The Royal Embassy of Cambodia
to United States of America

ព្រឹត្តិប័ត្រព័ត៌មាន

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POLITICS

Cambodian FM Verbal Attacks Thai Premier

Cambodian Deputy Prime Minister H.E. Hor Namhong asked Thai Prime Minister Abhisit Vejjajiva not to have a dream about the World Heritage-listed temple and the Cambodian territory of 4.6-Km2 parcel near Preah Vihear Temple.

H.E. Hor Namhong, also Minister of Foreign Affairs and International Cooperation made this comment in a press conference held last Friday.

His comments came in response to Thai Prime Minister Abhisit Vejjajiva's comments, which was quoted as saying the border issue was solved as long as Preah Vihear Temple was listed jointly as the world heritage by Thailand and Cambodia.

"I would like to inform Thai Prime Minister that this is only a dream", he said. "This is a dream that will not happen."

The Cambodian Foreign Minister also attacked Thai Prime Minister Abhisit Vejjajiva's remarks for misleading the public opinion about this case.

He reiterated that Cambodia wants to solve the problem by the peaceful means.

In the past few years and now Cambodia wants to solve the matter between the two countries peacefully, he said.

Excerpts from the Press Conference Given by DPM Sok An

Cambodian Deputy Prime Minister and Minister of the Office of the Council of Ministers H.E.

Dr. Sok An gave a press conference on Aug. 7 upon the return of the Cambodian delegation from the 34th Session of the World Heritage Committee in Brasilia, Brazil.

Below are the excerpts from the press conference posted on the website of the Office of the Council of Ministers:

"**Question N°1**: What is the assigned mission of the Cambodian Delegation at the 34th Session of the World Heritage Committee in Brasilia, Brazil?

Answer: It is important to first recall that Cambodia, State Party of the World Heritage Convention (UNESCO), has participated in the Session for the first time as a member of the Committee. In fact, her election dated only in October 2009.

Consequently, for this plenary Session of July-August 2010, our delegation demonstrated its interest in all matters listed on the agenda, participated in Working Group sessions (i.e, on the future of the Convention or on the revision of the Operational Guidelines), discussed with other delegations and listened to their concerns and suggestions while sharing our points of view on the subject.

Within the period of more than 10 days (including Sunday initially scheduled for the excursions to various Brazilian sites), everybody worked very hard, and 4 night sessions were devoted to examining all issues on the agenda.

Our presence was noticed and appreciated.

I would particularly like to emphasize that we lent our support in the inscription of properties on the World Heritage list, regarding those of Brazil, China, South Korea, Vietnam and Saudi Arabia. At the same time, we have taken position to support justice and peace vis-à-vis for the Palestinian people by supporting proposition to safeguard the cultural properties of Palestine.

In other words, our delegation has been continuously vigilant and many of our positions taken have been recorded, strengthening our presence and highlighting our participation. Many delegations have confirmed this.

Question N°2: However, did you also have to defend the Preah Vihear case?

Answer: Initially, in case of debate, we have to explain, if necessary, or to provide more verbal information. According to the procedure proposed by the Secretariat of the Committee or the World Heritage Center, the Committee was not going to entertain debate and only was going to take note of our documents, Report and Management Plan. Cambodia had fully conformed to its prescribed duty. With the assistance of the National Commission of Cambodia for UNESCO and international high-level experts, the documents were prepared by the ANPV at its best and were submitted to UNESCO before the deadline (01 February 2010). The World Heritage Center and the Advisory Bodies – International Council on Monuments and Sites (ICOMOS) and International Center for the Study of the Preservation and Restoration of Cultural Property (ICCROM) – have proceeded to a detailed analysis of the contents of the documents by highlighting the main actions:

- Protection and promotion of the Temple;

- Making easier access to the temple by constructing road network;

- Building a Hospitality Center and Eastern wooden stairs of the temple;

- Discovering three ancient Barays (big water reservoirs) at the foot of the promontory where the temple locates;

- The establishment of a new village, Samdech Techo Hun Sen Eco-Village, (en route to Saem approximately 20 kilometers South of the site of the temple) with the ecological concepts that met the social needs;

- The construction of a Global Eco-Museum, not far from the village,

Moreover, the Center and Advisory Bodies had proceeded with an evaluation of those achievements by emphasizing their importance for the development of the region.

When it comes to the Management Plan, the Center and ICOMOS consider that it "constitutes a good vision for the conservation of the Temple as well as a solid basis for the development and operational programs".

In accordance with the established procedure, the Committee took note of these observations and invited Cambodia to pursue the implementation of these programs at Preah Vihear and the

implementation of the provisions of the Management Plan. A draft decision No. 34 COM.7B.66 was, therefore, prepared in that sense by the Center.

Question N°3: Thank you. That is noteworthy. But the situation was developing otherwise, and you were engaged in a real battle to defend the position of Cambodia.

Answer: Yes, we were. But first, I would like to raise one essential point. During our participation to the session of the Committee, we showed that we paid our respects to the Committee, we strictly observed the rules, and we abide by the Committee's Guidelines and the World Heritage Convention. Thus, everyone could realize that moderation and serenity were on the Cambodian side, arrogance and carelessness were on the Thai side. Their villain image has obviously served our cause.

The Thai delegation, with their uncontrolled video shooting, had only one objective in mind, which was repeated like a slogan: TO POSTPONE, TO POSTPONE, TO POSTPONE AND TO POSTPONE. The head of Thai delegation, Mr. Suwit Khunkitti, therefore, proposed to proceed to the vote for postponement as soon as possible, and did not want to speak about other alternatives, especially, about the possibility of compromise.

Question N°4: But, why the dogmatic and tough position? Was he so sure of the victory, Minister?

Answer: In reality, it was real misinformation and intoxication campaign engaged by their Permanent Delegation to UNESCO and their multiple contact with a number of Ambassadors of different regional groups in UNESCO made them legitimately believe that it would reach its goal and obtain the postponement during the Committee Session in Brasilia.

Thai Minister Khunkitti was so sure of the victory. He ensured that Thailand would win over 2/3 (14 out of 21 seats of the Committee Members) and Cambodia would get nothing.

However, his counting of supports did not help since lies definitely led to failure.

Question N°5: Exactly, could you explain how you proceeded to defeat the treacherous maneuvers of obstruction on the part of the Thai Delegation?

Answer: We have carried out a scrupulous campaign of clarification to the Committee members. In the period 3 full days, I held meetings with Ambassadors and Heads of Delegations and provided them with relevant documents such as legal texts, maps, decisions of Committee, technical reports and Management Plan prepared by Cambodia, and Committee's Statutory References. Then I explained the whole case in detail.

In conclusion, I highlighted the following key facts:

Cambodia, State Party to the Convention, had fulfilled its duty and implemented, as requested by the Committee, the Decision 33 COM 7B.65, adopted at Seville, Spain in June 2009.

Cambodia had prepared a management plan based on technical and not political considerations.

This plan relates to the temple with all its architectural features and the East historic stairway and the buffer zone to the east and south of the temple exactly in accordance with Decision 32 COM 8B.102, adopted in Quebec, Canada, in July 2008.

Cambodia had followed the advice of moderation and openness to dialogue, provided by the Director General of UNESCO, Her Excellency Madam Irina Bokova.

Cambodia respected the Committee and had no intention to disrupt the session. There was no claim to be made, and she did not ask anything else other than that the Committee found that Cambodia has done her duty and took note of the documents that she had prepared.

Furthermore, my colleagues in the Cambodian Delegation were assigned to assume, in the best conditions, the two tasks of our mission to Brasilia, namely:

On one hand, to participate fully in the works of the Committee session and to show everyone that we deserve the vote of confidence which made Cambodia a member of the Committee in October 2009, for a mandate of 4 years;

On the other hand, to contact other members in charge of each delegation, members of the Committee, in order to provide more clarification and explanation I personally gave to the Ambassadors and Heads of Delegations. With this well-organized work, we not only could thwart the malicious campaign fooled by the opponent, but also win the support of the vast majority of Committee members. In light of these intense contacts, there was no longer a question of voting (desired by the Thai delegation). And above all, neither the Chairman (Brazil), nor most

members of the Committee, nor the Secretariat (UNESCO) wanted to hear the proposal to postpone from Thailand.

Question N°6: Allow me, Your Excellency, to ask you to clarify this point of procedure. The Thais, by the voices of their officials and the media have declared victory, claiming that the Committee, under Decision 34 COM 7 B.66, has agreed to the adjournment.

Answer: I would like to clarify without hesitation that this is a delirious lie, once again, a campaign of intoxication.

Let's recall the facts and procedure:

We did not come to ask the Committee to adopt our Management Plan for Preah Vihear. It is a national document concerning the sovereignty of Cambodia, and we do not have to seek approval from anyone.

In addition, the Management Plan, submitted to the Committee at its request, is not subject to adoption proceedings. Those members familiar with the operation of the Committee and its history refused to lend support to the campaign of deception by Thailand: The Committee took note only.

Question N°7: Your Excellency, if I understand ADJOURN (to postpone) is tantamount to a REJECTION?

Answer: Yes, absolutely. In an arrogant manner, the Thai delegation wanted to push, from the first day, the Committee to vote for ADJOURNMENT. Thus, they attempt to achieve the wish of their Prime Minister who declared, on 14 July, "We want to delay the Management Plan of the Temple until the 4.6 km2 border dispute adjacent to the Temple is settled".

This claim was expressed, again, on 22 July, or three days prior to the opening session in Brasilia and once again on 28 July, during the session of the Committee.

The Prime Minister of Thailand said "We think the World Heritage Committee should not consider this plan until Thailand and Cambodia have agreed upon the demarcation line."

The fact that the Committee rejected the proposal to adjourn is a blow to Thailand.

Consequently, the point concerning the Temple of Preah Vihear remains on the agenda; the documents submitted by Cambodia are still valid. The analysis and evaluation made on these documents by the World Heritage Centre and Advisory Bodies of the Convention have been distributed (the first act in our favor!) and their effects have not been canceled (the other act in our favor).

Thailand, for their arrogance, had to bite the dust. And their attempts to postpone for one year is now in the eyes of the majority of Committee members as a gross maneuver of intoxication and travesty of truth.

Question N°8: Therefore, our country can legitimately be satisfied and proud of the results. But allow me, Excellency, to alert you that public opinion at home would also like to better understand the scope of the Decision of the Committee in Brasilia concerning our temple.

Answer: It is very good and it is a pleasure for me to bring more light. So I will comment, point by point, the contents of the Decision 34 COM 7B.66.

1) It was the utmost importance to acknowledge a basic fact: Cambodia has done her duty by submitting documents, Report and Management Plan, to the Committee, and those documents are in possession of the World Heritage Centre as mentioned in paragraph 3 of the Decision as follows:

The World Heritage Committee "takes note that the World Heritage Centre has the documents submitted by the State party."

2) The other important point is to ensure the official distribution of the aforementioned documents the World Heritage Centre and the Advisory Bodies have analyzed and evaluated, stated in the WHC-10/34.COM/7B.Add.3 Document of the Centre.

In fact, the World Heritage Committee has acknowledged receiving the Document from the Centre. This is the content of paragraph 1 of the Decision:

The World Heritage Committee "having received the Document WHC-10/34.COM /7B.Add.3."

3) In addition, Cambodia, in association with UNESCO, has stepped up efforts to convene the International Coordinating Committee (ICC) for Preah Vihear. In all preliminary meetings, we showed our restraint and our flexibility. But Thailand, again, has mounted the obstruction and the ICC unfortunately, until now, has not been established. However, the Committee's decision has well recognized our efforts and has even welcomed the steps taken. Paragraph 4 of the Decision says:

The World Heritage Committee "further welcomes the steps taken by the State Party towards the establishment of an International Coordinating Committee for the sustainable conservation of the Temple of Preah Vihear."

4) It is also important (and I return to this point to finish) to recall the Committee's decisions concerning the Temple of Preah Vihear, from 2007 until the current sessions.

Thus, in paragraph 2 of the Decision of Brasilia, the content is as follows:

The World Heritage Committee "recalling Decisions 31 COM 8B.24, 32 COM 8B.102 and 33 COM 7B.65 adopted at its 31st Session (Christchurch, 2007), 32nd Session (Quebec, 2008) and 33rd Session (Sevilla, 2009) respectively."

5) The final decision of the Committee concerning the consideration of the documents submitted by the State Party.

The Committee has not only confirmed that this point remains on the agenda, but also has set a date for the 35th Session in 2011.

The Committee, in particular, confirmed that the Committee accepted the documents submitted by the State Party and decided to consider. It is far from the postponement or adjournment sine die (without a fixed date). It is also far from necessity to revise or supplement the documents.

Indeed, paragraph 5 of the Decision states:

The World Heritage Committee "decides to consider the documents submitted by the State Party, at its 35th session in 2011."

It is very obvious that the explanation given fraudulently by the Thai Party and its practice of intoxication have not convinced anyone. The decision is clear and clean. It gives justice to Cambodia.

The decision cannot be interpreted otherwise, unless it is in bad faith. Moreover, most delegations came to congratulate us warmly and spoke of a clear victory.

Inspired by this Decision, we will continue our efforts in Bahrain, which the 35th Session of the Committee will be held in one year's time. We are calm and determined. As for the Thais, at their risk of being discredited again, they can no longer seek an adjournment. Similarly, at their risk of being ridiculed in front of international opinion, they can no longer, seriously, play the game of their threat to withdraw from the Committee or not to participate in the debate.

In fact, this year, they were accused of taking the Committee as a hostage and having no respect for the sovereignty of States represented at the Committee. Their tactics rather vain and childish cannot be reutilized. But I would like to finish, while remaining modest and avoid bragging, by emphasizing a crucial point. Under the guise of anonymity, a great international lawyer presented in the session in Brasilia affirmed to me that "For Cambodia, it is not only a victory but a triumph."

In the eyes of the lawyer, the most important point for the future is the signature of the Minister Suwit Khunkitti on Decision 34 COM 7B.66 adopted by the Committee. It is an international document, and it involves the World Heritage Committee and its members. In this document, it contains the decisions of Christchurch, Quebec and Sevilla, as well as the inscription of the Temple of Preah Vihear on the World Heritage List, and the documents we have already provided including technical reports, maps, graphic plans, zoning and technical

programs.

It is, therefore, not possible for Thailand to return to its original position against the inscription of the Temple and against the content of our documents except for recanting or denying the signature of the Head of its Delegation.

The signature of the document in Brasilia by Minister Suwit Khunkitti is greater in value internationally than the signature of the former Minister Noppadon Pattama, in June 2008.

With this internal confusion of our neighbor, we have only one wish that the Thai Party should return to reason and cease rewriting history by using those old methods of intimidation and intoxication.

The best ways for the two neighboring countries to live in peace and good neighborliness are wise thought, the respect of the rights of each other, mutually beneficial cooperation, sincere friendship, and especially the definitive renunciation of the dream of hegemony and territorial ambitions of the past century.

May they remember that these are the lessons that our two peoples, and the world have accepted from the teaching of Lord Buddha.

Question N°9: One last question, Your Excellency! Can you tell us the program of the Royal Government of Cambodia for the

next step as far as Preah Vihear is concerned?

Answer: We are confident in our future.

The determination, support and high recommendations of our Prime Minister Samdech Techo Hun Sen will always ensure our success.

The good management of our Public Finance assures us that the Temple of Preah Vihear will have the means and the resources for its preservation.

The National Authority for the Protection of Preah Vihear (ANPV) will continue to implement the technical provisions of the Management Plan, especially for the ancient reservoirs (Barays), located in the plain to the south and the Global Eco-Museum.

The international cooperation (especially for the training of young Cambodian technicians with ICCROM and for the technical monitoring programs with the International Panel of Experts in association with UNESCO) will allow us to move forward and to give evidence to the Committee of our seriousness and professionalism."

PM: Talks To Be Resumed After Ratification of Bilateral Agreements by Thai Parliament

Samdech Techo Hun Sen, has expressed his government's stance to resume the bilateral border negotiations after Thai Parliament ratified the last three bilateral border agreements.

If the bilateral talks do not work, we will invite the third party, stressed Samdech Techo Hun Sen here on Thursday at the closing ceremony of a meeting on the protection of Tonle Sap Lake.

He further asked the Thai side not to be afraid of the participation from the third party, which could be ASEAN or UN or special envoy of the UN secretary general or any dignitary such as president of Indonesia.

Samdech Techo Hun Sen also said he would propose the UN secretary general who will pay a visit to Cambodia on Oct. 27-28 to play the role as coordinator for this border issue.

Samdech Techo Hun Sen also reacted to the Thai side, which insisted on the withdrawal of the Cambodian troops and people from the 4.6-square kilometer area (near Preah Vihear Temple) it considered as overlapping zone. "Where is that area of 4.6 square kilometers," he asked, recalling that according to the judgment of the Hague International Court of Justice in 1962, the Preah Vihear Temple and its surrounding area belong to Cambodia.

Cambodia Marks First Anniversary of Inscription of Tuol Sleng Archives on UNESCO's Memory of the World Register

The Cambodian Ministry of Culture and the UNESCO Office in Phnom Penh jointly held here on Monday a ceremony to mark the first anniversary of the inscription of Tuol Sleng Genocide Museum Archives on UNESCO's Memory of the World Register.

The ceremony was presided over by H.E. Chuch Phoeurn, secretary of state at the Ministry of Culture, and Mr. Teruo Jinnai, UNESCO country representative.

The Tuol Sleng Genocide Museum Archives include various documents showing the fate of over 15,000 prisoners who were held from 1975 to 1979 in the Tuol Sleng compound. The Archives include 4,186 'confessions' (many extracted under torture); 6,226 biographies of prisoners; 6,147 photographic prints and negatives of prisoners, demolished buildings, research activities, mass graves and remains of victims, as well as photos of visitors.

These Archives constitute the most complete existing documentary picture of the Democratic Kampuchea prison system, a fundamental part of the regime under which about 2-3 million people (25-30% of the population) lost their lives in a period of 3 years, 8 months and 20 days.

The Tuol Sleng Genocide Museum Archives were inscribed on UNESCO's Memory of the World Register on July 31, 2009 in Bridgetown, Barbados.

The Tuol Sleng's records are among the five Cambodian heritages being listed. The Historic Site of Angkor and the Preah Vihear Temple were inscribed as World Heritage Sites respectively

in 1992 and 2008, while Preah Reach Troap Dance (Royal Ballet) and Lakhon Sbek Thom (big shadow puppet) were proclaimed masterpieces of Oral and Intangible Heritage of Humanity respectively in 2003 and 2005.

Cambodia Informs Latest Development in Relations with Thailand

The Press and Quick Reaction Unit of the Office of the Council of Ministers of Cambodia has issued a statement informing the public of the latest development in the relations between Cambodia and Thailand.

Below is the full statement dated on Aug. 11:

"The Spokesperson of the Press and Quick Reaction Unit (PRU) of the Office of the Council of Ministers (OCM) is duty-bound to issue this statement informing the national and international public of the fact and the truth surrounding the latest development in the relations between Cambodia and Thailand, which is as follows:

1- As Samdech Akka Moha Sena Padei Techo Hun Sen, Prime Minister of the Kingdom of Cambodia has said recently Mr. Abhisit Vejjajiva, Thai Prime Minister has spoken too much already about the relations between Thailand and Cambodia, and has carried out offending activities against Cambodia prompting Samdech Techo Hun Sen to take bold action to protect the Cambodian nation's supreme interests in conformity with international norms and practices.

2- Uncharacteristic of the leader of a government, member of ASEAN and the United Nations, Mr. Abhisit Vejjajiva

● Had joined Thai groups that behave as the enemy of Cambodia, namely the network of "Thai Patriots," the PAD (or the Yellow Shirts), even if his own government has banned the gathering under the Emergency Law, with the purpose of launching the campaign of intoxication threatening to revoke the 2000 MOU which is a legal and binding international document, and to take the Cambodian territory by force;

● Had ignited time and again the tension with Cambodia, by saying that "the ruling by the International Court of Justice in 1962 only stipulated that Preah Vihear Temple belongs to Cambodia but the adjoining areas belong to Thailand, MCOT online News";

● Had flip flopped on the implementation of the MOU, especially on the demarcation activities of the Joint Border Commission on the Demarcation of Land Boundary (JBC), which Thailand has internationally stalled the progress of JBC works.

3- In response to the real military threat by Thailand, Samdech Akka Moha Sena Padei Techo Hun Sen sent very urgently two letters to H.E. Mr. Vitaly Churkin, President of the United Nations Security Council and to H.E. Dr. Ali Abdussalam Treki, President of the General Assembly of the United Nations informing them about the critical situation created by Thailand in the area of the border between Cambodia and Thailand, near the Temple of Preah Vihear.

4- Realizing that he had committed an offense of international proportion, Thai Prime Minister Abhisit Vejjajiva turned around and shifted the fault to Samdech Techo Hun Sen by saying that "he (Samdech Techo Hun Sen) quotes a sentence from a newspaper report which are not my exact words."

The spokesperson of the Press and Quick Reaction Unit of the Office of the Council of Ministers wishes to bring to the attention of the national and international public that:

1- Had it not been "his exact words", why Mr. Abhisit had not requested the newspapers to correct and set the record straight, up to this date, and especially those "exact words of his" that have national security and international relations implications.

2- Each and every word said by Mr. Abhisit on the issues of the Temple of Preah Vihear, of the border line between Cambodia and Thailand near the Temple of Preah Vihear, of the threat to revoke the MOU 2000, of the threat to use military force, from different media sources in Thailand such as ASTV - ATNN online and the Nation aired and published on August 7 as well as the Thai language newspapers Matichon and Thai Rath published on August 8, 2010 have been recorded by the Press and Quick Reaction Unit (PRU). Are these very well-known media sources can be considered reliable or not? And had Mr. Abhisit would like to hear or read them, then the PRU would play and/or send them over for him.

3- Mr. Abhisit, by his own account, has demonstrated the total lack of credibility of the Thai media. In the meantime, if the Thai media is correct, it proves by this fact that Mr. Abhisit is a liar, a rogue with a very sophisticated manipulative mind.

4- Mr. Abhisit has played with words to project different intentions and schemes of Thailand's territorial ambition on Cambodian land in the area near the Temple of Preah Vihear, from "overlapping area" to "disputed area" and then to "Thailand territory".

5- Mr. Abhisit, by his own account, confirmed that Thailand, between 1975 and 1979, had drawn a new frontier line caring "an area of 4.6 sq km" well deep inside Cambodia, on a mysterious, unilateral and not internationally recognized map, the same way as the Nazis under Hitler and the Fascists under Mussolini had perpetrated during World War II when they wanted to invade and occupy foreign lands.

In summary, the spokesperson of the PRU of the OCM wishes to reiterate once again, that the Abhisit Vejjajiva government has intensified the campaign of intoxication lately, trying to prepare the local and international public option to accept Thailand's use of force against Cambodia. It is to avoid bloodshed and sufferings of the innocent people, Cambodian and Thais that Samdech Akka Moha Sena Padei Techo Hun Sen, Prime Minister of Cambodia sent the letters to the UN and also asked for the international conference to resolve the issue of the border between Cambodia and Thailand, but he has the wisdom to know that Thailand would not dare to accept it, and would insist to use bilateral means to solve the problem, a scheme to use Cambodia as Thailand political hostage in the indefinite political squabble inside Thailand."

International Exercise to Prepare for Severe Pandemics To Be Held in Phnom Penh

ASEAN, the United Nations and the U.S. Agency for International Development (USAID) will host the Southeast Asia Regional Multisectoral Pandemic Preparedness and Response Tabletop Exercise in Phnom Penh from Aug. 16 to 20.

The five-day exercise, a first of its kind anywhere in the world, will focus on managing the impacts of severe pandemics on societies, governments and organizations in the Asia-Pacific region.

This tabletop exercise will help us response on time to the outbreak of any pandemic as well as to natural disasters, said ASEAN Secretary General Surin Pitsuwan.

Representative from nine of the 10 ASEAN member states and observer states, senior representatives and leading experts from regional intergovernmental organizations, UN agencies, other key international bodies and NGOs responding to animal and pandemic influenza will take part in the international event.

The upcoming exercise is expected to attract over 170 high level participants.

U.S. Praises Cambodian Military's Mine Clearance Action

The U.S. Capstone delegation praised and highly valued Cambodia for its military mine clearance mission since 2006.

The appreciation was made known here on Aug. 11 by former General Michael Carns, head of U.S. Capstone delegation during a meeting with General Sem Sovanny, director general of the National Center for Peacekeeping Forces and ERW Clearance (NPMEC).

Cambodia has successfully completed the mine clearance and order-keeping missions in Chad, Sudan, and Republic of Central Africa under the UN umbrella.

In the meeting, General Sem Sovanny profoundly thanked the U.S.' spiritual and material support to Cambodia to successfully achieve its UN mission.

He also said that the historic success of the multinational peacekeeping military exercise hosted recently by Cambodia "Angkor Sentinel 2010" was really inseparable from the U.S. army's support.

IFRC and ICRC To Further Cooperate With CRC

The International Federation of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies (IFRC) and the International Committee of the Red Cross (ICRC) have promised to continue their cooperation with the Cambodian Red Cross (CRC) in this term and the future terms as well.

The promises as cooperation partners were made during a conference of the CRC fifth-term held in Phnom Penh last week.

Andy McElroy, Acting Director of IFRC in Asia-Pacific, said that the IFCR would continue to work together with the CRC in carrying out the newly-developed CRC strategy for 2011-2020 toward success.

He noted that the CRC would become a driving force to

serve the vulnerable people in Cambodia, and the CRC was seen having potentiality to achieve the goals.

For his part, the regional director of ICRC in Bangkok said the ICRC would further cooperate with all members of the new CRC Central Committee, and welcomed the new CRC strategy, especially in improving the operation capacity of CRC branches through the decentralization.

Acting Director of IFRC in Asia-Pacific Andy McElroy said that the best approach for the CRC to be strong was to be closer with and more accountable for the communities.

With the assistance and support from the government and private sector, the CRC will have a number of programs that are better and more actual; and more supporting partners both at home and abroad, Andy McElroy pointed out.

MCC Holding Pte. Ltd. To Fund Construction of Friendship Hospital in Siem Reap

MCC Holding Pte. Ltd. has revealed that it will provide US$120 million to build "Samdech Akka Moha Thamma Pothisal Chea Sim" Friendship Hospital in Siem Reap province.

Speaking at a reception given by Samdech l Chea Sim, the President of the Senate, in Phnom Penh on Monday, Mr. Andrew Tow, representative of MCC Holding Pte. Ltd, said his company would fund the construction of the international-level hospital for people to have standard medical access.

In addition to funding the hospital construction, his company also wishes to assist other projects to meet the need of the Cambodian people, he further said.

Samdech Chea Sim highly appreciated Mr. Andrew Tow and MCC Holding Pte. Ltd. for the decision to provide fund for the hospital construction, which, he said, is the important need of the Cambodians, especially those living in Siem Reap province.

A building contract was signed at the reception by Samdech Chea Sim and the representatives of MCC Holding Pte. Ltd, and the building contractor. The hospital construction is to begin in September 2010 and complete in December 2012.

TOURISM

Tourist Arrivals in Cambodia Increase Over 12 Percent in the First Six Months of This Year

Tourist arrivals in Cambodia increased by over 12 percent to 1,221,156 in the first six months of this year if compared to the same period last year, said Tourism Minister H.E. Thong Khon at a meeting held here on Aug. 9. This is a trend towards a growth of tourism in the country, he said.

Based on an early survey conducted by the ministry, with the 12 percent-growth rate, Cambodia could receive a total of 2.4 million foreign tourists for the whole 2010, he said.

Meanwhile, he said, the number of local tourists reached 7 percent, attributing the growth to the security, political stability, improvement of infrastructure and tourism service, and economic stability in the country.

The success of tourism in the country is due to the effectiveness of the strategy set by the Cambodian premier in a period of global economic recession, he said, adding the strategy included the promotion of tourism, the facilitation of travel and transportation of tourists, the improvement of quality of products, the promotion of domestic tourism, the protection and maintenance of security and safety.