

**HUN SEN STATEMENT / Q&A**  
**10 JULY 1997**

Whether it is coup d'état when the constitution remains unchanged, when the constitution of the King remains untouched, when the National Assembly still comes to meet here and when the National Assembly of the Royal Government still come to meetings here. ....all political parties remain untouched, were there such a thing as a type of coup d'état and you do not see what happened this morning, we are holding a meeting of the Council of Ministers. You can also question the absence of some ministers, they are at the meeting abroad and have not yet returned. And the absent ministers are not out from FUN but more from CPP. Nouk Naran, Khieu Sampho etc. they are all from CPP and are now abroad. Those ministers who are abroad both from CPP & FUN are trying to find a way to return home. According to my knowledge the helicopters which have bring Excellency Khieu Samrath these are around the area of Kompong Speu to Wat Phnom Penh. Khieu Samrath has spent the last few days in BKK, he was not with persons to form the coalition got with guerrillas. And I also have a directive from Khay Sivu and Preah Sirivudh, who are waiting to return to Cambodia, because they are members of the legal govt. We are in the same boat in that we are the legal govt. expeditious from the elections of 1992.

Rann is indeed your question - I do not blame Rann for returning to Cambodia - what I would like to stress is that Rann fled from Cambodia at the time of my absence from Cambodia. You see I take the opportunity of all my children to have verification and return from Paris and from Singapore, I request 5 days rest from Rann so that I can check on my children and wife for the rest. You see I left Cambodia on the 1st of July and planned to return on the 6th July and according to the practice so far when one PM is absent the one that is at home will be handling all the work alone, so during my absence all power rests with Rann alone both state affairs and that of the military. And when something happens Rann is supposed to summon the co-ministers of Defence the co-ministers of Interior and the General Chiefs of Staff to resolve the problem. But Rann did not handle it this way, but instead he fled from Cambodia and accused me of staging a coup d'état. And therefore I had to return a day before the plan I set up and then I returned the situation in Cambodia you could say that the rice had already been cooked.

I was told Rann accused me of staging a coup d'état around 12 hours before I issue my first statement. This is not a coup d'état what we have been solving is the anarchy problem and the orders to resolve anarchy is the joint orders of Rann and HS, it is not just the order from HS alone. We may review the orders of the premiership Feb 1997 is the orders have been co-signed by the 2 PMs. But the question that rests is this, Rann he just helps himself up just like the football player. Rann's exploits are like the tactics of Mike Tyson by biting the ear, because without TV shooting on the scene we would not learn that Mike Tyson bite the ear of Hollifield. And if we did not arrest the eater from around the tree trunks, we did not know what he was doing then and without the concrete evidence like the region matters or the transport of illegal forces amount to 100s of thousands into Cambodia, into PNP and it's vicinity and the start of KR in Phnom Penh we did not know what Rannariddh was doing. You see even until late there was the transport of 690 troops from outside into PNP and it's vicinity out of which 200 were KR

soldiers. So you see I was in difficulty when Rann stay with me in the govt. he knows all the secrets and he advise what the thief and the robbers to do. So when all his plan met with the fighters, it is only choice of him to fled outside the country and accuse me of staging coup d'état. I can even invite all of you to meet the 100s of soldiers and officers who have been arrested and can answer all ????. Most of them have moved from Tbay Meanchay and it's vicinity which is not their place of station. You may ask why Rann move KR forces and all the units into PNP and you can also question why Rann illegally imported weapons into the country. You can arrest only one time and how about the other times that we did not arrest? I talk about the importation of ANBRA rockets which the govt. order, only once, 50 of them. Right now we arrest many AMBRAs. We can question only at the station of Chairman Mai and some governors of the province also possess ANBRAs too. Two men of bodyguards have been shot by this AMBRAs and my bodyguard do not have ANBRAs, because my bodyguard did not have the obligation to stage occupancy.

You see Nhiek Bun Chay met the chiefs opposite the University of PNP, I had to use my bodyguard to hinder them. You see for tanks we use ?? and they use AMBRAs to counter tank but we do not have any AMBRAs. Therefore they shot 2 of our tanks, ????. these illegally imported weapons carried out by Rann at least we can question why. You see we can clearly find that HE Chea Samrath told me that Rann or someone prepared the attack on the warehouse so that they can take all the weapons in that warehouse. There was a tank and munitions in that warehouse and this is not far away from Excellency Chea Samrath's house. So their plan is that when something happen the force from Chea Samraths house would move and occupy the warehouse, but Excellency Chea Samrath denied to do that. And when faced with such a difficulty he just went out of the country until the day he will return. So you can see it is qualified to be called a coup d'état because we now are still continuing with a govt. It is the problem of Rann. When Rann has fled the country it is not me who decide him and right now if he is prepared to return I do not bend that. He can return and confront the record and challenge with his own party FUN. However, you can see Rann prepared to flee from the country. You see at that time 3 helicopters and 3 planes flew out of PNP without the knowledge of the general staff. It is fortunate that all the helicopter and plane land a Thmar Pouk and the people at Thmar Pouk they did not follow Rann therefore the arrest all the planes and helicopters. On the 8th one of the six (planes) flew back to PNP and right now we are arranging that the rest 5 be brought to PNP. So right now we just operate what is. And the question of Rann form another government it is right. But Rann did not have any right to dissolve the existing govt that has been established from the election of 1993. This govt cannot be dissolved unless we can achieve the military guarantee of majority of the national, MP voice. This government cannot be dissolved by Rann or **by anybody else**. **Today we are anxious to resolve a number of questions. Today we set up a committee for investigation of the loss that we can confer on the local and foreign companies and on the people. And we have to know the property that has been damaged to the private company and foreign company after the violence created by the anarchy. Based on the agreement on the protection of investment we are not considering of providing compensation to those companies. The companies will share in the damage which has been caused**

**by emergency fighting. We are now taking measures to lack availability to the shops and all the roads to the port the airport and other buildings.**

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**Q: The explanation that you have given for what you did at the weekend, in the international community people are saying even if there is some merit in that it does not excuse or justify what you did.**

A: Clearly in the international community can not take the explanation, we would just like to know the question why the international community cannot accept this, we would just like to know why.

**Q: I assume that because international leaders assume the actions you took were not justified by the explanation that you've given.**

A: As I understand it you have to ask the leader who cannot accept it, maybe they did not see it in the same light as they assume it to be. Yesterday I told the ASEAN ambassador that in 1970 to all Asian countries to support to the Lon Nol regime. Then all the Asian except Vietnam, Thailand, Philippines and Malaysia support the Lon Nol regime. What they did then, they suspended the constitution, they imposed martial law not allowing 3 people meetings, you see I use that to be a cheating by the Lon Nol soldiers because having a meeting of 3 persons, I mean a meeting of 3 or more people the soldiers may arrest them, and then they change the region from monarchy to republican, but why then it could at least be accepted by ASEAN. And here what I did was nothing but suppress the anarchy forces, I just have to say that the KR was being imported into PNP. For example if your president or your prime minister did something wrong, like the illegal imported weapons, would you accuse those people? You see Nixon has been accused because of his involvement in the problem of illegalities. So it's up to you whether you accept the reality or not- ..... and the legal govt. has been elected by the election in 1993. You can phone and ask Rann at the time he fled the country whether he has been in pain(?) or by HS, whether the two presidents are beseeching his help. He fled the country at the time he had low priority with him. He did not wait for HS to return. If HS return and they cannot talk at each other then cause the fighting, then they can accuse something. You must at least understand that this fighting is not just a small one. You can take notice that the incident did not just take place on the 5th but still on the 1st. The incident start with the 9 soldiers who had been brought to the area of Toul Ta Thon? by extremists. You see the force had been leaderless (?) in that area for months and had not been properly paid(?). You see they illegally arm at the illegal checking point. These 9 soldiers split from their commander and took a B40 and shot their commander and so then the incident took place in the Srok? by Route #5 and then the combatant authority has to solve this problem and when they could not solve the problem it lead to the fighting. And then Rann leave PNP and he did not solve the problem, and then later it was the General of Staff who advise Nhiek Bun Chay to move their force in afternoon into base at Chunkasay? (Tang Kasaing). But the troop has not been moved but instead they start the fighting. Then you might at least understand why there was too much fighting, then HS, you just might at least understand that - I'm not the military, however if you use military force you must use it properly. You see Serey Kosal he said that Hok Lundy has excavate the Hok Lundy grandfather to be partner with him. You see the

military capacity of Serey Kosal can be countered by Hok Londa the son of Hok Lundy. So Rann, handled by HS, it is not a joke. You see the coup d'état of 2 July 1994 it was also HS who suppressed it..... You can shut your eye and say what you like to say, but the reality has not altered. Whether you recognize this government or not you cannot deny the reality of this government, or at least you recognize the government of Rann and Khieu Samphan at the border then you can advise your government to do that.

**Q: The UN and other countries are voting if you like with their feet they are encouraging internationals to leave and have been very high profile, in leaving until the internal security situation is better.....**

**(break in tape)**

A: .....when they take their people out I think it's normal. You see sometime that what happens in the Philippines it's mostly the American civilians that have been the first to evacuate. You see in Chile???? such a thing also happened, then the government can suppress all reports and stage a coup d'état, so you can wait and see because we cannot please you, however we have to please our people. I would just like to please recommend them to departure, .....

The leaving of Rann with now everyone that was telling him, but to my understanding he was leaving because of the mistake he made because of the ????. I feel that any political decision that would be made by a country should be also looking at the reality of what happened, so you can advise me what should be done. What should I do then? If he just fled the country and what he did on me involve with the court, or you would like me to dissolve the govt. it is not my right, that is the right of the National Assembly. Or you like me to invite Rann to return. Rann leaving this by me is telling him, I will not invite him to return but I will not also bend him from returning. (150)

**Q: I heard it's been suggested today that you should re-install the joint govt - would you do that?**

A: I think that suggestion is tantamount to the insistence not only to the internal affairs of one country, but into the internal affairs of one party. It is completely the internal affair of one party related to the candidate of the prime minister. Why should Rann and HS be put in system bi-laterally(?), for example if tomorrow if I commit a mistake in which then I lose the confidence of CPP in which then they would like to find another person to replace me what would you say then? So the idea to have only Rann or HS as the head of the coalition govt. from election is not only the pressures on the nation but on the party. And when it's only person to have second ideas there is no need to mention of parties plural even. And in this way since HS has to for 3 million members of CPP to accept HS as life prime minister, however sin that HS would commit. There is enough on their pressure, but it is for countries to give a reason. We can talk about this before the Paris Peace agreement of 1991 and before the election of 1993 and that is the formula of Sihanouk/HS and right now there is no need to refer to any specific name we just refer to the prime minister. Is HS commit mistake, if HS die, someone has to replace sometime. If Rann commits to make mistake someone has to replace and that is suggested what happen in democracy. Why the force of Rann and HS have to be standby.

**Q: If it's not true, as you say, why do some of your opponents say they fear for their lives?**

A: That's a question we have to resolve. You see this morning we have to gather more people, the people that have been outside or far away from the place that incidents took place for fearing. And please lessen? speculation in cause of the fear in which I also acknowledge. Last evening Excellency Loy Somsheun? meet with me, after the meeting with Loy Somsheun I issue a statement and this morning I also hold a meeting. You see it is not just a question between the CPP and FUN, but even within FUN now FUN is just in FUN? too. If FUN also allow the group of Toun Chay, Boun Khem and Oun Thon? just in solve the problem for Rann it also cause the problem for us. And that might also be the problem between BLDP too. Some action of the CPP members could not be acceptable so gentle (general?) are the use of the word. I can say in short, that everyone never mind from what party they are affiliated for his life in face of law. But there are some people who feel fear and they have reason to fear for that. Because some people feel too fear because they have too much forbidden in their house and more than the law allows. For example some people have weapons like the AMBRA or DK-75 or the 12.7 in the house so they feel fear if they have such weapon at the house. There is no people like this and right - now I appeal that those people who not feel fear and then return to the units, because we do not accuse them on this time. We appeal to everyone, not just from FUN, if you have the weapon, more than a load they have to give it to the govt., because there are also bad people within CPP who possess weapons more than the law allows. And there are also some members of CPP, men who commit naughty things too. He, (HS) I do not refer to CPP, FUN or BLDP I refer only to the govt.

**Q: .....why did you allow him (Chau Somlot?) to be executed if you were following the rule of law?**

A: I tell you quick of what had happened, because I realized it hours after the incident took place after receiving report about it and I also advise the Minister of the Interior to carry out investigation and find out the people who commit such a thing. He should not be given any type of tortures at the time we do not have any reason on him. But when someone is arrested I mean the normal legal process has to be taken there would not be anyone in prison at this moment and there is no one held as a hostage in this crisis, there is no one at the prison in this crisis. You see we are advise that 20,000Riel, one sarong and one Beef? is given to each soldier so he can return home. You see I feel hurt by when there are questions about arrests that have been committed and I also give orders that investigations be carried out on this case.

**Q: Who are the traitors that shot Somlot? (Unclear question)**

A: Gen. Sathy Khmau is handling all this and we are waiting to have info. from them. I think you ask the military.

**Q: UNCLEAR**

A: Also as a professional I would like to clarify to you. You see in situation of the fate of the King, of the National Assembly of the members of the government remain the same. We have only wishes that the King return to resolve the problem. The King is our King, if we are against our King he can

accuse us of staging a coup d'état. As prime minister I have to be responsible and handle the situation by himself and you accuse me when handling the situation of staging a coup d'état it is not proper. Everyone except me is having power in Cambodia. If I have the strong power in Cambodia why should I stage a coup d'état, from having legal power to having illegal power? If I stage a coup d'état I have to topple the King and change the situation from monarchy to republican. But right now the King remain our King and the leaving of Rann it is he alone who left the country I did not deter him. If Rann has the capacity to call the ministers in control that and yesterday we are in a lot of Excellency's house Hong Somvouth, Thou Komtreu and Pok Marina, she leave to Singapore, they wish to do that. And you question why Chea Somrath, the minister for Defence from FUN does not remain in BKK to wait for Rann and return to PNP? And the rest of the minister who are outside can follow them and form the govt. where the minister is. And then Rann is like a deserted soldier because of the granting permission he deserves and then at this time his soldiers remain within the country. It is like for me that nothing has changed at all for me for Rann to leave Cambodia. For a certain length of time he can say that Rann left the country for 2 or 3 months. I used to remain working in a country like to dog?. And I remain alone and work with the other ministers. I cannot wait for Rann and then the govt. will be f functioning. I must admit I'm agree? and also there's agreement between me and Rann when one PM is outside the country, the one inside has the right to make decision on behalf of the two. There is time when Rann is absent I have the right to sign any administration and so the question of Rann is the question about the leader who is on the boat and then jump into the water alone. This boat was built by the Paris Peace agreement and through the election provide by the UN and right now everyone is on board except Rann who jump into the water. If everyone on board jump into the water like Rann, they compromise by Rann he would be eaten alone by the crocodiles and I would take care of the boat. It is not only HS but the other FUN officers who have the house, who have the guard here, who have the wife here they did not allow Rann to run away. That is not the hour that I should say that I die like this and this. If he commit a mistake he can go alone. The rest they remain and are working within the govt.

**Q: Are you the only captain on the boat today?**

A: Yes, in a way but not only captain this time but many time already. And you may see that Rann even as the PM he is still under obligation to go to France 2 or 3 times a year to speak to the French students and that excluding the leave that he took because he got his own plane. I am used to be captain many times already. Rann have the KR in Anlong Veng, I remain a captain alone. When he talk with KR in Anlong Veng still then he worked out of the government. You see on the 3rd, 4th and 5th of July Rann was captain alone in a private country, he should solve the problem he should not jump out of the boat into the water like this. For boat in Cambodia there is a set way about being a captain because I am a worker in Vietnam and he was in France. You see I thought when I arrived home that the boat has been changed 180 degree, has been moved to 170 degree already. So now I'm still in charge of the steering waiting for the other captains to join me, because the old captain has desert already.

**Q: I'm hearing today that there is going to a question as to whether Cambodia should be allowed to join ASEAN given what happened.**

A: I think ASEAN will take the stand in accordance with the ASEAN principles. The ASEAN principle is that there is non-intervention in each other's internal affairs. And what happen in Cambodia is quite clearly the internal affair of Cambodia. And for us here in Cambodia in a coalition govt. we can't allow? it in the internal affairs of FUN. We have not been admitting(ed) to ASEAN because some join the questions of observers and ???? and capitulation that we shall be admitted soon. One of the reason we decide to be member of ASEAN is because of principle of non-intervention into each others' internal affairs. The incident that convinced us is what happened in the Philippines when there was a coup d'état, ASEAN did not pay attention to that. There were many, many incident that happened in the Philippines but that has not become a subject of discussion within the ASEAN community. In the incident in which cause shooting in the city BKK in 1992, this did not become a subject of discussion within the ASEAN community and ASEAN are never take up the subject of discussion the question of ???? in Indonesia. I hope that we get the habit now of not indifference ASEAN would not discuss anything on this. Whether they include Rann as member of ASEAN, whether they admit that Cambodia nation and govt are member of ASEAN. In Philippines there was the changes after Ferdinand Marcos and then as the member of ASEAN Mr(s). Akino and right now Mr. Fidel Ramos, they did not stand by with Marcos, why should that they desert HS and Rann and they stand by together. Therefore I hope that a sense of ASEAN would abide by their principle, it mean that the principle of non-interference into internal affairs. And I also know clearly that Vietnam decide to be member of ASEAN because of one important fact of non-interference into internal affairs. You see Laos and Myanmar, Myanmar especially Gen Son Saray?,(sp-SLORC dork) was very concerned on the question of interference into internal affairs. You see in the meeting of ASEAN in BKK, Gen Son Saray of Myanmar he was concerned on this point, therefore HE Mohammed Muhatir, HE Suharto and HE Gogaston (?) respond in the Vietnamese to the concern of Gen Son Saray. If Cambodia see ASEAN interfere into the internal affairs of each other we will decide not to have to be member of ASEAN. Because even before we are not members of ASEAN, but we can still survive. But lately so there are just the ideas from our official of ASEAN not the government of ASEAN. And therefore I hope that ASEAN will abide by their principle of non-intervention into each other internal affairs.