. The ASEAN Regional Forum, which is the only regional forum in this part of the world dealing with the issue of peace and security in this region, should indeed make its best efforts for

the success of the UN Conference, because by doing so the interests of not only this region but also of the entire international community will be well served.

13. Also, since the July UN Conference is supposed to be only the beginning of a long process for the eventual solution of the problems of small arms and light weapons, increased involvement of the ARF in the coming years in implementing the programme of action to be adopted by the Conference will no doubt be a vital contribution to such a process.

14. Ms. Peggy Mason of Canada and Chair of the UN Group of Governmental Experts study pursuant to General Assembly resolution 54/54V presented the highlights of the final report. Her presentation emphasized elements that were needed to regulate the activities of arms brokers.

15. Ms. Mason emphasized that national legislation to control brokers does not replace the effective implementation of export controls but rather serves to complement existing legislation. International cooperation and assistance will be essential in ensuring that brokering legislation would be enforced effectively. .

16. The Participants highly appreciated the positive and significant efforts made by the Royal Government of Cambodia in joining the UNCAR and publishing its Defense White Paper contributing to the Confidence Building. Moreover, the Seminar also took note with appreciation the Cambodian Government's policy in collecting and destroying small arms and light weapons. 4

17. The Seminar expressed its appreciation for the warm hospitality and the excellent arrangements rendered by the Royal Government of Cambodia as hosting country to all participants to the Seminar.

18. The Seminar thanked the Governments of Japan and Canada, and the United Nations for their sponsorship of this Seminar.

19. The participants deliberated the Co-Chairmen's Summary Report including the points that merited particular attention. The participants endorsed the Summary Report.

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## **ARF CBMs Seminar on Conventional Weapons Transfers**

Numerous ideas and recommendations were discussed for future ARF consideration during the seminar and the following merit particular attention:

### **United Nations Conventional Arms Register**

- ◆ All ARF countries are encouraged to participate in the United Nations Conventional Arms Register;
- ◆ ARF points of contact for the United Nations Conventional Arms Register should be circulated;

### **Documents on Defense Policy**

- ◆ ARF members are encouraged to develop and circulate documents on defense policy;

### **Small Arms and Light Weapons (SALW)**

- ◆ The sovereign rights of States should be respected in the international efforts to tackle illicit trafficking;
- ◆ A comprehensive and integrated approach to SALW should take into account specific regional, sub-regional and national situations;
- ◆ Improve national controls over legal transfers, including marking and tracing, in order to prevent diversion to illicit trade or unauthorised destinations;
- ◆ Improve the management and security of stocks at the national level;
- ◆ Information exchanges should be considered concerning national legislation such as export policies, and national laws and regulations and existing networks for cooperation between law enforcement officials should be improved;
- ◆ Facilitate closer cooperation between customs, police and border controls;
- ◆ Mandates of UN Peacekeeping operations should contain clear provisions for disarmament including weapons collection and destruction;

- ◆ States in a position to do so should provide assistance to states implementing Disarmament, Demobilization and Reintegration (DD&R) programs including assistance with the disposal and destruction of weapons;
- ◆ States in a position to do so should provide technical assistance to states to assist in the drafting of national legislation and related training for national authorities;
- ◆ The members of the ARF should work to ensure a successful outcome of the 2001 UN Conference on the Illicit Trade in Small Arms and Light Weapons in All Its Aspects and actively cooperate with the implementation of the outcome of the Conference;
- ◆ The ARF Experts Group Meeting to be held in Kuala Lumpur this April may consider the elaboration of an ARF Declaration on Small Arms and Light Weapons as a contribution to ongoing international efforts and processes in this regard.

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## **Opening Remarks by Senior Minister at ARF CBMs Seminar**

Following is the integral text of the opening remarks made by His Excellency Mr. HOR Namhong, Senior Minister, Minister of Foreign Affairs and International Cooperation, at the ARF CBMs Seminar on Conventional Weapons Transfers held in Phnom Penh on 21-22 February 2001:

*Mr. Co-Chairmen,*

*Excellencies*

*Distinguished Guests,*

*Ladies and Gentlemen,*

It gives me, indeed, great pleasure to extend a warm welcome to all distinguished guests and participants to this significant seminar on Conventional Weapons Transfers in order to make joint actions for preventing their illegal spread.

I wish to take this opportunity to sincerely thank the Governments of Japan and Canada and the United Nations for their precious assistance, which has made this Seminar possible.



*Senior Minister HOR Namhong delivers his Opening Remarks at ARF CBMs Seminar*

Our meeting today is as it were the extension of the International Conference on Small Arms Proliferation and Trade in the Asia Pacific, held on 19-20 February 2001. These two meetings

complete one another the inseparable issues of conventional weapons transfers and small arms proliferation and trade.

I hope that this meeting will produce fruitful recommendations on the issue of conventional weapons transfers, paving the way for the future actions of the United Nations and for the ARF Ministerial Meeting next July in Hanoi to deal with this crucial issue.

This seminar is held at a time when the international community is facing serious problems caused by the uncontrolled transfer of conventional weapons and the illicit trade of small arms and light weapons which pose a severe threat to peace and security throughout the world and constitute a source of insecurity and terrorism in many countries and regions.

Taking into account the current intensity of transnational crimes affecting many parts of the world today, the transfers of conventional weapons and the trafficking of small arms and light weapons are alarming issues that the entire international community must join hands to solve. It requires from all of us a more efficient cooperation and coordination of actions between national, regional and international law enforcement agencies.

Today everyone knows that mass-production of conventional arms, especially small arms and light weapons are manufactured and traded in abundance. The problem is how to prevent that production and export of these weapons would not contribute to encouraging war and terrorism in many parts of the world, in particular in the developing countries.

*Excellencies,*

*Ladies and Gentlemen,*

Nowadays, many societies in developed and developing countries are plagued by a growing level of criminal activities, terrorism and lawless actions due to the excessive and uncontrolled accumulation and spread of small arms and light weapons. Their proliferation has aggravated the violence associated with organized and transnational crimes.

In the last decade alone, conflicts fought with only small arms have killed over three million people among them are overwhelmingly unarmed civilians.

In the face of this grave problem, I guess that there is an obvious need for all to take very concrete measures to eliminate the illegal transfer of conventional weapons, small arms and light weapons. This is a problem for the whole international community and not for any specific country or region.

The Kingdom of Cambodia has acted very transparently when dealing with arms issues, because we believe that it is an important element and example to contribute to the reduction of arms traffic, criminal and terrorist actions.

The Royal Government of Cambodia (RGC), in the last few years, has taken severe measures to strictly control the use and circulation of small arms and ammunitions, eliminate their illegal procurement and sales by destroying those seized arms. It has so far confiscated 91,269 pieces of assorted small arms and light weapons, out of which 37,009 pieces were publicly destroyed.

Moreover, recently we have sent to the United Nations a list of conventional weapons and ammunitions for the purpose to be put into the United Nations Conventional Arms Register (UNCAR). We have also produced a White Defense Paper, which have been distributed just yesterday to all of you.

In the same vein, Cambodia is committed to strongly and actively support the initiatives of the EU on 17 December 1998 called “ Joint Action “, to combat destabilizing accumulation and spread of Small Arms and Light Weapons (SALW).

Cambodia expresses also its full support to the convening of the UN Conference on Illicit Trade in Small Arms and Light Weapons (SALW) in All Its Aspects in July 2001. It views this Conference as an opportunity to address the problem in a more systematic and holistic manner in order to move ahead in shaping of a more peaceful, secure and stable world.

Cambodia, therefore, would like to add its voice to calls for a draft of actions plan to combat the illicit trade of conventional weapons, small arms and light weapons, aiming at strengthening national, regional and international security for all. This should lead towards more transparent armament issue encompassing production, transfer and legal use.

Finally, I hope that this seminar will contribute for sure to identifying concrete measures for diminishing the illegal transfer of conventional arms as well as traffic of small arms and light weapons paving the way for the success of the UN Conference in next July on this issue for a better world in this third millennium.

May I wish the Seminar a fruitful exercise. Thank you.

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## **Opening Remarks by Canadian Secretary of State of Foreign Affairs at ARF CBMs Seminar**

Following is the opening remarks made by Honourable Dr. Rey D. Pagtakhan, P.C., M.P. Secretary of State for the Asia and the Pacific of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and International of Canada, at the ARF CBMs Seminar on Conventional Weapons Transfers, held in Phnom Penh on 21-22 February 2001:

*Excellencies,*

*Ladies and Gentlemen,*

The issue of small arms and light weapons is complex and the challenges it poses vary from region to region and country to country. Thus, there is a need for an integrated approach from you through this seminar.

From you through this seminar to distill wisdom

Hence, we are pleased to be co-hosting this seminar on Conventional Arms Transfers with our friends from Japan and Cambodia. In particular, we would like to thank our host, the Government of Cambodia, for their gracious efforts in organizing this event.

As a committed member of the ASEAN Regional Forum (ARF) and as an Asia-Pacific country Canada has a keen interest in promoting and contributing to, substantive consideration of regional security issues.

As the only regional security organization in the Asia-Pacific region, the ARF is not only a central forum for our discussion of these important issues but it provides the region with the means to convey its unique perspective to the international community. Canada's sense is that the works is looking increasingly to the ARF for that valuable contribution and leadership.

Spanning a vast region, the ARF I characterized by enormous diversity. The ARF has been effective in promoting not only understanding but also a shared sense of purpose that has gone to great lengths in bringing us together and building confidence and security in the region.

The unrestrained proliferation of conventional weapons, including small arms and light weapons, poses a threat to both "traditional" security, (the security of nation-states) and "human" security, (the security of citizens).

It is generally accepted that the excessive accumulation of conventional arms can threaten regional security, diverts resources needed for basic social and economic development, and increases the likelihood of destruction and human suffering in the event of war.

Transparency and responsibility in transfers of conventional weapons remain critical elements in our efforts to build confidence and enhance stability among ARF members.

Confidence building is at the heart of what the ARF does. Confidence building measures are valuable to us for information exchange, training, and networking with our ARF colleagues.

This Confidence Building Measure (CBM), on transparency and responsibility in the transfers of conventional weapons, is an issue of great importance to Canada. The ARF has also recognized its importance when, in 1988, it including the United Nations Conventional Arms Register (UNCAR) among those arms control and disarmament agreements that were established and recognized confidence building measures.

In 1992, the UN Conventional Arms Register was established and remains today the only global co-operative security instrument with a mandate to deal with the challenges related to the proliferation of conventional arms.

The primary function of the Register is to promote greater transparency in international arms transfers, both as a confidence-building measure and an early warning mechanism. The exchange of information on the nature and extent of the arms trade should also encourage greater restraint on the part of both supplier and recipient states.

Why do we say this?

The UN resolution establishing the Register calls upon all UN states to submit data voluntarily on their imports and exports of conventional weapons systems during the previous calendar year. It also invites states to submit data on their military procurement through national production and on their current military holdings.

Canada has strongly supported efforts to create and improve the UN Arms Register. To encourage the development of greater transparency, Canada routinely provides additional “background” information to the Register on its domestic holdings and national production of conventional weapons, and has argued in support of the addition of this information to the Register by all states. We believe that this register can be improved.

That is why Canada has also called for the measured and careful deepening of the Register to improve the qualitative nature of the data and has actively supported the provision of the UN Register data to regional organizations. The success of the register is dependent upon the support of all nations.

The first step has been taken by the ARF in support of transparency by circulating our UN Conventional Arms Register (UNCAR) submissions among AFR members.

Continued dialogue is also critical. Canada is supportive of expanding and enhancing regional participation in the UN Conventional Arms Register. We will examine, in the context of this seminar, whether the creation of a regional register or a regional networking of information sharing would be supportive of ARF members' interests and concerns.

We, the members of the ARF, have recognized that the issue of small arms and light weapons is complex.

We must work together to prevent these weapons from ending up in the hands of traffickers, terrorists, and others who seek to harm our countries and our citizens. We must develop mechanisms to deal comprehensively with excessive and destabilizing accumulation of these weapons, as well as their unrestrained, irresponsible or uncontrolled transfer, which are so closely related to increased occurrences of armed conflict, crime and violence.

We recognize that the illicit trafficking in weapons poses a dire threat to the security of both individuals and states but addressing illicit trafficking is not enough. Illicit trafficking is intrinsically linked to the legal production of small arms and light weapons. It is estimated that over 90% of illicitly trafficked arms originated in legal transfers.

It is, therefore, important to examine and adequately control legal activity because by controlling legal activity we are better able to identify and counter illegal activity!

Last May in Jakarta, ASEAN countries met to consider the role of illicit small arms trafficking in South East Asia.

Last October in Seoul, the Republic of Korea hosted the ARF Expert Group meeting on Transnational Crime where we discussed various aspects of the issue.



Although we did not come to a conclusion for specific ARF activities, we did agree to continue our discussions, in particular, an examination of a possible ARF Declaration on Small Arms and Light Weapons as proposed by Australia.

Last month, the member states of the United Nations met for the second session of the preparatory committee of the 2001 UN Conference on the Illicit Trade in Small Arms and Light Weapons in All Its Aspects.

There the international community was able to continue its work to develop a global action plan to deal with the excessive and destabilizing accumulations and uncontrolled spread of small arms and light weapons.

I understand that this second session was successful in advancing our work. Indeed, the challenges associated with small arms and light weapons vary from region-to-region and from country-to-country.

We all agree that an integrated approach is needed when facing a complex problem and that we will need to generate a holistic solution-there is no simply answer. The variety of factors which have driven the proliferation of small arms in different regions and the variable impact upon societies has led to the development of a wide range of initiatives embodying different but mutually reinforcing objectives and methodologies.

That is why the 2001 Conference, to be held in New York this July, comes at an important time for providing the framework, via the action plan, to encourage these national and regional processes, through developing appropriate international norms, standards, programmes and mechanisms.

Let us continue the work that we have begun in Korea and look for solutions together.

Valuable progress has been made but we must continue to press forward on all aspects of these issues.

I wish you a very productive seminar and would like again to thank our host, the Government of Cambodia, for the organization of this timely event. Thank you for the opportunity that you have provided through this seminar. I hope to distill wisdom from your efforts to help solve this very pressing human issue.

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## **Opening Remarks by Japanese Ambassador at ARF CBMs Seminar**

Here are the opening remarks by His Excellency Mr. Gotaro OGAWA, Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary of Japan to the Kingdom of Cambodia, delivered to the ASEAN Regional Forum CBMs Seminar on Conventional Weapons Transfers, held in Phnom Penh on 21 February 2001:

*Your Excellency, Senior Minister Hor Namhong, Minister of Foreign Affairs and International Cooperation of Cambodia,*

*Your Excellency, Mr. Rey Pagtakhan, Secretary of State for Asia and the Pacific, Government of Canada,*

*Excellencies, Participants, Ladies & Gentlemen,*

It is indeed a great pleasure for me to extend a hearty welcome to you all. As a representative of one of the two co-sponsoring governments, I would like to express our deep gratitude and sincere appreciation to the Royal Government of Cambodia for hosting this very important and timely seminar. In my view, the reasons for our appreciation are three-fold.

First, it is a timely meeting since the result of our discussion will serve as a useful input for the up-coming UN Conference on the illicit trade in small arms and light weapons in all its aspects to be held in New York in July.

Secondly, the holding of this conference in Cambodia is particularly relevant inasmuch as the question of controlling small arms and light weapons is one of the key issues confronting Cambodia, where efforts of reconstruction are earnestly pursued after the decades of severe internal conflicts and the excessive availability of small arms can threaten such efforts.

Finally, this ARF seminar in Phnom Penh has a particular significance in that Cambodia is the newest member of ASEAN and will assume the ASEAN Presidency next year. I would like to congratulate the Royal Government of Cambodia for taking increasingly active diplomatic role in the ASEAN community.

*Distinguished participants, Ladies & Gentlemen*

As a nation which “forever renounced war ..... as means of settling international disputed”, Japan has exerted steady and earnest efforts in the field of arms control and disarmament. This is one of the key element of our diplomacy. The United Nations Register of Conventional

Arms, which was established in 1991, is one of the early examples of Japanese initiatives in this regard. The Register, established pursuant to the resolution on “ Transparency in armaments ”, has been highly appreciated as a global confidence-building measure undertaken by the UN and today 90 countries participate in the Register. This year commemorates the 10<sup>th</sup> anniversary of this important regime. In the past decade, significant amount of factual information on the trade of arms and weapons has been accumulated. I believe that in this commemorative year, it is worthwhile making a careful analysis and evaluation of the accumulated information and presenting recommendation for the future. ARF participants would also be encouraged to work together to promote a greater global participation in the UN Register.

As for small arms, the post Cold War world has witnessed a rapidly increasing number of international and ethnic conflicts, in which transfer and excessive accumulation of small arms contributed to the aggravation of conflicts. Small but easy to carry, the lethality of these weapons is such that they are said to be responsible for no less than 90% of war casualties, including numerous innocent civilian victims. The presence of excessive small arms jeopardizes peace, hinder development and threaten human security.

Since the UN Secretary General Boutros-Boutros Ghali made an important appeal to address the problem of small arms in his report entitled "Supplement to the Agenda for Peace" in 1995, Japan has been playing an active role in tackling this issue, by submitting draft resolutions to the UN General Assembly, through the UN Panel of Government Experts and the UN Expert Group chaired by Ambassador DONOWAKI who is present here today. This is an extremely complex issue and in order to curb illicit transfers of small arms, we have to deal with a wide range of aspects such as drug-trafficking, legal and administration systems involving police and border control, disarmament, demobilization, reintegration and so on. What is required is the political will and determination of the countries concerned both developing and developed.

*Ladies & Gentlemen,*

As I referred earlier, Cambodia is one of the affected countries of small arms in Asia-Pacific region. Japan and European Union launched cooperation on small arms since last year and agreed that we assist Cambodia in its efforts to resolve the issue.

In this context, Japan and EU are preparing pilot projects called " Weapons for Development " in two provinces in Cambodia, Pursat and Kratie, in cooperation with EU, the Development of Cambodia, the Department of Disarmament Affairs of the UN headquarter and related organization like UNDP as well. These projects aim at disarming the people of the provinces,

collecting and destroying surplus small arms in villages, improving relations between villagers and local police forces, building the capacity of the police, restoring security environment and at the same time assisting rural development. These pilot projects, if they turn to be successful, will serve as an example to be carried out in other provinces of Cambodia. We hope that these projects will trigger efforts to address the problem of small arms and light weapons in Asia-pacific region.

*Distinguished participants.*

In July, " the UN Conference on the illicit trade in small arms and light weapons in all its aspects " will be held in New York. We are now in the preparatory process of elaborating draft final document including a program of action. Based on the outcome of the conference, we will strengthen international and regional cooperation in assisting the affected countries in coping with various problems caused by the excessive accumulation and transfer of small arms.

Before concluding, I would like to stress the importance of ASEAN Regional Forum as the only forum in the Asia-Pacific Region to discuss issues related to security with the participation of a large number of countries having interest in and responsibility for maintaining peace and stability in the region, the region of enormous diversity whose peaceful and sound development would benefit the future of the international community at large.

My very best wishes for a success of this important conference.

Thank you very much.



## **Executive Summary of the International Conference on Small Arms Proliferation and Trade in the Asia Pacific**

Following is the Executive Summary of the International Conference on Small Arms Proliferation and Trade in the Asia Pacific, held in Phnom Penh on 19-20 February 2001 presented by the Cambodian Institute for Cooperation and Peace and the Friedrich-Ebert-Stiftung at the ARF CBMs Seminar on Conventional Arms and Light Weapons, held in Phnom Penh on 21-22 February 2001:

### **Background**

The Cambodian Institute for Cooperation and Peace and the Friedrich-Ebert-Stiftung jointly organized an International Conference on "Small Arms Proliferation and Trade in the Asia Pacific" on February 19-20, 2001, in Phnom Penh. The conference was well attended by more than 100 participants, from most of the ASEAN countries, as well as representatives of the EU, the UN, China, Japan, Germany, Russian Federation, and the United Kingdom. The conference was organized at the track-two level. Overall, while the meeting raised many key issues concerning proliferation and trade of small arms and light weapons, the timing of the conference was important in relations to: (1) the Cambodian government's ongoing efforts to curb the use and trafficking of small arms and lights weapons; (2) the track-one ARF CBM Seminar on Light Weapons and Conventional Arms; and (3) the upcoming International State Conference on the illicit trade in small arms and light-weapons in all its aspects scheduled on 9-20 July 2001, in New York.

Below is a concise summary of the outcomes of the two-day conference. The summary is not intended to capture every point. Rather, this concise summary only highlighted the key issues raised at the conference.

#### **1- General**

- ◆ small arms and light weapons are part of conventional arms
- ◆ address both supply and demand sides
- ◆ not only focus on illicit trade but also focus on all aspects of small arms and light weapons (including ammunition)
- ◆ Cope with the root causes in the intra-state conflicts; combat the proliferation of small arms

#### **2- Imperative of Cooperation**

- ◆ international cooperation is necessary

- ◆ closer cooperation and consultation between and among ASEAN states are essential
- ◆ problems cannot be handled successfully by individual countries, not even regions alone. But, ultimately the responsibility rests with individual states
- ◆ the situation in neighboring country directly affects the situation in another country
- ◆ prevention before conflicts (prevention of new destabilizing accumulation)
- ◆ parliamentary oversight

### **3- Interdependence between arms reduction measures and development**

- ◆ easy availability of small arms poses threat to development
- ◆ availability of arms is a major source of insecurity,
- ◆ the prevalence of weapons increases the lethality or violence of conflicts

### **4- Respect for Legitimate Security Needs (question of interference in internal affairs)**

- ◆ small arms cannot be prohibited as a category because of legitimate needs for self-defense
- ◆ legitimate security needs (arms for self-defense) should serve as a benchmark, the rest is surplus
- ◆ intentionally or unintentionally, efforts in other countries are easily undermined
- ◆ non-state actors should not be supplied with weapons at all

### **5- Agreement or Consensus on Definitions**

- ◆ use precise definitions or concepts in order not to leave loopholes
- ◆ concentrate on military weapons
- ◆ Address the question of ammunition (in a way it's easier to tackle: perishable, difficult to manufacture, is needed in large quantities)

### **6- Arms Control, Trade Control, Export Trade Control**

- ◆ monitoring of arms trade is vital
- ◆ focus not only on illicit trade but also on legal production and trade (norms setting and standardization)
- ◆ focus both on new and used arms (recycle of small arms from one place to another)
- ◆ prevent the diversion of small arms to illegal channels (means: see transparency)
- ◆ reduction of existing surplus is crucial (political decision or leadership)

## **7- Post-Conflict Policies: Demobilization, Disarmament, Reintegration (DDR)**

- ◆ registration of arms, safe storage (prevent leakage from officially stored weapons), and (public) destruction 3
- ◆ DDR should be included in peace agreements
- ◆ disarmament should be mandatory, rapid and transparent
- ◆ disarmament should be done immediately, using the existing chains of command; later arms are dispersed in the population and owned by individuals
- ◆ disarmament using the chain of command first, later offer incentives for voluntary disarmament (more complicated)
- ◆ important: address the topic of surplus weapons (industrialized nations are also affected, should set examples)
- ◆ long-term measures: confidence-building (establish confidence and trust in security situation) by training of police, reform of security sector, and establishing rule of law
- ◆ key factors: capacity to enforce control and inspire confidence
  - ❖ capacity building (local inputs), especially local communities
  - ❖ reconciliation and justice (reintegration not at the expense of justice)
  - ❖ institutional building
  - ❖ challenge and reverse culture of violence (e.g., it's dishonorable to possess arms)
  - ❖ development assistance

## **8- Transparency**

- ◆ information exchange (as a first step: government to government transparency)
- ◆ exchange information on export policies, export control, pass on information to UN arms register
- ◆ marking of weapons in order to be able to trace them
- ◆ registration of weapons
- ◆ accurate and sustained record keeping
- ◆ information exchange can reinforce or enhance sovereignty, not undermine sovereignty

## **9- Participation or Involvement of the Track Two and Civil Society**

- ◆ inputs from think tanks or the track two are essential (such as ASEAN-ISIS or CSCAP)

- ♦ active support from civil society is required, especially for disarmament

**10- Recommendations for Cooperation: Possible First Steps**

- ♦ establish national commission for management of weapons and ammunition
- ♦ information exchange (state-to-state, but also establishment of networks) concerning national laws and regulations, the marking system, which authorities are in charge
- ♦ network for cooperation between law enforcement officials
- ♦ closer regional cooperation on customs, police, border controls
- ♦ support programmes for reduction of weapons in post-conflict situations (e.g. EU in Cambodia)

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## **Cambodia-Vietnam Joint Commission Meeting**

Pursuant to the agreement between the Government of the Kingdom of Cambodia and the Government of the Socialist Republic of Vietnam, and the Agreed Minutes of the Third Meeting of the joint Commission held in Phnom Penh on 9 June, 1999, the Fourth Meeting of the Joint Commission was held in Hanoi on 05 February 2001.

The Cambodian Delegation was led by His Excellency Mr. HOR Namhong, Senior Minister, Minister of Foreign Affairs and International Cooperation, and the Vietnamese Delegation was led by His Excellency Mr. Nguyen Dy Nien, Minister of Foreign Affairs.

The Meeting proceeded in an atmosphere of friendship and mutual understanding. The two sides noted with pleasure that the bilateral relations between the two countries have been strongly strengthened following the exchange of visits by Leaders of the two countries. Economic, cultural, scientific and technological cooperation has been developed in a satisfactory manner. Both sides emphasized the importance of this bilateral cooperation in the context of their regional and international participation. The agreements reached in this meeting and their implementation would undoubtedly further consolidate the traditional relations of friendship and mutual understanding between Cambodia and Vietnam in the interests of the two peoples and for the sake of peace, stability, cooperation and prosperity in the region.

The two sides expressed satisfaction that the Ministries of Foreign Affairs of the two countries had played and continued to play crucial roles in promoting closer bonds of friendship and co-operation between the two countries. Both sides agreed to conduct regular consultations between officials of the two Ministries at appropriate levels on bilateral, regional and international issues of mutual interest. The two sides agreed to sign the Memorandum of Understanding on Co-operation between the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and International Co-operation of the Kingdom of Cambodia and the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the Socialist Republic of Vietnam at appropriate time.

Both sides agreed that the Fifth Meeting of the Joint Commission would be convened in Phnom Penh, the Kingdom of Cambodia in the second half of 2002 on a mutually agreed date to be determined through diplomatic channels.

The Cambodian side expressed its high appreciation to the Vietnamese side for the latter's excellent organization of the Meeting.

## **Senior Minister Receives British Parliamentary Delegation**

On 13 February 2001, His Excellency Mr. HOR Namhong, Senior Minister, Minister of Foreign Affairs and International Cooperation, received a ten-member delegation of the International Development Select Committee of the House of Commons of the United Kingdom headed by His Excellency Mr. Bowen Wells, Chairman of the Committee, who was visiting Cambodia from 10-15 February 2001.

After welcoming the delegation and expressing satisfaction with the fruitful results of the cooperation between the two countries, Senior Minister HOR Namhong briefed the delegation on the good revolution of the situation in Cambodia after the 1998 general elections. The formation of the coalition government and the collapse of the Khmer Rouge Organization had brought about political stability and full peace to Cambodia, thus enabling the Royal Government to focus on economic development, stressed Senior Minister HOR Namhong. The Senior Minister acquainted the guests with the triangular strategy implemented by the Royal Government of Cambodia: 1- Integration of Cambodia in the international community; 2- Strengthening of peace and stability; and 3- Economic development. He also talked about the top six priorities for economic development, namely agriculture, road infrastructure, energy and electricity, human resources development, light industry and tourism.

As far as the bilateral relations are concerned, Senior Minister HOR Namhong requested the United Kingdom to help Cambodia in poverty alleviation through rural development. The Senior Minister suggested a joint commission for bilateral cooperation be established and made known to the delegation the Cambodian Government's intention to open its Embassy in London when financial possibility would permit. Senior Minister HOR Namhong also informed the guests of the good relations between Cambodia and the European Union, stressing on the assistance provided by EU in organizing the 1998-general elections and in the process of development of the country as well.

His Excellency Mr. Bowen Wells expressed his appreciation to the progress and the implementation of SEILA Program in Cambodia and told Senior Minister HOR Namhong that his delegation's visit was aimed at examining the implementation of the projects funded by the United Kingdom Government.

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**Senior Minister Meets with UN Special Representative**

On 19 February 2001, His Excellency Mr. HOR Namhong, Senior Minister, Minister of Foreign Affairs and International Cooperation, had a meeting with Prof. Peter Leuprecht, Special Representative of the UN Secretary General for Human Rights in Cambodia, who was visiting the country from 16-23 February 2001.



*Senior Minister HOR Namhong Meets with UN Special Representative Peter Leuprecht*

Senior Minister HOR Namhong, in an exchange of views on the UN's draft report on human rights situation in Cambodia, observed that the report was too vague and certain issues were not within the human rights framework, especially land disputes, social affairs, and poverty, which the Royal Government of Cambodia had been doing its utmost to deal with. The increase by 20% on education and 17% on health made by the Royal Government in its 2001 Budget clearly proved its attention to social affairs, stressed the Senior Minister.

As far as the land issues are concerned, Senior Minister said that they were left by the Khmer Rouge regime that had destroyed all relevant documents. The establishment of the Ministry of Territorial Management, Urbanization and Construction was also aimed at resolving the land issues, continued Senior Minister, adding that, with the assistance of some countries, that new ministry had step by step settled the issues.

Royal Cambodian Embassy in Washington, D.C.

Senior Minister HOR Namhong told Prof. Peter Leuprecht that the Government's intention and efforts to improve prison conditions were hampered by budgetary limitation and requested the Representative to advocate for foreign assistance to help improve prison conditions.

Senior Minister HOR Namhong also acquainted Prof. Peter Leuprecht with the progress in the rule of law noted by the international community during a recent meeting between the Royal Government of Cambodia and the donor countries, and briefed the Representative on the effort made by the Royal Government of Cambodia to strengthen the good governance and the good cooperation accorded to NGOs by the Royal Government and competent authorities of Cambodia.

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**Senior Minister Receives UNICEF Representative**



*Senior Minister HOR Namhong Receives UNICEF Representative Louis-Georges Arsenault*

On 20 February 2001, His Excellency Mr. HOR Namhong, Senior Minister, Minister of Foreign Affairs and International Cooperation, received His Excellency Mr. Louis-Georges Arsenault who had just been nominated as Representative of the United Nations Children's Fund to the Kingdom of Cambodia.

After presenting his Letter of Credence to Senior Minister HOR Namhong, Representative Louis-Georges Arsenault assured the Senior Minister of his determination to continue and to develop the already good cooperation between the Royal Government of Cambodia and UNICEF.

Senior Minister HOR Namhong expressed his profound thanks for the assistance provided by UNICEF since the collapse of the Khmer Rough regime in 1979 and requested UNICEF to help protect the helpless orphans in Phnom Penh so that they could have a normal life and go to schools and to provide assistance to the children and the education in the remote areas.

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**Senior Minister Signs MOU with Canada**

On 21 February 2001, His Excellency Mr. HOR Namhong, Senior Minister, Minister of Foreign Affairs and International Cooperation, and the Honourable Rey Pagtakhan, Secretary of State for Asia and the Pacific of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and International Trade of Canada, signed a Memorandum of Understanding between the Royal Government of Cambodia and the Government of Canada concerning Cambodia-Canada Legislative Support Project (CCLSP).



*Senior Minister HOR Namhong Signs MOU with Canadian State Secretary for Foreign Affairs Rey Pagtakhan*

The project, valued at 5,000,000 \$ CAD (five million Canadian dollars) provided by the Government of Canada, is aimed at promoting the culture and practice of democracy and good governance in Cambodia through capacity development of the National Assembly and the Senate.

The MOU concerning Cambodia-Canada Legislative Support Project came into force and effect on the date of signature and will expire on the 31<sup>st</sup> of December 2006.

During a meeting held prior to the signing ceremony, Senior Minister HOR Namhong and State Secretary Rey Pagtakhan had discussions focusing primarily on the promotion of bilateral cooperation as well as ASEAN-Canada relations.

It should be noticed that the Honourable Rey Pagtakhan paid a visit and attended the ASEAN Regional Forum (ARF) Confidence Building Measures (CBMs) Seminar on Conventional Weapons Transfers in the Kingdom of Cambodia on 20-21 February 2001.



**Le Ministre d'Etat Signe Protocole d'Accord avec la France**



*Le Ministre d'Etat Signe Protocole d'Accord avec Ambassadeur de France André-Jean LIBOUREL*

Le mardi 27 février 2001, à 10<sup>h</sup>30, au Ministère des Affaires Etrangères et de la Coopération Internationale, Son Excellence Monsieur HOR Namhong, Ministre d'Etat, Ministre des Affaires Etrangères et de la Coopération Internationale, et Son Excellence Monsieur André-Jean LIBOUREL, Ambassadeur extraordinaire et plénipotentiaire de France au Royaume du Cambodge, ont signé un Protocole d'Accord entre le Gouvernement Royal du Cambodge et le Gouvernement de la République française pour la mise en place du mécanisme intitulé "Fonds Social de Développement" .

Ce Protocole d'Accord encadrera la mise en oeuvre d'une aide française de huit millions de francs, destinée aux victimes des inondations de l'an dernier. Les projets financés au titre du Fonds Social de Développement sont réservés en priorité aux réalisations physiques de petite dimension dans les secteurs sociaux et les services collectifs. Ces projets interviendront au bénéfice des populations les plus pauvres, en milieu urbain comme en milieu rural.

Il est à noter que la signature de ce Protocole d'Accord constitue l'application de l'accord-cadre de Coopération culturelle, scientifique et technique conclu le 10 mai 1994 entre le Gouvernement Royal du Cambodge et le Gouvernement de la République française.

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## Secretary of State Signs Two Documents with China



*Secretary of State UCH Kiman Signs Two Documents with Chinese Ambassador NING Fukui*

On 26 February 2001, a signing ceremony was held between His Excellency Mr. UCH Kiman, Secretary of State of Foreign Affairs and International Cooperation, and His Excellency Mr. NING Fukui, Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary of the People's Republic of China to the Kingdom of Cambodia, on two documents pertaining to the assistance provided by the Government of the People's Republic of China.

The first document was the Exchange of Notes relating to the provision by the Government of the People's Republic of China of a batch of Construction Equipment requested by the Royal Government of Cambodia.

The second document was the receipt of a parcel of office equipment provided by the Embassy of the People's Republic of China to the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and International Cooperation.

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