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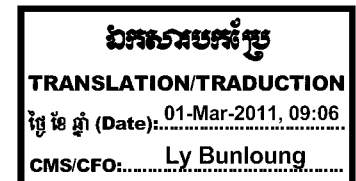
NO. 2803/11

TO: *DIPLOMATIE PARIS*

TRANSMITTED (VIA THE DEPARTMENT) TO: BANGKOK No. 136/44 –  
COLOMBO No. 11/19 – HANOI No. 418/26 – KUALA LUMPUR No. 46/54 –  
MOSCOW No. 1999/2007 – RANGOON No. 34/42 – VIENTIANE No. 148/56 –  
WASHINGTON No. 1982/90

- S E R V I C E S -

SUBJECT: CHEN YUNG-KUEI'S VISIT TO KAMPUCHEA



Chen Yung-Kuei, member of the Political Bureau of the Communist Party of China and Deputy Prime Minister, arrived in Kampuchea the day before yesterday on an official visit, at the head of a small delegation of three high ranking officials from the CPC's department of international relations and of the Deputy Director for Asia at the *Wai Chiao-Pu* [Chinese Ministry of Foreign Affairs]. The wide coverage in the press and on Radio Peking over the past two days leads to the following initial observations:

1) Needless to say, this is a follow-up to Pol Pot's "historic" visit to China in October. In fact, on that occasion, Chen Yung-Huei accompanied the leader of the Cambodian CP to Dazhai. Given his relatively low-key role within the Chinese governing bodies, his visit to Kampuchea is largely symbolic.

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Nonetheless, the composition of his delegation seems to suggest that the talks between the Chinese and Cambodian “brothers in arms” will focus on concrete issues regarding Kampuchea’s politics and diplomacy. The Chinese are expected to urge their interlocutors to continue with their effort of overture towards the moderate countries in the region. We are aware that their policy on invitations, which was inaugurated a week ago with President Ne Win, is due to continue in the coming days with the visit to Phnom Penh of Tengku Rithauddeen (telegram No. 835 from Kuala Lumpur). And I understand that the Sri Lankan Minister of Foreign Affairs has also received an invitation from the Cambodian authorities.

Relations between Cambodia and Vietnam will most likely also be on the agenda of the talks, as a follow-up to the visit to Peking of the Secretary-General of the CPV.

2) Regardless of the reasons behind the visit by the Chinese delegation to Kampuchea, it is already clear that everything will be done on both sides to present it as further evidence of the excellent Sino-Cambodian relations. Upon arrival at the airport on 3 December, Chen Yung-Kuei was received by Ieng Sary and Vorn Vet, both members of the “Standing Committee” of the CPK Central Committee and Deputy Prime Ministers, and by five ministers. The same day, Chen Yung-Kuei had the honour of being received at home by Pol Pot with whom he had “very cordial talks”. The CPK Secretary assured him “that he considers the Chinese Comrades as members of his own family” and invited him to see “as many things as possible” during his visit to the interior of the country, which began yesterday.

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Vorn Vet, who was presiding over the welcome banquet, paid tribute to the “strong brotherly and revolutionary friendship” between the two countries, as evidenced by the “frequent reciprocated visits”, before going to praise the “Learn from Dazhai” movement and the “Four Modernisations”. Chen Yung-Kuei responded to the same effect, citing first the contribution of Pol Pot’s visit to China “to the growth of militant solidarity and revolutionary friendship between the parties, armies (sic) and peoples of China and Kampuchea”, as well as “the remarkable successes” achieved through the “hard work” of the Kampuchean people in the field of agriculture, rightfully considered as “the foundation” of the development of the national economy. The speaker then made two lengthy remarks concerning the “excellent situation” prevailing in China and again reiterated the “strong, genuine” Sino-Cambodian friendship, saying that “no force in the world can destroy it.”

3) Pol Pot, who had only “paid a visit” to the President of Burma, on 26 November, and did not otherwise appear when the President of Burma came to Kampuchea on official visit, “received” Chen Yung-Kuei this time around and attended the welcome banquet. This is a firm indication of Pol Pot’s special position at the top of Cambodia’s hierarchy.

Nuon Chea, President of the Kampuchean People’s Assembly, was also introduced by Hsin Hua as Deputy Secretary of the CPK, which would seem to suggest that he is the number two of the regime. Khieu Samphan, who is head of state and therefore the main counterpart of President Win, was not at hand this time. 051735 ./.

Arnaud