

I regret very much when the IMF cut off \$20 million we did not take into consideration big issues, such as logging issue which has no transparency, reduction of the size of civil servants, but to make more trouble instead... Those who write [newspapers] to curse me are still alive. I never asked for them to be taken to court. I feel very sorry that the time the IMF problem – it is about credibility of the country, of the government – some people are still thinking of division, strengthening [their party] and so on. This is not good.

Hun Sen's statement after the assassination of his former chief bodyguard (the brother-in-law of Bun Rany Hun Sen) on Nov 19, 1996

Respected venerable Monks and all compatriots,

Today I have a necessity to make a statement to all venerable monks and compatriots that peace has already been at sight and it is continuing to prevail to other parts of Cambodia, as well as the last movement of the breakaway forces who were undercover forces of the KR in the inner part of the country. [This] has created quite a pleasant event for our people. However, there is some unfortunate event. Today, I myself have lost a live of my brother-in-law to the assassination this morning. Looking at this incident, I have not considered it as a politically motivated assassination or something else. But, what I have as a necessity to tell you here it is that this event occurred after the breakaway in Phnom Penh, which concerns "a number of political parties". So, I think that it is a warning toward the breakaway forces because it is a signal to show that even the live of Hun Sen's brother could not be protected either. I am of an opinion that this event is an impediment to the process of coming out by the undercover forces to integrate with the Royal Government. On this very sad occasion, I experience a direct loss in my family. But, I have task more important than this which requires to protect the lives of many compatriots who are receiving the similar threat. Especially, it is the lives of brothers the undercover forces who have broken away. I think that this is a real threat, nothing of a kind of intentional robbery. The assassination of my brother this morning is an event which may offer some reasons to draw a conclusion that it is a moral pressure directed at the breakaway brothers. Why? Because, even the live of Hun Sen's brother couldn't be protected either.

I also would like to take this opportunity to affirm to the breakaway brothers who are undercover forces to remain calm in mind. Today, the assassination have occurred to my brother. I don't have any reaction, but I'd like to inform all monks and compatriots that if the breakaway brothers are to face danger, I will react promptly because armed reaction to defend safety for the people is also my duty. Now, all the undercover forces who have turned up and are prepared to turn up, please continue to do so and bring along with you your arms. I am of an opinion that there is a need in doing this because this time we have to put out the flame of war from Cambodia. We must put out the flame and not allow any smoke to remain. So, I'd like to appeal to encourage the process of turning up of the undercover forces throughout the Kingdom of Cambodia as soon as possible.

At the same time, I'd like also to appeal to other politicians, political parties to please stop carrying out disgraceful act and hindering the breakaway of these forces. Because this is an act trying to maintain terrorist war and armed robberies in Cambodia, from which our people are unable to enjoy happiness.

Any debate through press gathering is not a necessity at this time. I'd like to appeal to Samdech Krom Preah Norodom Ranariddh to not make any disruption on this occasion, let me finish this work and report to you instead. *Pure gold must not be afraid of fire*. It won't be too late [to wait for] a few days. The letter you sent to co-Ministers of Defense inviting the three men [Duong Buntha, Sieng Sophearak, Men Sophat] has no necessity. And the three men have received a special mission from me to implement. And I'd like to inform that these forces will continue carrying out activity in order to extract all undercover forces in the Kingdom of Cambodia. The need for any exchange (debates?) must be conducted later and after all these undercover forces have completely come out. The issues here are ending the war, military and security issues but not that of political ones which must be questioned and answered on television screen. And to my knowledge, the breakaway group will hold another press conference at which they will present many evidences and now [those] evidences have already been in our hand. I would like to inform Samdech Krom Preah through television that only the leader [Duong Bunthat] of this breakaway forces has already three signatures of Samdech Krom Preah – three ID cards signed by Samdech Krom Preah, from the time he [Duong Buntha] was

the director of Site-B camp to coming inside the country and bearing colonial [RCAF] rank of Fucinpec. So, they have very sufficient evidence.

So, I'd like to avail myself to appeal to Samdech Krom Preah, venerable monks, compatriots and all armed forces to please don't hamper what I'm doing for the sake of happiness of the people. Any politically motivated provocation in order to destroy the breakaway movement is an act leading toward confrontation in the coalition government and it is also a misfortune for our nation as well. In my opinion, Samdech Krom Preah should have thanked these three men because the three men have not said "Samdech Krom Preah had said". [They] just said that the two men [Sith Sithun and Phally] said that "Samdech Krom Preah had said like that". Relying on this meaning, if I were Samdech Krom Preah, I would have thanked the three men in stead because the three men have provided information that some people had used his name. This if I were Samdech Krom Preah. So, these three men must be under Hun Sen's custody, no one can touch [them]. When the work is finished, we will do everything through legal means.

I'd like also to take this opportunity to call on army, police officers as well as all civilians who are KR members hiding with political parties to come over to the Royal Government forces. Come out, show yourself up because it's already time to come out. On Saturday [November 16], Khieu Samphan sent two people to take the three men and other undercover forces back to the border. But they had also written a letter to Khieu Samphan. So, I'm seeing whether here there is a cooperation between Anlong Veng and Phnom Penh or not that prompted such an unfortunate event to an extent that is threatening the lives of these people through the assassination of my brother this morning. This is another loss after too many losses already for me myself. During these 17 years I have lost a father-in-law, three cousins, one nephews, one uncle and this morning I lost one brother. This is peace! But I think that this is a sacrifice for the sake of happiness of all compatriots. But what I feel regret about is that [there are] people who want to keep this issue as an obstruction to the development of the nation, by causing death to others, while paying no care about anyone's happiness.

I think that it is time for me to be getting prepared – I have been doing peace, but I am prepared to command troops to fight in the next couple hours or days, if necessary, in order to protect the lives of the people. I have already ordered since Saturday evening all units who are truly loyal to peace and supportive of my acts. However, it is my mistake in ordering troops, armed forces to provide necessary safety to only the breakaway forces, while my own brother had to experience danger. Fortunately, this morning my youngest daughter did not join the trip with her uncle, she has escaped from death. Before, she used to join his uncle in going here and there. So, I am doing peace with sincerity. But, I also have an ability to command troops in the next couple hours or days, if necessary.

So, I call on all politicians – whatever ranks or positions they are holding – to immediately halt your activities and let me completely fulfil my activities. *If you don't offer any help [in rowing the boat], don't put you leg in the water.* I also ask [people] in all places throughout the country, who are truly loyal to peace and who are joining with me [in working for peace] to show you courage – those who are undercover must dare to come out, whether you are civilians or armed at whatever ranks, come out and I take responsibility for you. As long as I am still alive, all of you still have hope. I dare to do everything for the sake of your lives. I used and have done so already. I have sacrificed too much and I am not afraid to make more sacrifice for you safety.

The people must also have courage and those who are used to commit cruel acts ought to stop and they can – although they have shot my brother dead, I still think that they should be freed from charges when those people come and give me true information [about who ordered the killing]. I guarantee that in the capacity of my family I will not sue [the assailants] in this case. But I take my duty as a leader of the Royal Government and army to defend you from all charges.

I would like to thank all compatriots...venerable monks (Hun Sen begins to cry)...armed forces for supporting me...(Sobbing)...May the soul of my brother look after those who are loyal to peace. I'm sorry (crying)...Good bye.