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to United States of America

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CONTENTS

- 2 Cambodian DPM Sok An Speaks About Preah Vihear's Developments
- 3 PM Hun Sen. Cambodia Opens Wide Door to Singaporean Investors
- 5 Duch Sentenced to 35 Years of Imprisonment
- UN Expert Praises for Report of ECCC Independent Counselor
- 6 U.S. Senate Committee on Foreign Relations Support ECCC Sentencing Duch
- 8 Investment Value Reaches US\$1.078 Million

POLITICS

Ex-U.S. Ambassadors to Cambodia meet with Cambodian King and PM



His Majesty Norodom Sihamoni, the King of Cambodia, granted on July 23 a royal audience to a delegation of ex-U.S. ambassadors to Cambodia and U.S. embassy's officials, led by U.S. Ambassador Ms. Carol A. Rodley.

The delegation includes ex-U.S. Ambassador to Cambodia H.E. Charles A. Ray, ex-U.S. Ambassador H.E. Ken Wiedemann, ex-U.S. Ambassador H.E. Joseph Mussomeli, deputy head of U.S. diplomatic mission in Cambodia Mr. Theodore Allegra and other U.S. embassy's officials.

His Majesty expressed thanks to the U.S. government leaders and people, mainly ex-U.S. ambassadors and current U.S. Ambassador to Cambodia, for the efforts in contributing to boosting the diplomatic ties between the two nations in 60 years.

In reply, the ex-U.S. ambassador to Cambodia recalled the good souvenirs of diplomatic ties between the two countries in the past 60 years and also appreciated Cambodia for the rapid progress under the cool shade of His Majesty, making Cambodian society get peace, hospitality and harmony.

Later that day, the U.S. delegations met with Prime Minister Samdech Techo Hun Sen.



Ex-U.S. Ambassador to Cambodia H.E. Charles A. Ray was impressed with the progress of Cambodia when he returned here.

He also appreciated the Cambodian premier for his correct leadership in the national development.

U.S. Ambassador to Cambodia Ms. Carol A. Rodley, who led ex-U.S. ambassador to visit the Cambodian premier, thanked the Cambodian royal government for helping arrange a celebration to mark the 60th anniversary of Cambodia-U.S. diplomatic relation establishment in Phnom Penh, thus contributing to boosting the ties of relationship and bilateral cooperation between the two countries.

The Cambodian prime minister said of the royal government's commitment to the reform, good governance and the promotion of agriculture in turning the country into the third one for rice export in Asia.

Cambodian DPM Sok An Speaks High About Preah Vihear's Developments



Minister of Culture of Brazil and President of the World Heritage Committee, Juca Ferreira, at the meeting with the Deputy Prime Minister, Dr. Sok An

Cambodian Deputy Prime Minister H.E. Dr. Sok An told reporters late Wednesday that

Cambodia has done a lot of works for the developments of the Khmer Preah Vihear Temple since it was listed by World Heritage Committee in July 2008, according to the Press and Quick Reaction Unit of the Council of Ministers.

H.E. Dr. Sok An, said "We have established National Authority for Preah Vihear to ensure the Temple is preserved and conserved so that it will attract more tourists in the future. We are building three roads which linked from the Temple to east, west and northeast," A 280 km-long road links Preah Vihear province to Kampong Thom province expected to complete by the end of 2010. Another 200 km-long one links from the area of the Temple to Siem Reap province, the home of Angkor and the country's largest tourist destination. The third road links Preah Vihear to other northeast Cambodian provinces.

Cambodia achieved a great deal in term of restoration works at the Temple and the surrounding areas of the Temple since it was inscribed on World Heritage list in July 7, 2008.

He also said that Cambodia will transform Preah Vihear province to one of the country's tourist destination given the area has high potential of eco and cultural tourism. An estimated 240 ancient temples in Preah Vihear province alone, over 200 bird species were found living there.

The Khmer archeological artifacts, of the pre-and post Angkorian periods, are displayed at the Eco-Global Samdech Techo

Hun Sen Museum. He said the museum's exhibitions also showed the culture of Khmer minority, Kuy, who pioneered in making weapons of arrows as tools to defense territory at the time. He said there are 275 temples are discovered in the province of Preah Vihear alone. Orchid gardens of growing plants for producing some sort of traditional medicines will also made, he said. "Preah Vihear will no longer as remote province." He also called the international community to help Cambodia to set up another International Co-ordinating Committee (ICC) project for Preah Vihear Temple. ICC has been established since 1992 for the Safeguarding and Development of the Historic Site of Angkor.

He rejected Thais claimed 4.6 square km near the Temple as baseless given Thailand used "secret and mysterious map", such "unilateral map" which is not recognized internationally. International Court of Justice in The Hague on June 15, 1962 ruled that: the Temple of Preah Vihear is situated in territory under the sovereignty of Cambodia. The court also found that Thailand is under 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, and Thailand is under an obligation to restore to Cambodia any objects of the kind specified in the Cambodia's fifth submission which may, since the date of the occupation of the Temple by Thailand in 1954, have been removed from the Temple or the Temple area by the Thai authority.

Foreign Diplomatic Corps Visit Preah Vihear Temple



Some 20 representatives of foreign diplomatic corps to Cambodia – Britain, Australia, Cuba, the Philippines, Myanmar, Laos and Vietnam – visited the Preah Vihear Temple area, Preah Vihear province on July 25.

On the occasion, Gen. Chea Dara, deputy commander-in-chief of the Royal Cambodian Armed Forces in charge of Military Region 4, briefed the guests on the Thai troops' invasion on Cambodia since July 15, 2008 after the Khmer 12th century ancient Preah Vihear Temple was inscribed as a World Heritage Site on July 7, 2008 by the UNESCO's World Heritage Committee.

He further underlined the government's determination to develop the border areas.

Gen. Chea Dara took the opportunity to thank all friendly countries for their support for the development of Cambodia, especially for the RCAF's reform program.

PM Hun Sen, Cambodia Opens Wide Door to Singaporean Investors

Cambodian Prime Minister has promised to give priority to Singaporean investors for their investments in Cambodia,

underlining that they can partner with local investors to boost up the investments in the opportune potentiality.



Prime Minister Samdech Akka Moha Sena Padei Techo Hun Sen expressed the promise at an important economic forum in Singapore on July 26 during his three-day official visit (July 25-27, 2010) to the country at the invitation of Singaporean Premier Lee Hsien Loong.

The visit is intended for promoting the relationships, friendship and bilateral cooperation, and for upgrading trade and investment between the two countries.

The prime minister invited the Singaporean businessmen who had never visited Cambodia to make business fact-finding visits in order to take the investment opportunity.

According to World Bank report 2009, Cambodia was classified in the first rank among 29 countries for the Government and private sector discussion.

In reference to the report, Prime Minister Samdech Techo Hun Sen urged the Singaporean and Cambodian investors to actively participate in such a mechanism, saying that despite having obtained considerably good results, the Royal Government would further endeavored to cut

down the unnecessary formalities and procedures to facilitate the investors and reduce the cost price in doing businesses in Cambodia, especially relating to the strengthening of good governance and the reduction of transport and electricity costs.

In addition to the aforementioned potential sectors, the prime minister underlined that Cambodia opens its economy to foreign direct investment in all sectors, that is, banking, insurance, and telecommunications, which, he said, a number of countries in the world do not give one-hundred (100) percent right to any foreign company in these sensitive sectors without the participation of local partners.

Cambodia-Singapore relationship has, so far this year, lasted for 45 years. In 2009 the volume of trade exchange amounted to US\$690 million, of which US\$481.8 million was the export to Singapore from Cambodia. The investment from Singapore has since 1994 totaled US\$570 million.

PM's Visit to Singapore Is a Success

The premier's visit to Singapore brought a lot of benefits for the nation and the people, said Deputy Prime Minister and Foreign Minister H.E. Hor Namhong at a press conference on Tuesday upon the return of Prime Minister Samdech Akka Moha Sena Padei Techo Hun Sen from Singapore.

This visit particularly focused on Singapore's investment in Cambodia, he explained.

Singapore, which saw a high economic growth – an increase of 17 percent in the first six months of this year, is an economic partner of Cambodia, said H.E. Hor Namhong.



In the first semester of 2010, the trade exchange volume between the two countries reached over US\$1,000 million, or an increase of 62 percent, and the investment from Singapore increased eight folds in 2009, he pointed out.

During his stay in Singapore from July 25 to 27, the Cambodian premier held bilateral talks with his Singaporean counterpart H.E. Lee Hsien Loong. Both sides exchanged views on economic development and global and regional situation.

On July 26, at an economic forum, Samdech Techo Hun Sen has promised to give priority to Singaporean investors for their investments in Cambodia, underlining that they can partner with local investors to boost up the investments in the opportune potentiality.

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Cambodia and Singapore will celebrate next month the 45th

anniversary of the establishment of their bilateral ties.

PM Meets CEO of Head City Group of the Republic of Korea



Prime Minister Samdech Akka Moha Sena Padei Techo Hun Sen received here today Mr. Hyung Joo Kim, CEO of the Head City Group of the Republic of Korea.

In the meeting, Mr. Kim informed the Cambodian premier of the Angkor resort project in Siem Reap provincial town, which aims at contributing to developing Cambodia, providing jobs to Cambodian people and contributing to the humanitarian activities of the Cambodian Red Cross, Ieng Sophelet, assistant to Samdech Techo Hun Sen told reporters upon the meeting.

The resort will house hotels, condominiums, golf course, shopping malls, commercial, entertainment and health centers, parks, and other infrastructures, Mr. Kim said.

Some US\$200 million will be spent for the first phase to begin in October this year and to be due for completion in 2012, he added.

In reply, the Cambodian prime minister expressed his support to this development project, and encouraged the company to cooperate with the

Cambodian Development Council for the success of the project.

U.S. Pledges to Provide US\$ 187 Million for the Lower Mekong Countries

On the sidelines of the 43rd ASEAN Ministerial Meeting (AMM) in Hanoi, the U.S. promised to provide US\$187 million for the development of the Lower Mekong countries – Cambodia, Laos, Thailand and Vietnam, a Cambodian high-ranking official said on July 24 upon the return of the Cambodian delegation from Vietnam.

Mrs. Soeun Rothcharei, Secretary of State for the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and International Cooperation said during the meeting between the Lower Mekong countries' foreign ministers and U.S. Secretary of States Mrs. Hillary Rodham Clinton, the U.S. pledged to grant US\$187 million for the region's development in 2010.

Of the total amount, US\$147 million will be use for health projects, US\$22 million for environmental programs and US\$18 million for education and training, she said.

In the ASEAN-Japan foreign ministers' meeting, Japan showed its commitment to continue to support the efforts in building ASEAN Community and reducing the development gap in ASEAN. Japan will extend 800 million Yen, approximately US\$9 million, to support the ASEAN linking infrastructure development plan, she pointed out.

For its part, New Zealand in a separate meeting promised to

provide annually 170 scholarships for ASEAN students to continue their studies in New Zealand.

The ASEAN and S. Korean foreign ministers agreed to increase the ASEAN-S. Korea trade exchange volume to US\$150 billion by 2015.

Besides, at the request of the Cambodian Foreign Minister H.E. Hor Namhong, the ASEAN foreign ministers agreed to set up ASEAN-India senior officials to further promote ASEAN-Indian cooperation, she added.

Duch Sentenced to 35 Years of Imprisonment



Kaing Guek Eav, alias Duch, ex-Khmer Rouge chief of the notorious S-21, better known as Tuol Sleng prison, was sentenced today to 35 years of imprisonment after being found guilty of crimes against humanity and grave breaches of the Geneva Conventions of 1949 by the Trial Chamber of the Extraordinary Chambers in the Courts of Cambodia (ECCC).

Kaing Guek Eav had also been charged with national crimes of premeditated murder and torture, punishable before the ECCC under Article 3 (new) of the ECCC Law.

Kaing Guek Eav was convicted of crimes against humanity (persecution on political grounds) (incorporating various other crimes against humanity,

including extermination, imprisonment and torture), as well as numerous grave breaches of the Geneva Conventions of 1949, for which, by a majority, the Chamber imposed a single, consolidated sentence of 35 (thirty-five) years of imprisonment. In deciding on an appropriate sentence, the Chamber noted a number of aggravating features, in particular the gravity of the offences, which were perpetrated against at least 12,272 victims over a prolonged period.

The Chamber decided that there are significant mitigating factors that mandated the imposition of a finite term of imprisonment rather than one of life imprisonment. These factors include cooperation with the Chamber, admission of responsibility, limited expressions of remorse, the coercive environment in Democratic Kampuchea, and the potential for rehabilitation.

Following an earlier decision of the Chamber of June 15, 2009, the Chamber considered that a reduction in the above sentence of 5 (five) years was appropriate given the violation of Kaing Guek Eav's rights occasioned by his illegal detention by the Cambodian Military Court between May 10, 1999 and July 30, 2007. Kaing Guek Eav is further entitled to credit for time already spent in detention, under the authority both of the Cambodian Military Court and the ECCC.

Besides Duch, there are still four other senior Khmer Rouge leaders under detention at the ECCC, awaiting their trials – former head of state Khieu Samphan, national assembly

president Nuon Chea, deputy prime minister and foreign minister Ieng Sary and his wife, minister of social affairs Ieng Thirith.

UN Expert Praises for Report of ECCC Independent Counselor

A UN secretary-general's special expert in charge of the International Criminal Court has highly evaluated the report drawn up by the Independent Counselor at the Extraordinary Chambers in the Courts of Cambodia (ECCC) Mr. Uth Chhorn.

This is a good report contributing to help the ECCC in seeking funds for the smooth running of this UN-backed court, said Mr. Clint Williamson during his meeting with Mr. Uth Chhorn, also auditor general of Cambodia, on July 27 in Phnom Penh.

According to Prum Vichet Sophoan, a director of the National Audit Authority, the report, already published, details the independent counselor's works related to plaintiffs.

Under the agreement between the Royal Government of Cambodia and the UN, the independent counselor at the ECCC shall carry out his or her responsibilities impartially, independently and confidentially, and provide counselling to staff confidentially raised with him or her.

The UN secretary-general's special expert in charge of the International Criminal Court, Mr. Clint Williamson, paid a visit to Cambodia from July 20 to 28. His visit focused on fund request for the ECCC or the Khmer Rouge Tribunal.

It is noted that the Khmer Rouge Tribunal needs some US\$10 million in 2010 and US\$39 million in 2011 to ensure its smooth running process.

Donors Welcome the Completion of Duch's Trial

France and Japan, the Co-Chairs of Friends of the Extraordinary Chambers in the Courts of Cambodia (ECCC), have welcomed the completion of Duch's trial.

"The donors welcome the completion of the trial in the Trial Chamber for case 001, Monday 26th of July, against Kaing Guek Eav, known as Duch, former director of the detention center S21 in Phnom Penh for crimes against humanity, grave breaches of the Geneva Conventions, homicide and torture," said the Co-Chairs of Friends in a statement dated July 26 on behalf of the donors to the ECCC.

The donors recognize the commitment of the national and international judges as well as all those working for the ECCC and their independent and comprehensive work, in order to uphold high standards of law and due process, it said.

More than 30 years after the atrocities committed under the Khmer Rouge regime, this judgment gives hope that the ECCC will ultimately fulfill its promise as a vehicle for justice and national reconciliation for all Cambodians, said the statement, stressing that the donors reaffirm their confidence in and support for the ECCC in delivering justice to the Cambodian people and in

helping Cambodia strengthen further its efforts for the rule of law."

U.S. Senate Committee on Foreign Relations Support ECCC Sentencing Duch



Senator John Kerry, Chairman of U.S. Senate Committee on Foreign Relations has released

the statement in response to the ECCC sentencing Duch to 19 years in prison.

The full message dated July 26, 2010 reads as following:

"Today's sentencing helps deliver an important message that we must steadfastly pursue justice for the victims of the world's most horrific crimes. The conviction of the head of the Khmer Rouge's most infamous prison represents a history, if delayed, step forward for Cambodia. While not without its imperfections, the trial has allowed thousands of Cambodians to witness and participate in judicial proceedings for the unspeakable atrocities suffered by millions.

I support the ECCC as it moves forward with its investigations and urge all involved to ensure the process lives up to and reflects the imperatives of justice, transparency, and reconciliation for the Cambodian people. These proceedings have touched an entire generation of

Cambodians. Some participated directly in the trial as civil parties, tens of thousands of other attended in person, and millions more followed along on TV, radio, or the Internet. The families of Duch's victims have been given the chance to face their abuser and confront their country's traumatic past. I look to this process not only provide justice, but to allow some closure for the families of the victims."

Duch is the former leader of the infamous Tuol Sleng prison camp run by the Khmer Rouge movement in the late 1970s, and he oversaw the systematic torture and execution of approximately 14,000 people. Chairman Kerry played a role in the creation of the Khmer Rouge tribunal, traveling to Cambodia on a number of occasions to help structure the tribunal in ways acceptable to both the Cambodian government and the United Nations.

Cambodia hosting the 5th Cambodia Import-Export and One-Province-One-Product Exhibition 2010

The Cambodian Ministry of Foreign Affairs and International Cooperation has addressed a message to all diplomatic missions accredited to the country, informing them that Cambodia will host the 5th Cambodia Inport-Export and One-Province-One-Product Exhibition 2010.

The full message dated July 23 reads as follows:

"The Ministry of Foreign Affairs and International Cooperation presents its compliment

to all Diplomatic Missions accredited to the Kingdom of Cambodia and has the honour to inform the latter that the 5th Cambodia Import-Export and One-Province-One-Product Exhibition 2010 will be held from 15 to 18 December 2010 at the Koh Pich Center, Phnom Penh.

On the sidelines of this Exhibition, a Business and Investment Forum, Business Meetings, Seminar on Trade Promotion and music performances will also be organized.”

Cambodia's New Reaction Against Leader of PAD

The Office of the Spokesperson of the Press and Quick Reaction of the Office of the Council of Ministers of Cambodia has once again released a statement in reaction against the leader of Thai PAD, Sondhi Limthongkun.

The full statement reads as follows:

“The Office of the spokesperson of the Press and Quick Reaction Unit (PRU) of the Office of the Council of Ministers of the Royal Government of Cambodia has found out that Mr. Sondhi Limthongkun is becoming a raving lunatic, expert at disseminating innuendo, suggestion and speculation with his dark intention to distort the facts, mislead the public opinion, pitch the people against one and another, incite the Thai ordinary people to entertain enmity against Thailand's neighbors, especially Cambodia. It does not have to wait for too long. On 16 July 2010, four days after our previous STATEMENT, Sondhi Limthongkun, leader of the PAD (the Yellow Shirts), in the

Thailand's weekly political program broadcast over ASTV from 20:30 to 23:00 has confirmed that he is undeniably a raving lunatic.

1- It had been a total of seven times that Sondhi Limthongkun had implied that they were the weakness and the fault of Thai monarchy which had caused the losses of Thai territories. Had Sondhi Limthongkun not been the political mouthpiece of Thailand Prime Minister Abhisit Vejjajiva, he would have been dragged into jail for lese-majesty.

2- It is a typical Sondhi Limthongkun's spreading and spraying of misinformation when he referred to the 1904 Convention without mentioning the true content of this legal document signed between France and Siam. Had he read at least Article I and Article III, had he understood international law, Sondhi Limthongkun would have been less arrogant and less pretentious. Previous Thai statesmen (Prince Vongsamahip, Mr. Seni Pramoj) and all the “big” Thai lawyers (Prof. Rolin, Mr. James Nevins Hyde, Sir Frank Soskice) had embarrassingly failed to convince the International Court of Justice (ICJ) that Article I constitute the entire 1904 Convention. The Office of the Spokesperson of PRU (OSPRU) challenges Sondhi Limthongkun to read Article I and Article III, if not, the entire 1904 Convention in Thai, on ASTV. And to add to the pain and misery of Sondhi Limthongkun, it is no less opportune to teach this Thai political leader and others that the Cambodian team of lawyers (Mr. Dean Acheson, Prof. Roger Pinto, Prof. Paul Reuter) had presented solid arguments against the same

diatribe of the Thai lunatic politician. And the conclusion is “The 1904 Convention, the operation of the ‘Mixed Commission,’ and the Map (The ANNEX 1 map) built up into an insoluble chain and constitute the title (legal ownership) of Cambodia over the Temple of Preah Vihear. Sondhi Limthongkun's misleading information similar to the ones incessantly done by other Thai politicians of his kind is ‘déjà vu’ arguments easy to shoot down.

3- The Office of the Spokesperson of the PRU challenges Sondhi Limthongkun to produce the international legal proof of the Thai's ownership of the Cambodian territories which Sondhi Limthongkun and Abhisit Vejjajiva have claimed that Thailand has lost to Cambodia. Actually, in the first half of the 19th century, the Siameses behaved as bandits, land robbers, invaders and occupiers of Cambodian territories. Speaking about Cambodia only (and leave for those who are authoritative in speaking about Malaysia and Myanmar to open the mind of Sondhi Limthongkun to the facts and the realities) the OSPRU could not hold back not to admonish Sondhi Limthongkun and other Thai politicians alike that Thais cannot lose anything that does not belong to them in the first place.

Once again, the Office of the Spokesperson of the PRU urges Thai political figures to put an end to the malicious campaign of innuendo, suggestion and speculation to fault Cambodia and to raise the enmity of Thai people towards Cambodia for their personal political gains in the midst of the squabbling among Thai

politicians and the deep division of Thai society. Cambodia is abided by international laws and agreements and will utilize them to

the utmost of her ability to protect herself against injustice. Yet, being neighbors, the Kingdom of Cambodia always wishes to

maintain bilateral and friendly relations with the Kingdom of Thailand.”

Economy

Cambodia's Bank Deposits, Loans Increase in First 6 Months 2010



Cambodia's banking industry continues to grow in both deposits and loans in the first half of this year, Chinese News Agency Xinhua quoted Chea Chanto, the governor of the National Bank of Cambodia (NBC) as saying on Monday.

“By the end of June, customers' deposits in commercial banks increased by 15 percent to US\$3.88 billion from US\$3.3 billion in December last year and loans to customers increased by 9.8 percent to US\$2.77 billion from US\$2.5 billion in the end last year,” said Chea Chanto in the opening remark of the six-month meeting on banking industry on Monday.

As of today, Cambodia has 28 commercial banks, 6 specialized banks, 3 representative offices, 22 licensed microfinance institutions.

“Cambodia economy adheres mainly to the global economy, and

the global economy is recovering faster than expectation, thus Cambodia's economy is forecast to grow by 5 percent this year and 7 percent next year,” he said.

Chea Chanto said that foreign reserves have increased by 18 percent to US\$2.9 billion at the end of June this year from US\$2.45 billion in June last year.

Investment Value Reaches US\$1.078 Million in First Semester 2010

In the first six months of this year, the total investment value in Cambodia reached over US\$1,078 million, a Cambodian Development Council's report said.

The foreign direct investment in Cambodia amounted to US\$917.4 million, while the local investment totaled some US\$161.4 million.

China is the biggest investor in the Kingdom in the first semester of 2010 with US\$529.9 million followed by Malaysia (US\$109.9 million), Vietnam (US\$83.4 million), Australia (US\$49.7 million), Taiwan (US\$41.5 million) and S. Korea (US\$35.3 million).

Besides, the U.S., Denmark, the United Kingdom,

Hong Kong, Singapore and Thailand have been also investing in Cambodia.

It is noted that for the first six months of 2009, the total investment value in Cambodia amounted to more than US\$1,216 million.

Cambodia's Export to South Korea Increases 258.7 Percent

Cambodia's export to South Korea increased 258.7 percent during the first six months of 2010, while Korea's export to Cambodia increased only 22 percent, General Director of Korean Trade-Investment Promotion Agency Mr. Gwang-Ho Lee said yesterday.

The total Cambodia-South Korea trade exchange volume in this first semester of 2010 reached some US\$176 million, he said.

The South Korean main products exported to Cambodia were raw materials for Korean textile industry in the country, machineries, cars, clothes, food, agricultural chemical fertilizers, pharmacy, etc., while Cambodia's products exported to South Korea were garment and forest products, food, shoes, etc.

