



KINGDOM OF CAMBODIA  
Nation Religion King

Ministry of Foreign Affairs and International Cooperation

# INFORMATION BULLETIN

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ISSUED BY

INFORMATION

DEPARTMENT

**ADDRESS:** N° 161, Preah Sisowath Quay, Phnom Penh - Kingdom of Cambodia

Phone: (855.23) 214.441 - 216.122 - 216.146 & Fax: (855.23) 216.144 - 216.939

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➤ France Commemorates the 10<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of the Paris Peace Accord

## **Samdech Hun Sen's Comments to the Press on the Issue of the "Strike Against Terror" in Afghanistan**

*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 has given his comments as follow:*

### **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 operation 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...**

"... 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 Afghanistan... Cambodia could think of a possibility to share its expertise in demining 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..."

### **On money laundering in Cambodia by the terrorists...**

"... Up to this moment we have had yet accurate and reliable information if this issue exists... but we will continue to investigate and search for such accounts or property that are claimed to have connections with the terrorists in Cambodia... We have already expressed our determination and resolve to the Under-Secretary of State of the United States of America during his recent visit that we will take all these tasks into serious attention and it is an obligation that Cambodia has to participate in breaking down the terrorist network... We all have to remember that as we have established a world alliance against terrorists, the latter also has its world network... Therefore, it is impossible to deny a possibility that they (the terrorists) could use Cambodia as transit in channeling money to and from each other... But Cambodia has already taken (a measure to look into this matter) one step ahead already..."

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**Samdech HUN Sen's Address to the Opening Ceremony  
of the Workshop on the Dissemination of the Demographic  
and Health Survey 2000 (DHS)**

Following is the integral text of an Address delivered on 8 October 2001 by Samdech Prime Minister HUN Sen at the Opening Ceremony of the Workshop on the Dissemination of the Demographic and Health Survey 2000 (DHS):

*Excellencies,*

*Ladies and Gentlemen,*

It is a great pleasure for me to preside over the workshop on the dissemination of the Demographic and Health Survey 2000. I would like to express my sincere appreciation to the management and officials of the Ministry of Planning, the Ministry of Health, especially the staff members of the National Institute of Statistics (NIS) for successful completion of the Demographic and Health Survey 2000. I also take this opportunity to sincerely thank ORC MACRO for providing technical assistance in conducting the survey and UNFPA, UNICEF and

USAID for funding this survey and for posting a technical adviser to assist our official in conducting the survey.

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). This is for the first time that the Royal Government of Cambodia (RGC) has conducted such survey of this magnitude. Therefore, I strongly hope that 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.

Taking this rare opportunity, may I share with you all my own views on the role and importance of statistical data in social and economic development, especially in preparing social and economic policies in order to meet development challenges in the future.

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 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. Hence, we should have the statistics about virtually every aspect of daily life. For this reason, 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. These are the achievements and the results of tremendous efforts made by the Ministry of Planning. I would like to take this opportunity to thank UNFPA, especially Ms. Yoshiko Zenda, UNFPA Representative, for funding the conduct

of the Population Census, the Demographic and Health Survey and the organization of this conference, as well as funding the projects undertaken by the Ministries of Planning, Women's Affairs and Education.

Such information is of crucial importance for the monitoring and analysis of poverty to improve understanding of the effects of government interventions and reforms on various income groups, on respective gender and on people living in urban and rural areas. 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. In this sense, 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 face. 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.

In this spirit, I appeal to the management of all government ministries and institutions to use as much as possible the results of this survey to improve their respective sectoral policies and enhance the implementation of strategies, policies and measures that have been put in place. 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 policymakers, 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 the 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. We will address this problem by ensuring political and economic stability, developing human resources by focusing on social sectors, such as education, health, environmental protection, improving the quality of institutional capacity and implementing the administrative reform. 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. This will affect the health of the mother and the child after birth. 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 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.

As stated earlier, the information from the Demographic and Health Survey 2000 is of critical importance for the RGC and myself as the Prime Minister. However, I wish to draw your attention to another problem. As you maybe aware, 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. In this spirit 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. Therefore, I ask for the introduction of an in-depth reform of the education and health budget by implementing transparent program budgeting in 2002 by matching budget increase with the performance and the results.

As the Head of the Government and as a Cambodian, 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. Therefore, it is necessary to compile the data and improvement in data quality is desirable. 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 compendiums, 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. Other relevant ministries and agencies also provide a range of poverty-relevant indicators on a regular basis. 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. Therefore, I appeal to all relevant government ministries and agencies, and international organizations to work closely and coordinate properly to choose and determine official indicators in order to ensure consistency of using statistical data, especially to make sure that the recently collected data are not consistent with the household surveys.

I am pleased to officially launch this valuable book releasing the results of the Demographic and Health Survey 2000. I am confident that members of the Royal Government, government officials at all levels, donors, NGOs and other users will benefit from this work. In concluding, I would like to extend to you all, Excellencies, Ladies and Gentlemen, as well as all participants the five gems of Buddha's wishes and the wish for successful completion of this workshop. I would like to declare that the "workshop on *Dissemination of the Demographic and Health Survey 2000* " open.

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## **Samdech HUN Sen's Address to the Ceremony for the First Phase Full Demobilization Program**

Following is the integral text of an Address delivered on 18 October 2001 by Samdech Prime Minister HUN Sen at the Ceremony for the first phase full Demobilization Program:

*Venerable Buddhist Monks,  
Excellencies,*

*Your Royal Highness,  
Ladies and Gentlemen,  
Members of the Royal Cambodian Armed Forces,*

I am extremely pleased to preside over the ceremony for the first phase full demobilization program for 2001, which constitutes an important element of the government's military reform. 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.

On behalf of the Royal Government of Cambodia (RGC) and on my own behalf I sincerely commend and highly appreciate the Council for the Demobilization of the Armed Forces, the Ministry of Defense and the RCAF Supreme Command for their excellent cooperation in implementing government's demobilization policy, especially for the fruitful results that H.E. SOK AN, Senior Minister and Chairman of the Council for the Demobilization of the Armed Forces, has just reported to the meeting. I fully agree with the full demobilization program for 2001 and the plan for 2002 in order reach the target of 30,000 demobilized soldiers, raised by H.E. SVAY SITHA, Under Secretary of State of the Council of Ministers and Secretary General of the Council for the Demobilization of the Armed Forces.

On behalf of the people and government of Cambodia, and on my own behalf, I would like to take this opportunity to express our profound gratitude to the Governments of Japan, Sweden, the Netherlands, the United States, Germany, Canada, Australia and the World Food Program, especially the World Bank, which is presented by H.E. BONAVENTURE MBIDA-ESSAMA, Chief of the World Bank Office in the Kingdom of Cambodia and Chair of the Donor Working Group on Demobilization, for providing loan and grants for executing this demobilization program. 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. Furthermore, this contribution constitutes an important investment to strengthen peace, democracy and the respect for human rights in Cambodia, especially to pave the way for

entrenching the genuine rule of law in Cambodia, so that Cambodia could make a contribution to strengthening peace and security in the region and the world.

Taking this rare and important opportunity, 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. This size is appropriate allowing the RCAF fully and efficiently discharging their own duties as stipulated in the Constitution and also in line with regional and world developments in the 21st century. Moreover, 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 redirecting resources to the priority sectors: physical infrastructure, social and economic sectors, especially education, health, agriculture and rural development. Hence, 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 genocidal regime. In particular, the "win-win" policy that I had initiated managed to dismantle the political and military organization of the Khmer Rouge. 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. Some had lost their lives, some were injured and others were

handicapped. 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.

From this podium, 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.

*Dear demobilized soldiers,*

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 highly appreciate and sincerely commend all demobilized officers and soldiers for making a right decision by becoming civilians in order to engage in the production, rehabilitation and development of the national economy, once our beloved country is at peace, enjoy full stability in all fields.

It is my confidence that with the assistance under this demobilization program all demobilized soldiers will use their knowledge and know-how to work patiently in your new work in the same way that you had successfully gone through innumerable difficulties in the army. This will help improve your family livelihoods if you choose a legal profession in line with our people's good tradition. I believe that such a choice will improve your living standards further.

In this spirit, 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 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. Moreover, I urge H.E. SOK AN in his capacity as the Chair of the Council for the Demobilization, to pursue the negotiations with the donor community and to cooperate closely with H.E. BONAVENTURE MBIDA-ESSAM, Chief of the World Bank Office in Cambodia and Chair of the Donor Working Group on Demobilization, to mobilize assistance after the program of demobilizing 30,000 soldiers has completed.

Before concluding my remark, on behalf of the RGC and my own behalf, 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 offences and get ready to give a helping hand to the people during a natural disaster.

Once again, on behalf of the RGC and the people of Cambodia and on my own behalf, 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. I also appeal once again to the donor community, international organizations, NGOs and all development agencies based in the provinces to continue your generous assistance to allow successful completion of this important demobilization program and to assist all demobilized soldiers and their families in their new lives as civilians.

In conclusion, I would like to extend to you all, Excellencies, Ladies and Gentlemen, the five gems of Buddhist wishes and my personal wish for successful implementation of this full 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 946,800 CRs. I declare this full demobilization ceremony close.

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## **Working Visit by Thai Prime Minister to Cambodia**

His Excellency Dr. Thaksin SHINAWATRA, Prime Minister of the Kingdom of Thailand, accompanied by His Excellency Dr. Surakiart SATHIRATHAI, Minister of Foreign Affairs, paid a working visit to the Kingdom of Cambodia on 11 October 2001.

During his visit, His Excellency Dr. Thaksin SHINAWATRA was received in a Royal Audience and awarded the Medal “ **Grand Croix de l’ Ordre Royal du Sahamétrei** ” by His Majesty Preah Bat Samdech Preah NORODOM SIHANOUK, King of Cambodia, at the Royal Palace. His Excellency Dr. Surakiart SATHIRATHAI was also awarded the Medal “ **Grand Officier de l’Ordre Royal du Sahamétrei** ”.



*Senior Minister HOR Namhong  
welcomes Thai Prime Minister  
Thaksin SHINAWATRA, at  
Pochentong International Airport*

His Excellency Dr. Thaksin SHINAWATRA also attended a working lunch hosted by Samdech Prime Minister HUN Sen, during which efforts to strengthen bilateral cooperation between the two countries were discussed.

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## **Senior Minister HOR Namhong's Working Visit to Lao People's Democratic Republic**

His Excellency Senior Minister HOR Namhong, Minister of Foreign Affairs and International Cooperation, paid a working visit to the Lao People's Democratic Republic on 4-5 October 2001.



*Senior Minister HOR Namhong leaves for Lao PDR*

During the visit, His Excellency Senior Minister HOR Namhong met with His Excellency Mr. Somsavat LENGSAVAD, Deputy Prime Minister and Minister of Foreign Affairs of the Lao People's Democratic Republic. The Senior Minister informed the Deputy Prime Minister about the Cambodian intention to have cooperation among the six Greater Mekong Sub-region countries, namely: Cambodia, China, Lao PDR, Myanmar, Thailand and Vietnam, in order to accelerate the development of the Mekong Basin, thus contributing to the ASEAN integration process and stressed on the promotion of bilateral cooperation between the two countries.

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## **Senior Minister HOR Namhong's Working Visit to the Union of Myanmar**

His Excellency Senior Minister HOR Namhong, Minister of Foreign Affairs and International Cooperation, Special Envoy of Samdech HUN Sen, Prime Minister of the Kingdom of Cambodia, paid a working visit to the Union of Myanmar on 8-9 October 2001.

His Excellency Senior Minister HOR Namhong met with His Excellency Senior General THAN Shwe, Chairman of the State Peace and Development Council and Prime Minister of the Union of Myanmar, during which the Senior Minister handed over and conveyed to His Excellency Senior General THAN Shwe, the message and the regards from Samdech Prime Minister HUN Sen. The Senior Minister informed Senior General THAN Shwe about the Cambodian intention to have cooperation among the six Greater Mekong Sub-region countries, namely: Cambodia, China, Lao PDR, Myanmar, Thailand and Vietnam, in order to accelerate the development of the Mekong Basin, thus contributing to the ASEAN integration process.



*Senior Minister HOR Namhong leaves for Myanmar*

Senior Minister HOR Namhong also had discussions with His Excellency Mr. Win AUNG, Minister of Foreign Affairs of the Union of Myanmar, on the promotion of bilateral cooperation between the two countries.

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## **Hand Over Ceremony of Computers Donated by Singapore**

On 3 October 2001, at 10 a.m., at the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and International Cooperation, a hand over ceremony of 15 sets of PCs and other associated IT hardware, provided by the Government of the Republic of Singapore was held between His Excellency Senior Minister HOR Namhong, Minister of Foreign Affairs and International Cooperation, and His Excellency Mr. Verghese MATHEWS, Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary of the Republic of Singapore.



*Senior Minister HOR Namhong and Ambassador Verghese MATHEWS, during the Hand Over Ceremony of Computers Donated by Singapore*

In his remarks delivered during the ceremony, His Excellency the Senior Minister stated that:

“ First let me welcome to Cambodia Mr. Simon Yee Kwok Hoe, lecturer from the Nanyang Polytechnic of Singapore, who comes to assist Cambodian IT trainers in the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and International Cooperation.

“ With the launch of the Initiative of ASEAN Integration (IAI), Cambodia is very grateful to note that the Republic of Singapore is the first ASEAN country to implement the IAI

in a very concrete manner. Singapore has provided a lot of assistance in the form of Train-the-Trainers, Scholarships and Youth Exchange Programmes to new members of ASEAN. The courses provided by Singapore have covered many different areas, such as economic, finance, trade, management, judiciary, health, English language and information technology. In the same vein, Singapore will help establish a Singapore-Cambodia Training Center (SCTC) in Phnom Penh soon. And today, we are witnessing the assistance in setting up to IT training rooms with 15 computers each at the premises of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and the Office of the Council of Ministers.

“ The assistance will certainly help accelerate the integration of Cambodia into the main stream of ASEAN.

“ Finally, I am very pleased to take this opportunity to express my sincere gratitude to the Government of the Republic of Singapore for this timely assistance to Cambodia in the IAI framework ”.

It should be noted that in order to strengthen the friendly cooperative relations between the Government of the Republic of Singapore and the Royal Government of Cambodia, and to equip an IT training room at the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and International Cooperation under the IT Train-the-Trainers programme for Cambodia, the Government of the Republic of Singapore donated to the Ministry 15 Compaq pro 200 Personal Computers with Monitors, 1 Compaq Proliant 266 Mhz server with Monitor, 1 CISCI 24 ports Switches, 1 HP 4050 Printer and other Hardware accessories.

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## **Senior Minister Meets with ICRC’s Regional Delegate for East Asia**

On 10 October 2001, at 4:00 p.m., at the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and International Cooperation, His Excellency Senior Minister HOR Namhong, Minister of Foreign Affairs and International Cooperation, met with Mr. Jean Marc Bornet, who had just been nominated as Regional Delegate for East Asia of the International Committee of the Red Cross ( ICRC ).

During the meeting, the Senior Minister expressed his sincere thanks for the assistance provided by ICRC to Cambodia since 1979 and highly valued the close cooperation between ICRC and the Royal Government and Red Cross of Cambodia. The Senior Minister requested ICRC to publish brochures with pictures and short texts on the ICRC's main activities, in order to help the people understand the various matters concerning international humanitarian law. The Senior Minister also stressed on the Royal Government's endeavor to promote the respect for human rights and democracy.



*Senior Minister HOR Namnamhong Meets with Mr. Jean Marc Bornet,  
ICRC's Regional Delegate for East Asia*

Mr. Jean Marc Bornet expressed his satisfaction with the development in Cambodia, especially the prevalence of full peace that had allowed the ICRC to close its central office in Cambodia at the end of year 2000. Mr. Jean Marc Bornet added that ICRC would continue to assist Cambodia on the orthopedics programmes for amputees and teach the amputees to manufacture the prostheses, which were being carried out in an orthopedic Rehabilitation Center in Battambang and a Component Factory in Phnom Penh.

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## **Senior Minister HOR Namhong Meets with Ambassador of European Union**

On 24 October 2001, at 4.30 p.m., at the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and International Cooperation, His Excellency Senior Minister HOR Namhong, Minister of Foreign Affairs and International Cooperation, met with His Excellency Mr. Klauspeter Schmallenbach, Ambassador-Head of Representation Delegation of the European Commission to Cambodia.

During the discussions, the Senior Minister valued the Cambodia-EU cooperation very active and highlighted the contribution made by the EU-funded PRASAC I and PRASAC II projects in helping Cambodia in its rural development and poverty alleviation endeavors. The Senior Minister requested EU to explore ways to further enlarge PRASAC project and also to assist Cambodia in its fight against the spread of HIV/ AIDs in the country.



*Senior Minister HOR Namnamhong Meets with  
His Excellency Mr. Klauspeter Schmallenbach, Ambassador of EU to Cambodia*

In response, Ambassador Klauspeter Schmallenbach expressed his satisfaction with the good relations between EU-Cambodia, particularly the result brought about by PRASAC I and PRASAC II. He also told the Senior Minister that EU would further promote its cooperation with Cambodia.

The Ambassador informed Senior Minister HOR Namhong of the EU's plan to open its office in Phnom Penh by the end of this year with the responsibility taken by Chargé d'Affaires a.i..The present EU Technical Coordination Office in Phnom Penh would be ended after the opening of the office, continued the Ambassador.

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**Statement by Senior Minister Hor Namhong  
at the National Conference on Peace,  
National Reconciliation and Democracy Building**

Following is the integral text of a statement delivered on 21 October 2001 by Senior Minister HOR Namhong, Minister of Foreign Affairs and International Cooperation, at the National Conference on Peace, National Reconciliation and Democracy Building:

*His Excellency Sar Kheng, Deputy Prime Minister, Co Minister of Interior and Chairman of this session,*

*Excellencies,*

*Ladies, and Gentlemen,*

I wish, first of all, to thank all the organizers of this national conference, in particular, the Cambodian Institute 'for Cooperation and Peace, the Friedrich-Ebert-Siftung, and the Konrad-Adenauer-Stiftung for inviting me to speak at this timely and very important national conference, which is to commemorate the Tenth Anniversary of the Paris Peace Agreements. I am indeed very honored to be here among my fellow Cambodians and foreign friends of Cambodia at this auspicious gathering. I am also particularly pleased because of my direct and deep involvement in the peace talks, which began in December 1987, between Prime Minister Hun Sen and His Majesty King Norodom Sihanouk. In fact, I was the one who signed the Paris Peace Accord, and the one who-as a member of the SNC-witnessed and implemented the Paris Peace Accord jointly with UNTAC. As we commemorate the Tenth Anniversary of the Paris Peace Agreements, I wish to take this opportunity to share with you some of my thoughts,

insights and reflections on how I perceive the changes and transformation of Cambodia in the last ten years.

## **I. Ten Years: An Important Timeframe for Reflection**

I share with many of you that the time has come for us to reflect on the past decade on how Cambodia-a nation that faced so much destruction, war and tragic trauma-has been able to evolve and develop. A ten-year period is a realistic timeframe for any critical assessment, analysis and reflection on how we see the real achievements as well as challenges facing the country.

As we try to reflect, I only wish that we all should put things in the right perspectives. This means that we should be frank but yet fair to the developments of the country in such a short period of time, given years of destruction. Cambodia, in my view, has traveled well during this short time, with concrete substantive achievements, as we could see them in the expressions or the smiling faces of the Cambodian people. For a country that had been through tragedies and difficulties, Cambodia today is still very much a resilient nation, concentrating on nation-building and national development in light of the full speed of globalization and growing regional and global interdependence.

Moreover, as we pause to look back at the past decade we should also try to look ahead in the future on how we can further build on the achievements and successes of this country in the coming years and for the next decade. There are many reasons to believe that the future of Cambodia is hopeful and promising, given the current dynamic process of national development. By saying so, we recognize that many difficulties and problems remain to be solved.

## **II- The Achievements: The Real Indicators**

While there have been many achievements thus far for the country, I would identify only four categories of successes that Cambodia has been able to achieve during the past decade. First and foremost is peace, political stability and national reconciliation. Second is the integration of Cambodia into the region and the world through the process of renormalization. Third are the economic achievements. Fourth, the achievements in human rights and democracy are also of great importance to the country. These achievements are not only tangible but also real.

## **1. Peaces, Political Stability and National Reconciliation**

For Cambodia, peace, political stability and national reconciliation did not just come about or transformed overnight. It took this country for years of hard work. Today, Cambodia now has a consolidated peace throughout the country. At the same time, Cambodia has secured and maintained political stability through the concerted efforts of national reconciliation and coalition building. Since 1993, Cambodia has a coalition government that reflected the will of the people expressed through the ballots and the spirit of the Paris Peace Agreements, in which the most important of it is the national reconciliation.

Nevertheless, peace, political stability and national reconciliation became truly realized only when the Khmer Rouge fully collapsed. The demise of the Khmer Rouge was the hard work of Samdech Hun Sen, Prime Minister of Cambodia, who actively pursued a policy of defection and integration of the Khmer Rouge rank and file. With the complete disintegration of the Khmer Rouge and their integration into the national community, Cambodia for the first time achieved peace, stability and national reconciliation in decades.

Moreover, the process and the spirit of national reconciliation have been critically important for trust and consensus building for the country. While the Cambodian people at all levels supported the process of national reconciliation, the key factor to this process was the role of His Majesty King Norodom Sihanouk, who is regarded as the " Father of National Reconciliation" of Cambodia.

In essence, peace, political stability and national reconciliation were one of the greatest achievements for Cambodia during this decade of change and transformation.

## **2. Reintegration of Cambodia into the Regional and International Community**

In the area of international relations, Cambodia has been able to integrate itself into the region and the international community, taking advantage of the regional and global trends. Although joining ASEAN as the newest member in 1999, Cambodia has contributed actively to keep this regional organization relevant and competitive in the face of a globalized world today. As it had been in the past, Cambodia pursued the good neighbor policy and a sound, rational and concerted foreign policy through the renormalization of relations and the enhanced diplomatic relations with many countries from around the world.



In addition, Cambodia has been able to engage the multilateral financial institutions and international organizations. The World Bank, the International Monetary Fund (IMF), the Asian Development Bank (ADB), the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP), and other international organizations have been cooperating and interacting with Cambodia. Cambodia's close relations with these institutions are vital to Cambodia's national interests, especially in the area of national reconstruction and development. Today, the World Bank, IMF, ADB, the UN agencies and others have set up their residence offices in Phnom Penh. Even, the Mekong River Commission Secretariat is now located in Cambodia.

All in all, I would argue that the achievements in international relations are another area of Cambodia's success in this decade, despite a long period of externally imposed isolation on the country. Cambodia has joined the ranks of other countries in this region and the world in engaging the regional affairs and international relations to ensure that Cambodia's national interest are protected and advanced in various international fora.

### **3. The Economic Achievements**

Despite the enormous challenges after decades of war and destruction, the Cambodian economy had been transformed from a transitional economy to a free market economy. Some of the key economic issues, such as macroeconomic instability, inflation, and the negative effects of war were managed with degree of success. At the same time, the country had to overcome, the insufficient legal framework, the institutional and human resource challenges in the economic sector. Moreover, Cambodia had to integrate its economy into the regional and global economies, (as its own economy cannot be isolated from the rest of the region and the world). Given the process of regionalization and globalization in the post-Cold War world, Cambodia adopted a policy of economic integration in order to help build a sustainable economic development.

Through the ASEAN Free Trade Area, Cambodia has been using it as an important training ground for capacity building and for reforming the economic and financial institutions, as well as a gateway to the world economy. Cambodia's goal has been to join the Asia Europe Meeting (ASEM) and the World Trade Organization (WTO) in the near future.

In order to rebuild the country, in particular, a viable national economy, the Cambodian government has been working very closely with the donor community, as well as with the private

sector through the Government-Private Sector Forum. The cooperation and support of the donor community for Cambodia's sustainable development has been very important. As Cambodia continues to strengthen the economic institutions and build the capacity, the donor community's continuing assistance is essential. But the gains and the achievements in the economic sector thus far will have to continue and sustain over time. Cambodia has a lot of economic potentials ahead, and we need to do more in order to build a much stronger economy in the coming years.

#### **4. The Achievements in Human Rights and Democracy**

Finally, I would argue that Cambodia has come a long way in human rights, democracy and liberty. Despite a very horrible human rights record during the Khmer Rouge era, the improvements in democracy and human rights came about as a result of the developments and changes in many areas of the country. Obviously, the overall and specific human rights situations in the country have been significantly improved. I would not say that the situation is yet perfect. But one should realize that Cambodia has come along with a short time after a long period of war and suffering, and it is now comparable with other leading democratic countries in the world. These positive changes and improvements could be attributed to a number of factors:

**First**, the Cambodian government has been strongly committed to and advocated for human rights over the years. Respectful of the Constitution, the Royal Government of Cambodia (RGC) has been pursuing a human rights agenda by working closely with the National Assembly, the Senate, the civil society organizations and NGOs, and other institutions. The government's commitment to human rights will continue.

**Second**, Cambodia has a liberal constitution. It had successfully organized free and fair elections in 1998, where thirty-nine political parties contested. The communal elections will be held in February 2002 to promote grassroots democracy, decentralization and deconcentration. The two elections demonstrated Cambodia's commitment to democracy and the adoption of a multiparty system.

**Third**, Cambodia has one of the freest Press Law in the region, let alone in the world. Over the past ten years, the media have grown considerably in number and scope. More newspapers, television channels and radio stations are open freely. In addition, Cambodia has a culture of dialogue and debate, as in the case of the public broadcasting of the parliamentary debates.

*Fourth*, another important development is the emergence of a vibrant civil society in the country. Combining both local and international NGOs and civil society, Cambodia has approximately 1,000 organizations in the country today. At the same time, we have witnessed a major proliferation of trade unions, which is now proliferating to more than fifty of them. This is a testimony to the growth and expansion of human rights and democracy in the country.

In sum, Cambodia has strengthened the culture of peace, human rights and democracy. One may wonder what will be of the future of this country in the next decade with respect to human rights and democracy, given the present dynamics of development of freedom and liberty in the country.

### **III. The Challenges: A Sense of Balance and Realism**

I will not dwell too much on the challenges facing Cambodia, as some of my fellow Cambodians will focus on them in this session as well in other sessions of the conference. However, when we talk about the challenges facing Cambodia we should ensure that we have a sense of balance and realism.

The main challenge confronting Cambodia has been the reform agenda, in particular, in the areas of demobilization, judicial reform and public administrative reform. The key reform issues have been given greater attention by the Cambodian government. In this context, I think that the Cambodian government has a strong commitment and resolve to pursue the process of reform and development with greater priority. What have been the major stumbling blocs for accelerating these reforms has been the lack of resources to undertake the reform agenda. However, the Cambodian government still has the will and commitment to reform.

In this context, Cambodia will have to work closely with the donor community, the private sector and civil society to ensure sustainable development and poverty reduction in the country.

### **Conclusion**

In conclusion, I wish to emphasize that Cambodia has come a long way in nation-building and national reconstruction. In the coming years and for the next decade, I believe that Cambodia will continue to focus on the following key issues:

*First* is reform and sustainable development. The RGC is committed to reform, sustainable development and poverty reduction. This means that the government will also focus on sustained economic growth in order to achieve poverty reduction. This is the cornerstone of the RGC's policy and priority.

Second is human resource development and investment in the people, especially the future generations. Capacity building, training, and human resource development are the key issues of greatest importance to Cambodia. Educated and skilled peoples are the society's greatest assets.

*Third* are sustainable political stability, enhanced security and a lasting peace. Cambodia cannot and will not take these three key elements for granted. In this regard, Cambodia will continue to guard them fiercely.

*Fourth*, Cambodia will have to be active regionally and internationally. Cambodia's future does not lie within its border alone; its future surely links to the region and the rest of the world. Therefore, Cambodia will need to continue to develop and strengthen its sound foreign policy in order to implement the RGC's political platform with long-term geopolitical interest for development and prosperity in the coming years and for the next decade.

Last but not least, may I take this opportunity to express our deep appreciation to all the eighteen countries, which helped the Cambodian parties to achieve the Paris Peace Agreements that we are now celebrating and also for their assistance in national reconstruction and development of Cambodia.

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## **France Commemorates the 10<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of the Paris Peace Accord**

Following is the integral text of a statement issued on 22 October 2001 in Paris by the spokesman of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of France on the occasion of the commemoration of the 10<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the Paris peace accord:

« Il y a dix ans, le 23 octobre 1991, étaient signés les Accords de Paris mettant fin au conflit cambodgien. Comme le président de la République (François Mitterrand) le rappela lors de la Conférence de Paris, une page sombre de l'histoire du Cambodge, mais aussi de toute l'Asie du sud-est, fut alors tournée.

La France salue le rôle éminent joué par Sa Majesté le Roi Norodom Sihanouk, artisan de la réconciliation rationnelle, sans lequel ce succès historique n'aurait pas été possible. En sa qualité de co-présidente avec l'Indonésie de la Conférence de Paris, la France avait pour objectif de parvenir à un règlement politique d'ensemble, de restaurer une paix durable au Cambodge et de permettre au peuple cambodgien de choisir librement son destin par des élections libres et équitables sous les auspices des Nations unies. C'est dans cet esprit que la France a apporté depuis dix ans un soutien sans faille au redressement du pays, d'abord à travers sa participation active à l'APRONUC (autorité provisoire des Nations unies au Cambodge), puis par la mise en place d'une importante coopération destinée à construire un Etat de droit et à former les cadres nécessaires au développement du pays.

Dix ans après, le bilan des Accords de Paris apparaît largement positif. Depuis 1991, le Cambodge a su, avec l'aide de la communauté internationale, retrouver la voie de la paix, du développement et de la démocratie. Cette évolution ne s'est pas faite sans difficultés et, aujourd'hui encore, beaucoup d'efforts restent à fournir. Mais les progrès sont visibles sur tous les plans. Ainsi, le programme de réformes élaboré en partenariat avec la communauté des donateurs a jeté les bases d'un développement durable. Parallèlement, l'Etat de droit se construit progressivement et les élections communales de 2002 constitueront une étape importante dans le processus de démocratisation.

La France réaffirme son intention de poursuivre l'engagement qu'elle avait pris pour la résolution du conflit cambodgien dès le milieu des années 1980. Elle continuera à apporter son soutien à l'instauration d'un Cambodge pacifié, prospère et démocratique.»

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