



*The Royal Embassy of Cambodia
to United States of America*

ព័ត៌មានពិសេស

SPECIAL EDITION BULLETIN



Special Edition

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The Prime Minister of the Kingdom of Cambodia, Samdech Techo Hun Sen, has sent separate letters to H.E. Ali Abdussalam Treki, President of the United Nations General Assembly and H.E. Vitaly Churkin, President of the United Nations Security Council, regarding Thailand Prime Minister’s harsh statement to thread Cambodia over the disputed land that belong to Cambodia.

The full letters dated August 8, 2010 read as follows:

“Mr. President,

I have the honour to inform Your Excellency that on 7 August 2010 during a public meeting with the “People’s Alliance for Democracy”, the Prime Minister of Thailand declared openly: “... About the land encroachment, we will cancel the MOU if the problem can’t be settled. We will use both diplomatic and military means”.

This statement of the Prime Minister of Thailand constitutes on the one hand an obvious threat to cancel unilaterally a legal document, namely the Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) signed on 14 June 2000 between the Royal government of Cambodia and the Government of the Kingdom of

Thailand for the demarcation of the border, and on the other hand, a clear threat to use military force to settle the problem of demarcation of the border, which has been clearly demarcated by the Convention of 1904, the Treaty of 1907 between France and Siam, as well as the maps produced by the Franco-Siamese Commission set up by the above convention.

I would like to bring to Your Excellency's kind attention that the maps which had been issued by the Franco-Siamese Commission in 1908 was the solid basis by which the International Court of Justice (ICJ) adjudicated on 15 June 1962 as follows:

... "the Temple of Preah Vihear is situated in territory under the sovereignty of Cambodia;"

"Thailand is under an obligation to withdraw any military or police forces, or other guards or keepers, stationed by her at the Temple, or in its vicinity on Cambodian territory;"

In violating the judgment of the ICJ, Thailand currently maintain its soldiers in the Keo Sikkhakiri Svava pagoda of Cambodia, situated only about 300 meters from the Temple of Preah Vihear, well inside the Cambodian territory.

By seriously threatening to use military force against Cambodia to settle the problem of the border, Thailand flagrantly violates Article 2.3 and 2.4 of the United Nations Charter. Cambodia, for its part, reaffirms its constant policy not to use armed forces to settle any problem with neighboring countries. Cambodia nonetheless, reserves its legitimate rights to defend its sovereignty and territorial integrity in case of deliberate acts of aggression.

In the face of this serious threat of use of armed forces against Cambodia to settle the border demarcation, I earnestly request Your Excellency to circulate this letter to all members of the United Nations/United Nations Security Council for information.

Please accept, Excellency, the assurances of my highest consideration."

Signed Hun Sen.





**STATEMENT OF THE MINISTRY OF FOREIGN AFFAIRS AND
INTERNATIONAL COOPERATION**

The Ministry of Foreign Affairs and International Cooperation of the Kingdom of Cambodia has issued a statement in response to Thai Prime Minister Abhisit Vejjajiva quoted by a Thai media as saying that Thailand “will use both democratic and military means” to settle the border issue with Cambodia.

The full statement dated Aug. 7 reads as follows:

“According to the Thai newspaper ‘The Nation’ today, during the meeting with the ‘People’s Alliance for Democracy’, the Prime Minister of Thailand said as quoted by the Nation ‘...About the land encroachment, we will cancel the MOU if the problem can’t be settled. We will use both democratic and military means.’

If the Prime Minister of Thailand had indeed pronounced these words, the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and International Cooperation of the Kingdom of Cambodia would like to draw the international public’s attention on the followings:

First, Article VIII of the 2000 MOU between Cambodia and Thailand stipulates: ‘Any dispute arising out of the interpretation or application of this Memorandum of Understanding shall be settled peacefully by consultation and negotiation’.

Therefore, if Thailand UNILATERALLY cancels the MOU, Thailand will flagrantly violate this bilateral legal document. This would show clearly Thailand’s violation of the international law.

Secondly, with regard to the wordings ‘...We will use both democratic and military means’, they constitutes clearly a threat to use its military force against Cambodia to ‘settle’ the problem of demarcation of the border between the two countries, where both countries are bound by international legal documents. This also shows clearly the true color of the government of Thailand of the so called Democratic Party.

Cambodia reserves its legitimate rights to safeguard its sovereignty and territorial integrity against any deliberate acts of aggression.”