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## C. DEVELOPMENTS IN CAMBODIA

## Khieu Samphan's Speech at Anniversary Meeting

Phnom Penh home service 2300 gmt 15 Apr 77

Text of recorded speech by Khieu Samphan, President of the State Presidium of Democratic Cambodia, at 15th April mass meeting in Phnom Penh marking the second anniversary of the 17th April victory and the birth of Democratic Cambodia.

Allow me to express the most profound salutations to all friends present here today at this meeting to celebrate, along with our people throughout the country, the second anniversary of our great 17th April victory, the second anniversary of the birth of our Democratic Cambodia and the festival of our traditional New Year.

This triple occasion reminds us of the sublime heroism of our workers, peasants and revolutionary army. On this occasion we meditate with great emotion and profound revolutionary sentiments on our late worker-peasant heroes and the comrades-in-arms, male and female combatants and cadres, who made all kinds of sacrifices in the arduous, complicated, tortuous and difficult struggle until the country was completely and definitively liberated and until the complete and definitive liberation of the worker-peasant class which has now become the true master of the country and of its own destiny.

At all times, and particularly on this occasion, we always ask ourselves whether we have anything with which to repay the good service rendered by our heroes, our comrades-in-arms, male and female combatants and cadres, who courageously sacrificed their lives for the cause of liberating the nation and people. To repay the good service of our heroes, all of us firmly pledge before the memory of our people and army to carry on the tradition left behind by our heroes who fought courageously in the recent past. We pledge to carry out diligently all revolutionary tasks of our heroes in order to contribute, along with our people throughout the country, to defending the nation, preserving our worker-peasant administration, protecting our revolutionary gains and building our Democratic Cambodia to the best of our ability. We pledge to fulfil this task with a high sense of responsibility, exerting our utmost efforts to carry it out successfully.

The blood shed by our people and revolutionary army will certainly impel all of us further to strengthen and develop our revolutionary stand, transforming it into a greater force in performing revolutionary duties during the current era. Now, after driving out all US imperialists and their lackeys of all stripes from our country, our workers and peasants and our revolutionary army have become the undisputable masters of our country and administration. During the past two years, under the correct and clear-sighted leadership of our revolutionary organization, our workers, peasants and revolutionary army have scored many other great achievements, especially those which clearly attest to our great capability, both in the field of defending our country and administration and in the field of comprehensive national rehabilitation based on the principles of independence and self-reliance.

The comprehensive victories won during the past two years were of a militant, significant and audacious character and were achieved through persistent struggle over a thousand and one obstacles. In the field of defending Democratic Cambodia, protecting our worker-peasant administration and preserving our Cambodian revolutionary fruits, we were able to do so completely, exercising mastery and without complications or worries, since our army, with the co-operation of our union workers, co-operative peasants and various bases, had allowed no enemy to infiltrate our territory or territorial waters or to sabotage our Cambodian revolution, whether from outside or from within.

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Not only did we succeed in defending Democratic Cambodia and protecting the worker-peasant administration, but we managed to defend everything belonging to us and even to create much better and more reliable conditions for future defence tasks. Our national defence situation is improving each year. In particular, the situation in 1977 is far better than that in 1976, thus allowing us to strengthen and further expand our worker-peasant administration.

Immediately after liberation, when we suffered untold difficulties as we had just emerged from the devastating US imperialists' war, the enemy failed to cause us any serious trouble. Today, the enemy certainly cannot do us any harm. This is our firm belief, stemming from concrete, practical evidence. However, we must carry on the task of defending our Democratic Cambodia, protecting our worker-peasant administration and preserving the fruits of our Cambodian revolution by resolutely suppressing all categories of enemies, preventing them from committing aggression, interference or subversion against us. We must wipe out the enemy in our capacity as masters of the situation, following the lines of domestic policy, foreign policy and military policy of our revolutionary organization. Everything must be done neatly and thoroughly. We must not become absent-minded, careless or forgetful because of past victories. On the contrary, we must further steel ourselves, remain alert, constantly maintain the spirit of revolutionary vigilance and continue to fight and suppress all stripes of enemy at all times.

In the field of nation building, we have also achieved important victories during the past two years. Shortly after we emerged from the war, we were empty-handed and deprived of food, tools and cattle. We suffered untold hardships. Still, we succeeded in restoring the economy and rebuilding the country independently and self-reliantly.

This is a great lesson, a great experience. In 1976 we managed to solve our problems and fulfil the production plan. As a result, we harvested a good crop for 1977. Now we can feed our people a sufficient ration allocated by the State. We even have a surplus of grain for export. Therefore, this should be recorded in our history. We have managed to prevail because we adhere to the stand of complete self-reliance and independence and to our high sense of patriotism and lofty revolutionary spirit.

Let us consider the results of the implementation of the first three months of our revolutionary organization's 1977 plan. We can see that the results far exceed those of 1976. Our people have become more enthusiastic and seething in their struggle to build the country. First, our workers and peasants are increasingly content with their new administration. The poor and lower-middle peasants are content; so are the middle peasants. Beside this, those of the other classes from Phnom Penh who are also patriotic, now see more clearly that this administration is correct, highly patriotic and independent. They become increasingly aware that following the line of independence is not easy. They know that this road is certainly not strewn with roses, and shortcomings are not unknown, but it is an honourable, noble road. Therefore, they become more determined.

For this reason, profound changes have occurred in our national society. Along with this, our forces are increasing; food is sufficient; the people's health is better than before; there are more drugs and medicines than before; the cattle herd is larger than in 1976; various tools and equipment are better and more widely available than in 1976. At the same time, we are also more experienced; we can organize our forces better; our manpower is more disciplined; work is carried out better through shifts and schedules and there are rest hours to enable workers to renew their strength.

Therefore, the thrust to build our country in 1977 is more powerful than in 1976. Some of our progressive production corps have already fulfilled the 1977 plan, such as the salt production corps. This corps is fulfilling the 1977 plan by 160%. Therefore, we now have sufficient salt to meet the needs of our people. Salt is one of the strategic products which used to give us difficulty. Now, we can solve this difficulty. This is another great victory we have achieved.

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Another progressive corps is that of rubber production. This corps has already fulfilled its quarterly plan 100%. Rubber is an important product for export. It is second only to rice as a hard currency earner to finance our nation building efforts. Therefore, the efficient implementation of our revolutionary organization's 1977 plan should be seen as another great victory for us.

Furthermore, at every construction site where dams are being built and reservoirs and ditches are dug, many corps have already finished their 1977 plans. They are now helping other units to complete their work on other fronts. These progressive corps can be seen in every region, sector and district. So far, many construction sites have fulfilled from 60 to 70% of the work. At this rate, several canal-digging projects will be 100% completed by the end of April. Across the nation, all construction sites will fulfil the 1977 plan by the end of May. These projects include dams for watering the fields all the year round and containing the water of Prek Thnot, Chinit and other streams. Moreover, we have built or are building large reservoirs of hundreds of millions of cubic metres and medium and small reservoirs of 20,000,000 cu.m. and 10,000,000 cu.m. respectively. At the same time, we are also building many pumping stations.

Therefore, we can see that our countryside is undergoing tremendous changes. Each construction site of a reservoir, canal or dam is manned by as many as 10,000, 20,000 or even 30,000 workers. For this reason, the work progresses quickly. In our Cambodian countryside, the months of March and April used to be very dry. In many places there now flourish thousands of hectares of dry season rice; water is flowing freely; and with water, the scenery is fresh, the plants are fresh, life is fresh and people smiling.

Have these achievements been made possible by machines? No, we have no machines. We do everything by mainly relying on the strength of our people. We work completely self-reliantly. This shows the overwhelming heroism of our people. This also shows the great forces of our people. Though barehanded, they can do everything. They were powerful when they waged the war against the aggressor US imperialists, and they are powerful in their drive to build the nation.

The movement to collect fertilizer is also gaining great momentum. There are alluvial, animal, vegetable and other types of fertilizer. Millions of tons of these soil additives are being collected in each sector. Not a single cent has been spent on importing fertilizers. On average, three tons of fertilizer are spread over one hectare of land. In some areas, more is added.

The cattle and buffalo are our closest comrades-in-arms in the nation-building campaign. This year, our cattle are very healthy and fat because we have organized forces to take better care of them than last year. These forces are employed to look for grass, build stables and maintain smoking logs [to keep mosquitoes away from cattle at night]. If our cattle work hard, we can build our country rapidly since we use no machines to fulfil our tasks. We rely on the power of cattle and buffalo - this and our stand of independence and self-reliance. Later, when we have much bigger funds, we will get the machines gradually to help our forces. At the same time, we will strive to build various tools and machines ourselves. We will go from having nothing to having something, from little to plenty and from small to big. This is the nation-building line of our revolutionary organization, a line that is independent and self-reliant. Great progress has also been made in the field of insecticide production.

What changes have been brought to the daily life of our people? The people's living conditions are directly related to the national defence efforts of Democratic Cambodia, to all endeavours aimed at consolidating and expanding our worker-peasant administration, and to our nation-building efforts. Our country has a small population, making it necessary for us rapidly to strengthen and expand our population, protect the existing forces, feed the existing forces and expand new forces. This is the political line dictated by our revolutionary organization. Therefore, we must nurture our people. A sufficient amount of three, two and a half, or two small tin cans [of rice] is allocated daily. Moreover, there is dessert. In the past, how many times did the poor and

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lower-middle peasants eat sweet foods per month? Very rarely. They could afford only green guava and other fruits. On average they now eat dessert three times a month, which is sufficient to take care of their health and fatten them up. How is the health of our people at present? In general, their health is good - both the veterans of the liberated zone and the newcomers are alike. You cannot tell the old peasants from the newcomers. Malaria is also much less of a problem than in previous years. This is because, on the one hand, our regimen is sufficient, our workers enjoy adequate rest hours and our medicines have become increasingly available; on the other hand, we have implemented a series of anti-malarial programmes. For this reason, this year's grain harvest was carried out by almost all the working forces. Unlike the previous year, we could harvest rapidly.

Hospitals: All co-operatives have their own hospitals and laboratories for compounding medicines. These laboratories can be seen in all co-operatives, districts, sectors, regions and in Phnom Penh. There are pharmaceutical laboratories everywhere, and although they remain primitive, we have already made preparations for their expansion and upgrading. Moreover, in Phnom Penh our comrades are learning medical techniques more extensively. There are obstetricians, surgeons, dentists, ophthalmologists and ear, nose and throat specialists. Therefore, with every passing year we have gained more and more medical expertise so as to serve our people more efficiently.

Clothes: We are not yet at the stage of being stylish or well-dressed, but we have sufficient clothes. Therefore, we can say that the living conditions of our poor and lower-middle peasants are much improved.

As regards housing, we have also begun to build houses according to plans. Each district sector and region has its own housing projects to provide homes for the people. The number of units to be built annually depends on the materials available in each locality. In some places, beautiful houses are built and allocated to families. Our new co-operatives are gradually taking shape.

In the field of culture: Is there any schooling in our country? Of course, there is; but our education is mainly carried out within the frameworks of our workers' unions at various factories, within the frameworks of our peasants' co-operatives and within the frameworks of each unit of our revolutionary army.

Our goal is to eradicate illiteracy. The old as well as the children, and especially the children, must learn. It is necessary for our workers and peasants to know how to read and calculate. This is compulsory because it is necessary for them to learn about politics and technology in order to strengthen and develop our political and technological capability in the future as part of our efforts to defend and build the country, keeping it strong and fit at all times. For this reason, we have gradually published alphabet and arithmetic books. In general, schooling takes place mainly in factories and co-operatives. This method of education keeps the students close to their work and to reality. The educational, literary and cultural policy of our revolutionary organization aims at blending literature and culture together with the ideas of work, production, nationalism, national defence and national construction.

Under the old regime, did the schoolchildren, college students and university graduates know anything about the true natural sciences of our countryside? Could they tell the difference between an early rice crop and a 6th-month rice crop? Did they know when and where rice is to be sown and transplanted? No, they did not. Therefore, we can say that they were separated from reality. Consequently, they could do nothing truly substantial. They relied completely on foreigners, expecting foreign equipment and even foreign experts to do jobs for them. Everything was done according to foreign books and foreign standards. Therefore, it was useless and could not serve the needs of our people, nor could it be of any help to building our nation.

By contrast, our children in the rural areas have always had very useful knowledge. They can tell you which cow is tame and which is skittish. They can mount a buffalo from either side. They are the masters of the herd. They have practically mastered

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nature. They know the different strains of rice like their own pockets. They can tell which is early rice, which is late-maturing rice, which rice requires how many months to ripen and so on. They know how to sow seeds and transplant sprouts. They can tell which is a "low field" and which is an "upper field". They really know and understand. Only this should be called natural science because this type of knowledge is closely connected with the reality of the nation, with the ideas of nationalism, production, national construction and national defence.

Our children do not play with toy cars, toy boats and toy guns which were formerly imported at considerable cost. Our children are happy with driving sparrows away from the crops, tending cattle and buffalo, collecting natural fertilizer and helping to build dams and embankments and dig reservoirs and ditches. Our children have made great progress. They are well disciplined, alert, skilful, brave, but not arrogant or vicious. They love work and production. They love the cattle, buffaloes, fields, orchards, rice field embankments, irrigation ditches, villages, the nation and the people. They respect the people and stay close to them. They are well trained in manual work and farm chores. This is why we praise our children.

The same thing is happening in the towns. Our goal is to keep schooling close to production work. The learning of technology also proceeds on the same pattern, that is, we learn technical skills and implement them while working. Reservoir, ditch and canal-digging techniques have also been mastered in this way, as have factory-building or repair skills. Many reservoirs, canals and ditches that we have now completed would have taken years to finish if we had waited for the so-called agricultural experts of the previous era to build them for us. In those days, there were Japanese, French, British experts in this field. If we had waited, we would have remained deprived of water for rice planting and rice for national construction for years and years to come.

Look at the Prek Thnot dam. We had heard of this project for a long time, but nothing had been done. Last year, we spent only one single month to contain the Stung Prek Thnot stream water which is now used for rice planting in three districts. In 1976 Kompong Speu Khang Tbong's harvest was better than ever before. The people in this sector are now completely self-sufficient in rice, and can even supply some of the surplus to the State for the first time in the history of Kompong Speu.

Therefore, our goal is to work, serve the nation-building movement and learn technical skills at the same time. Whether the dams and reservoirs that we have built last only five or 10 years does not matter. In the five or 10 years to come we shall be much more developed, richer and more experienced than we are now, and we will grasp many more technical skills than we do now.

Thus, with this way of learning, we are able to serve in all fields - military, agricultural and industrial. In the past, here in Phnom Penh, did you ever see any Cambodian operate a lathe? Very rarely. No Cambodian would touch anything that had to do with machinery. Only foreigners were mechanics. Look now! Cambodian children are everywhere. They can do it. We are very pleased with this new trend. This, therefore, is a new stage in the building of our nation's technical ranks. Our worker-peasant class, under the leadership of our revolutionary organization, immediately grasped the technical expertise after it seized political power.

What will be the progress in the next couple of years? Our goal is to transform the existing machinery workshops, repair workshops and spare parts producing workshops into factories. Now, all workshops both in Phnom Penh and in the regions and sectors are undergoing a gradual change in this regard. The same pattern of development is also taking place in other fields, as is the [word indistinct] sector.

The order of the day is to learn surely and work surely. We have mastered basic medical science step by step. We are learning this science more extensively now. In this manner, we foresee a radiant future. In the future, we will progress more rapidly, and not just in a few areas. We will advance quickly in all spheres throughout the country.

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In the field of river transport, we have no iron with which to build ships; we use wood instead. Shipbuilding can be seen both in Phnom Penh and up-country.

In the old days, we bought nearly everything from other countries. Now we are making everything ourselves. If the results are not yet satisfactory, one consolation is that we are striving hard to improve little by little.

All this constitutes our independent economic stand. Our ports are much more efficient, better maintained and more smoothly run than ever before. In efficiency they are not far behind many of the world's larger ports. Foreign freighters docking in our ports have praised us. This shows that technical skill is not the determining factor. The determining factor is, in fact, the political and ideological stand of our fraternal dock workers. Their stand is lofty, their revolutionary ideology firm, their sense of responsibility high, their patriotism sublime, and their determination to protect the nation's honour unquestionable. All this more than compensates for any lack of technical skills.

Each production battlefield, unit and front throughout our country follows this pattern. Therefore, we clearly see that after these past two years of trials, our culture is making progress, our technical know-how is making great headway and our economy is also developing. This is the actual situation of our nation-building drive. Progress is being made on the basis of the principle of complete self-reliance.

Our Cambodian workers, peasants, male and female combatants and cadres are very courageous. They were courageous during the war and they have been courageous since liberation. They have defended the country and built the country well on the stand of complete independence and self-reliance.

In the international arena, we have also achieved important victories. Our Democratic Cambodia is known far and wide. The revolutionary peoples in the world, the Third World peoples fighting for national and popular liberation, our friends far and near who cherish independence, peace and justice, and the great family of non-aligned nations have become increasingly satisfied with, and supported, our Democratic Cambodian stand of independence and self-reliance. For this reason, we can say that all of us have carried on well the revolutionary tasks left behind by our heroes and comrades-in-arms.

We should be proud of our past successes, but we should not become reckless, careless and forgetful because of these achievements. We must, by contrast, become more humble, alert and careful, and respect and follow every line of our revolutionary organization more steadily. If we can do this resolutely, we shall certainly succeed in further strengthening and expanding our successes.

We must uphold our spirit of revolutionary vigilance at all times against the enemy from all quarters, both at home and abroad, to defend Democratic Cambodia, protect the worker-peasant administration and preserve the fruits of our revolution resolutely and permanently. We must continue the struggle on the basis of the principles of independence and self-reliance, and implement and carry out our revolutionary organization's 1977 plan 100% and even more. We must fulfil or overfulfil production plans both within the framework of the overall 1977 plan and within the framework of each production battlefield, front, unit or base.

The production corps which are already progressive should struggle even harder to overfulfil the plan to their fullest capacity. Other corps should emulate those progressive corps and follow their footsteps in order to carry out completely and even overfulfil the 1977 plan so as to contribute, along with our co-operative peasants, to fulfilling and overfulfilling the 1977 rice planting plan.

I would like to conclude this report on the occasion of the second anniversary of the great 17th April victory and the second anniversary of the birth of our Democratic Cambodia here. Before concluding, however, I would like to extend best wishes to all

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friends present here and, through you, I would like to send my greetings and good wishes to our friends - the male and female combatants and cadres throughout the country. May you all enjoy good health and succeed in the tasks of defending the country, protecting the worker-peasant administration and preserving the fruits of our Cambodian revolution and in all efforts to build our Democratic Cambodia. At the same time, allow me to express best wishes to you on the occasion of our traditional New Year.

Long live the second anniversary of the great 17th April victory and the birth of Democratic Cambodia!

#### The Anniversary Meeting in Phnom Penh

Phnom Penh home service 2300 gmt 15 Apr 77

Editorial report:

The mass meeting in Phnom Penh was attended by tens of thousands of representatives of all units of the Cambodian revolutionary army, representatives of the workers from all factories and male and female combatants and cadres from all ministries. It began at 0700 hours with the playing of the national anthem, and ended at 1700.

After Khieu Samphan's speech, a number of representatives spoke at the meeting. They all expressed their firm resolve to "(1) strive vigorously and constantly to fulfil all types of revolutionary tasks in accordance with their individual tasks by big leaps and bounds in order to defend and build the country to make it prosper rapidly; (2) defend Democratic Cambodia, the land, territorial waters, seas, islands, revolutionary gains, the worker-peasant administration, people and revolutionary organization; (3) strive to build dams, reservoirs, ditches and canals to solve the water problem in order successfully to fulfil the 1977 dry season plan; and (4) strive to increase production of all products to the maximum, particularly rice production in order to fulfil and even overfulfil the 1977 plan."

#### Ieng Sary Hosts Anniversary Reception

Phnom Penh home service 2300 gmt 17 Apr 77

Editorial report:

On the second anniversary of the 17th April victory and the birth of Democratic Cambodia, Ieng Sary, Deputy Premier in charge of foreign affairs, hosted a solemn reception at the Phnom Penh guest house on 17th April for all members of diplomatic missions. Among those present were Vorn Vet, Deputy Premier for economic affairs; Son Sen, Deputy Premier for national defence; and Thiounn Thioeunn. Heads of diplomatic missions and their wives as well as staff members from embassies accredited to Democratic Cambodia attended. Deputy Premier Ieng Sary spoke at the reception.

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