

FUNCINPEC -
KAMPUCHEA

FUNCINPEC Party

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FUNCINPEC PARTY MANIFESTO

PREAMBLE

After 22 years of unspeakable suffering, including 13 years of Vietnamese occupation and a national struggle for liberation, our country can finally see dawning the light of peace and independence. A historic peace accord was concluded in Paris on October 23, 1991. This agreement, signed by each of Cambodia's neighboring countries as well as the major world powers, will guarantee our country peace, independence and democracy through the crucial intervention of the United Nations. The success achieved by Khmer patriots is all the more striking in that it has been realized, at the critical stage of the struggle, through political and diplomatic channels. It is to the wisdom, perseverance and perspicacity of Samdech Preah NORODOM SIHANOUK that we owe this happy evolution which brings an end to bloodshed and opens the way for national reconciliation and reconstruction.

The Khmer people who have for too long suffered, ardently desire a rapid, integral and genuine implementation of the United Nations peace plan. In conformity with this plan, it will be the task of the United Nations during an interim period to bring a halt to violence and to guarantee respect for human rights in Cambodia. In addition, the United Nations will monitor and ensure the free exercise of fundamental liberties - both individual and collective - which are intrinsic to the principles of democracy. Finally, and most importantly of all, the United Nations peace plan will lead to the organization of free and fair elections under international supervision, thereby granting self-determination to the Khmer people.

However, there remain numerous obstacles on the road to peace and, after 17 years of communist rule, the democratization of Cambodia is proving to be slow and difficult. An authoritarian regime installed by a foreign army is hanging on to power at all costs, through the use of repressive methods and in complete disregard for human rights and democratic principles. Given the grave difficulties remaining to be overcome and the enormous problems yet to be resolved, the Khmer patriots must persist in their efforts and maintain the keenest vigilance.

"UNITED WE STAND WITH SAMDECH EUV TO REBUILD CAMBODIA"

This is FUNCINPEC's slogan.

The Khmer people are thankful and will remain forever so to Samdech Preah NORODOM SIHANOUK who has left an indelible mark on the contemporary history of Cambodia. Most recently, we can credit Samdech Preah NORODOM SIHANOUK with achieving a breakthrough in a seemingly blocked situation which had maintained our homeland in the grip of foreign occupation and our people plunged in despair. Enjoying unmatched international stature, incarnating the inflexible determination of our people to recover their sovereignty, exemplifying patriotism at its most pure and executing to the full his role as Father of the Nation, Samdech Preah NORODOM SIHANOUK contributed in a decisive fashion to the Peace Accord of October 23, 1991 which opened the way for peace, independence and democracy in Cambodia. Since then, in his capacity as President of the Supreme National Council of Cambodia, Samdech Preah NORODOM SIHANOUK has continued to work courageously and tirelessly to achieve national reconciliation, to ensure respect for human rights and promote democracy, to defend the nation's higher interests and, above all, to bring about a rapid, integral and genuine implementation of the United Nations peace plan.

FUNCINPEC was founded by Samdech Preah NORODOM SIHANOUK in 1981, immediately following the invasion of our country by Vietnamese troops, in order to bring back peace and national independence to Cambodia. Samdech EUV was President of FUNCINPEC until 1989 at which time he placed himself above all the Cambodian parties in order to promote national reconciliation. Nonetheless, FUNCINPEC has faithfully pursued the path laid down by its illustrious founder and will continue to support unreservedly the clear-sighted policies of Samdech Preah NORODOM SIHANOUK.

In consideration of the above, FUNCINPEC is the sole party which can legitimately claim Samdech Preah NORODOM SIHANOUK as its true authority and which supports him sincerely.

FUNCINPEC is the sole party which solemnly undertakes, upon winning the elections, to hand over the executive power to Samdech Preah NORODOM SIHANOUK so that he may truly preside over the destiny of Cambodia.

FUNCINPEC launches an appeal to all Khmer patriots who already consider Samdech Preah NORODOM SIHANOUK as the Father of National Independence to unite around our revered leader and to support him unfailingly in his new crusade as the Father of Peace, the Father of National Reconciliation and the Father of Liberal Democracy.

POLITICAL PROGRAM

FUNCINPEC retains and cherishes all of the ideals which were proclaimed at the moment of its creation in 1981 by Samdech Preah NORODOM SIHANOUK: National Unity, Independence, Neutrality, Peace, and International Cooperation. However, it is modifying its objectives and redefining its strategy in accordance with the new situation prevailing in Cambodia since the signing of the Peace Agreement in Paris on October 23, 1991.

The first objective which our party has set itself is to win the upcoming elections which will be organized within the framework of the United Nations peace plan.

Along with this manifesto, FUNCINPEC has elaborated a detailed political program which responds to the principal concerns which our fellow citizens might have concerning the future of Cambodia after the elections. This program includes the general ideas and the valuable precepts of the Sihanoukist doctrine which Samdech Preah NORODOM SIHANOUK conceived and implemented in Cambodia from 1953 to 1970 during the golden era of the Sangkum Reastr Niyum.

The 1992 FUNCINPEC political program is simply an adaptation of Sihanoukism to meet the objective situation facing Cambodia today. It is based on the needs and aspirations of the Khmer people in all its diversity. It is a compilation of the opinions, wishes and teachings of Samdech Preah NORODOM SIHANOUK gathered throughout the years. It proposes realistic options which will best enable us to secure Cambodia's future and to defend the nation's higher interests.

FUNCINPEC wants to lay the foundation for a new Khmer society based upon tolerance and fraternity, respectful of universally-accepted human rights, applying the rules of a liberal democracy and instituting a free-enterprise market-oriented economic system.

Cambodia must therefore break completely and definitively with communism - in any form or version, eliminate its adverse after effects and take up anew the authentic Khmer culture and traditions. Thereupon, it will better be able to protect and strengthen national independence, ensure the liberty of its citizens and institute political 'multipartism', promote economic and social development and participate fully and actively in international dialogue and cooperation.

With the support of all Khmer patriots and democrats, FUNCINPEC is determined to defend and ensure respect for human rights in Cambodia. To achieve this, a law-abiding state will be established on the basis of the institutions and procedures of a liberal democracy whereby power stems from universal suffrage and all citizens are equal before a code of law elaborated according to constitutional procedures. The law-abiding state which we want to establish will put a term to anarchy and the arbitrary practices which reign in Cambodia today. The law must be enforced under all circumstances and the State must itself submit to this universal law while guaranteeing its citizens the fundamental rights and liberties granted by the Constitution.

Among the rights and liberties which must be guaranteed to every citizen are, notably:

- the right to life and security;
- the right, if charged with a crime, to be presumed innocent until proven guilty;
- the right, in case of a trial, to a fair judgment rendered by a an independent and impartial court;
- the right to respect for one's private and family life;
- the liberty of thought, conscience and religious belief;
- the liberty of opinion and expression;
- the right to gather peacefully and to form associations;
- the right to circulate freely and to choose one's residence;
- the right to own property;
- the right to a nationality and the benefits which this includes;
- the right to vote, to be a candidate for public office, and to take part in the management of public affairs.

FUNCINPEC recognizes the right of all Cambodians living abroad to vote in national elections.

Collective liberties such as freedom of the press and the right to form political parties must also be guaranteed.

The communist system in Cambodia, based on repression and the use of force and relying on an implacable and omnipresent police force, is incompatible with the exercise of the aforementioned rights and liberties. This system is becoming increasingly obsolete. It will sooner or later be swept away by the process of democratization which constitutes the new and irreversible trend in history.

Another scourge which is dangerously undermining Cambodia today and which must be vigorously attacked is institutionalized corruption and the illegal alienation of public property. Popular revolts have already occurred in Phnom Penh and elsewhere in reaction to these scandalous acts. FUNCINPEC pledges to fight corruption in every form and to defend the nation's higher interests. It will ensure the triumph of patriotism and moral integrity. It will denounce economic transactions, contracts and agreements which are contrary to national interests. With the overpowering will of the people it will insist that Cambodia be returned to Cambodians.

FUNCINPEC demands a genuine and complete withdrawal of all categories of Vietnamese forces from Cambodia. It considers null and void all agreements and treaties concluded after 1969 which infringe upon Cambodia's national sovereignty and territorial integrity. The problem of Vietnamese nationals illegally settled in Cambodia will be resolved according to the provisions of international law and in full consideration of humanitarian principles while privileging the legitimate interests of the Khmer people.

ORGANIZATION OF FUNCINPEC

The patriotic struggle which was at the origin of FUNCINPEC's creation is now assuming a new character. The fight to gain control of our nation's destiny is now shifting, and happily so, from the battlefield to the political arena in accordance with the process of democratization laid down for our country which must imperatively be fulfilled. At the same time, the tasks of national reconciliation and reconstruction beckon.

In this changing context, FUNCINPEC will have a central role to play in Cambodian politics and must therefore be reorganized. From a liberation Front opposing a foreign occupation, it was transformed into a political party on the occasion of the FUNCINPEC World Congress held from February 27-29, 1992 in the Province of Oddar Meanchey. At this gathering FUNCINPEC elected a new President in the person of His Royal Highness Prince NORODOM Ranariddh, the august son and eminent continuator of the work of Samdech Preah NORODOM SIHANOUK. New party statutes and internal regulations were also adopted.

The Congress constitutes the basis and the supreme authority of the party. It elects the President of the party and the members of the National Council who are representative of the nation's constituent parts. The National Council is the party organ responsible for the conception of party policy and for overseeing its implementation. It is presided over by right by the President of the party.

The President of the party is assisted in the execution of his duties by the Secretariat-General which is composed of a national direction and regional branches. This body is responsible for implementing party policy in line with general orientations laid down by the National Council. The National Council itself comprises an executive organ called the Steering Committee whose activities are broken down into commissions.

CONCLUSION

In defense of the sacred and inalienable rights of the Khmer people, in exercitation of their right to self-determination during the elections to be organized by the United Nations in 1993, and in prospect of the reconstruction of our country, FUNCINPEC has the distinguished honor to rally all Cambodians round a historic undertaking which is to reconstitute an independent, prosperous and proud Cambodia.

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PREAMBLE

Since the creation of FUNCINPEC in 1981, under the very honorable presidency of **Samdech Preah NORODOM SIHANOUK**, important developments have taken place on world-wide, regional and national levels.

The iron curtain has fallen in Europe where the communist system is crumbling, permitting numerous peoples to regain liberty and independence. Detente and international cooperation have succeeded the cold war and confrontation between the blocs. In a regional context equally marked by a return to peace, illustrated by the rapprochement between China and Vietnam, a cease-fire was proclaimed in Cambodia followed by the signing of a Peace Accord in Paris on October 23, 1991. This agreement, ratified by each of Cambodia's neighboring countries as well as the major world powers, will guarantee our country peace, independence and democracy through the decisive intervention of the United Nations.

The struggle against foreign occupation and for national liberation draws to an end. The success achieved by Khmer patriots is all the more striking in that it has been realized, in the decisive stage of the struggle, through political and diplomatic channels. It is to the wisdom, perseverance and perspicacity of **Samdech Preah NORODOM SIHANOUK** that we owe this happy evolution which brings a halt to bloodshed and opens the way for national reconciliation and reconstruction.

The Khmer people who have for too long suffered, ardently desire a rapid, integral and genuine implementation of the United Nations peace plan. In conformity with this plan, during an interim period it will be the mission of the United Nations to bring an end to violence and to guarantee respect for human rights in Cambodia. In addition, the United Nations will monitor and ensure the free exercise of fundamental liberties, both individual and collective, which are intrinsic to the principles of democracy. Finally, and most importantly of all, the United Nations peace plan will lead to the organization of free and fair elections under international supervision, thus allowing self-determination of the Khmer people.

It is in prospect of these elections that FUNCINPEC cadres and supporters from within the country, delegates from each of the Cambodian provinces, combatants from the National Army of Independent Kampuchea (ANKI) along with representatives from the Cambodian Diaspora, have compared ideas and combined their efforts to elaborate the political program which follows.

Reflecting upon their natural inclination for democracy and liberty, drawing lessons from past experiences, taking into account the traditions and capacities of the Khmer people as well as the potentialities of Cambodia and benefiting from modern administrative procedures, they want to lay the foundation for **a new Khmer society based upon tolerance, social justice and fraternity, respectful of universally-accepted human rights, applying the rules of a liberal democracy and instituting a free-enterprise market-oriented economic system.**

Cambodia must, consequently, **break completely and definitively with communism** - in any form or version - and take up anew the authentic Khmer culture and traditions. Thereupon, it will better be able to protect and strengthen national independence, ensure the liberty of its citizens and guarantee political 'multipartism', promote economic and social progress and participate actively in international dialogue and cooperation.

For Cambodians coming from all walks of life, this political program is proposed as a framework and a reference for accomplishing the tasks of **reconciliation, reconstruction and development** which must henceforth unite our nation.

Even if, in order to serve the higher interests of the nation and to place himself above all the parties, **Samdech Preah NORODOM SIHANOUK** no longer presides over the destiny of FUNCINPEC, our movement will remain eternally indebted to its illustrious founder who imbued it with a spirit and showed it a path which it will never abandon. Our movement will be forever inspired by the venerable patriotism incarnated in **Samdech Preah NORODOM SIHANOUK**. In the last forty years the **Father of National Independence** has demonstrated a fierce and unwavering determination to defend the independence, sovereignty and territorial integrity of Cambodia as well as a passionate concern for national grandeur and the well-being of the common people which only a descendant of Jayavarman VII could express with such sincerity.

Our movement unreservedly supports the new crusade led by **Samdech Preah NORODOM SIHANOUK** in his capacity as the **Father of Peace**, the **Father of National Reconciliation** and the **Father of Liberal Democracy** in Cambodia.

Our veneration for **Samdech Preah NORODOM SIHANOUK** and our lasting devotion to his Person, go hand in hand with our unfailing loyalty to and our confidence in **H.R.H. Prince NORODOM RANARIDDH**, the august son and the worthy continuator of the work of **Samdech Preah NORODOM SIHANOUK**.

LET US LABOR TOGETHER FOR THE REBIRTH OF OUR HOMELAND!

LET US UNITE BEHIND SAMDECH EUV TO REBUILD CAMBODIA!

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I - NATION AND STATE

Cambodia (Kampuchea in Khmer, Cambodge in French) is a sovereign state, recognized within its pre-1970 frontiers, and endowed with the institutions of a liberal democracy.

The national flag is the one from before 1970.

The National Day is November 9, commemorating the passage to national independence in 1953 which was the result of perfect communion between the King and his People.

The national anthem is the **Nokoreach**, the words of which are those from the second verse.

II - POLITICAL SYSTEM

We want to establish a law-abiding State and modernize the political system.

We will enforce the principle of a separation of powers which is the basis of a law-abiding State.

The executive power is exercised by the President and the Government of Cambodia.

The legislative power is exercised by the Parliament composed of two houses: the National Assembly and the Senate.

The judicial power represents the Justice and ensures in complete independence the equality of all citizens before the law.

THE EXECUTIVE POWER

The President of Cambodia

The President of Cambodia is elected by direct universal suffrage for a mandate of five years. He can only be reelected once.

The President of Cambodia is responsible only before the nation. He can be neither interpellated nor dismissed by the Parliament nor by any other institution.

In the event of the Head of State's absence or any other circumstance which prevents him from exercising his power, his duties are carried out by the President of the Senate.

The President of Cambodia represents the Cambodian nation and embodies its unity. He approves the general orientations of national policy proposed by the Prime Minister and oversees their implementation.

He is the Supreme Commander of the armed forces.

The President of Cambodia ensures that the Constitution is respected and that the national institutions function normally. He constitutes the final appeal in case of obstruction of these institutions or in case of a threat to national unity.

The President of Cambodia can initiate a procedure to revise the Constitution. He can petition the Constitutional Council to make certain of the constitutionality of the laws and to safeguard the higher interests of the nation. He has the power to grant pardon.

The President of Cambodia is the guarantor of judicial independence. He is assisted by the Superior Council of the Judiciary.

The Government of Cambodia

The Government, headed by the Prime Minister, manages State affairs.

The Government is invested by the National Assembly before which it is politically responsible. Only the National Assembly can approve the formation or provoke the resignation of the Government.

The Prime Minister constitutes the Government by appointing the ministers.

The administration and the armed forces fall under the authority of the Prime Minister who can delegate certain powers to ministers.

The ministerial functions are incompatible with those of Parliament or all other remunerated employment.

Members of the Government agree, before assuming their functions, to make public the state of their personal wealth.

The administration relies on the traditional territorial structures of Cambodia: khets (provinces), sroks (districts), khums (communes), phums (villages). In these local government areas, the decentralization of State powers goes hand in hand with the institution of direct democracy. There is a single national army responsible for ensuring the defense of the homeland. It is placed under the supreme command of the President of Cambodia.

In order to ensure the smooth functioning and the normality of State services, consultative organs are set up to assist the President of Cambodia and to guide the Government: THE STATE COUNCIL, THE JUDICIAL COUNCIL, THE PUBLIC AUDITING OFFICE, THE ECONOMIC AND SOCIAL COUNCIL.

THE LEGISLATIVE POWER

The legislative power has a triple role which consists of representing the people, voting laws and monitoring the executive power.

It is upheld by a Parliament composed of two houses: the National Assembly and the Senate.

The deputies are elected by direct universal suffrage for a mandate of five years.

The Senators are elected by indirect universal suffrage by the representatives of local communities, socio-professional organizations and national institutions.

The Government is invested by a vote of the National Assembly which also has the power to call into question the Government's responsibility and to censure it.

THE JUDICIAL POWER

Officers of the Justice exercise judicial power with complete independence. Their authority stems from two sources:

- the judicial jurisdictions, as organized before 1970, which consist of "Sala Dambaung"s (County Courts), "Sala Outor"s (Courts of Appeal), and the "Sala Vinichhay" (Court of Cassation);

- and, the administrative jurisdictions, consisting of administrative courts offering a means of recourse to citizens subject to State abuse and the judgments of which can be submitted in a final appeal to the State Council.

III - RIGHTS AND LIBERTIES

We are determined to safeguard human rights and to prevent a recurrence of past policies and practices which have been universally condemned.

In this regard, a law-abiding State must be established on the basis of the institutions and procedures of a liberal democracy whereby power stems from universal suffrage, the code of law is elaborated according to constitutional procedures and the principle of equality before the law applies to all citizens.

The State must itself submit to the law and must provide its citizens with the fundamental rights and liberties which a liberal democracy confers. The guarantee of freedom is upheld by the Constitutional Council which is responsible for ensuring that Parliament respects the principles stated in the Constitution and guarantees the right granted to each citizen having a contention with the State to petition the administrative jurisdiction.

Among the rights and liberties which all persons are guaranteed are, notably:

- the right to life and security;
- the right to be protected from torture and from all degrading and inhuman punishment or treatment;
- the right not to be held in slavery or servitude;
- the right to liberty and safety;
- the right, in case of indictment, to be presumed innocent until proven guilty;
- the right, in case of a trial, to a fair judgment rendered by an independent and impartial tribunal;
- the right to respect for one's private and family life, for one's home and correspondence;
- the liberty of thought, conscience and religious belief;
- the liberty of opinion and expression;
- the right to gather peacefully and to form associations;
- the right to get married at a nubile age and to found a family;
- the right to circulate freely and to choose one's residence;
- the right to property, that is to say, to have exclusive possession of goods of all kinds and to use them freely;
- the right to recognition of one's nationality;
- the right to vote, to be a candidate for public office, and to take part in the management of public affairs.

Discrimination in terms of rights and liberties is not tolerated either on the basis of sex, religion, ethnic origin, past or political opinions of citizens.

Our respect for life and our faith in the redemption of man lead us to abolish the death penalty.

Liberal democracy implies **political multipartism** and is contrary to the communist system which is characterized by confiscation of State power and domination of the political system by a single party. **In the new Cambodia, political parties, trade unions, publishers of newspapers and magazines of all tendencies, groupings of diverse interests and associations of all kinds can freely form** insofar as they respect public order and the laws in force. Switches in the ruling majority, from one political tendency to another, occur normally in our democracy.

IV - SOCIAL AND CULTURAL POLICY

Due to the great misfortune and heartbreak which the Khmer people have endured in the last 20 years, it is necessary to reconstitute the fabric of society and to bring about the rebirth of the Khmer culture.

The future of the Cambodian nation and its independence depend on the protection and strengthening of the Khmer cultural identity which dates back more than 2000 years and which flourished in an extraordinary fashion during the Angkorian epoch.

Moreover, in a democratic government, a commitment to truth must be the basis for all acts or undertakings because truth is the best guarantor of freedom and freedom is the most powerful agent of progress.

In the domain of education and culture, an independent Cambodia having rediscovered its authentic Khmer roots must envisage measures to rid itself of **Vietnamese** and **communist** influences in those areas where the national culture has been the most perverted.

Necessary measures will be taken to ensure the protection and flourishing of the Khmer culture, arts and traditions by promoting the instruction, research and development of cultural and artistic activities, both popular and classical.

National education must be based on the concepts of truth, liberty and mutual respect in order to mold mature future citizens. Education must contribute, through the provision of knowledge and experience and the possibility to earn a satisfactory income by legal and honest means, to **the fight against corruption** and **to the moralization of public life.**

Public Health

After basic nutritional needs have been satisfied, the improvement of health conditions and the establishment of an adequate medical infrastructure, focusing on prevention as much as on cure, will constitute the authorities' top priority during the immediate post-war period.

All Cambodians are entitled to equal benefits in the area of medical care. A health-coverage and social security system will be progressively set up according to the country's capacities. The following measures must be adopted or sustained, as needed, in every region of the country:

- construction of new maternity and child-care centers;
- campaigns to detect and vaccinate against contagious diseases;
- informational and educational campaigns concerning methods of hygiene, nutrition and emergency medical care;
- establishment of mobile medical units;

- repair, construction, and modernization of health clinics, dental care centers, dispensaries and hospitals;

- establishment and improvement of facilities to treat and care for the mentally-ill;

- training of medical personnel at all levels, with the opportunity for existing personnel to acquire more extensive or better-adapted training through the assistance and cooperation of friendly countries;

- aiding and encouraging scientific research in the domain of traditional Khmer herbal medicine.

The medical system comprises a public and a private sector.

Care in the public sector is free. The government will oversee it on a permanent basis in order to maintain and improve its quality.

Private initiative, both Khmer and foreign, is encouraged, notably in the production of medicines and the manufacturing of medical equipment.

Cambodia's Women

The women of Cambodia who have particularly suffered as a consequence of the nation's misfortune during the past two decades benefit from special attention by the authorities. They enjoy rights strictly identical to those of men and see their status improved and protected. The practices which constituted an affront to their dignity are attacked and suppressed. Fulfilling a primordial social function and already playing an essential economic role, they are the object of specific measures and arrangements which acknowledge their important position in the post-war society and which attribute to them a major role in the rehabilitation of the national economy.

Cambodia's Families and Citizens

The critical role of the family which constitutes the fundamental unit of society and the cradle of education and traditional Khmer values is recognized and enhanced. Specific measures are conceived to favor its development.

Methods employed by the communist regime to spy upon citizens and to encourage them to inform on one another are declared illegal. The private lives of citizens must be removed from the sphere of State investigation and interference.

As Cambodia is under-populated relative to its size and resources and in relation to the demographic dynamism of its neighboring countries, a natality policy is implemented to ensure a consistent renewal and growth of the population.

The measures envisaged include the construction of nurseries, pediatric-care units, facilities to accommodate large families, the establishment of a system of family allowances and other incentives.

Cambodia's Youth

Our country must mobilize its youth whose enthusiasm and talents will be necessary for the reconstruction of Cambodia. The system of education and professional training, dialogue with elders, the development of sports and recreational activities along with voluntary hands-on participation in economic and social development programs all contribute to the flourishing of our youth.

War Victims

A particular effort of solidarity must be made in favor of direct or indirect victims of the war: widows, orphans, and the handicapped. The nation must provide for their essential needs, education and social and professional reintegration.

War veterans and soldiers, regardless of the army or unit which they served in, are entitled to respect and benefit from a pension in case of disablement.

Refugees and the Diaspora

The repatriation and resettlement of refugees must be carried out with the aid of international humanitarian organizations and with full respect for human rights, notably as regards the liberty to circulate and to choose a place to live. Total security must be ensured for these refugees who may, depending on their situation, receive aid to resettle and recommence their professional lives.

An appeal is launched to the Cambodian Diaspora inviting the sons and daughters of the Khmer nation dispersed throughout the world to participate in the reconstruction of the motherland. Their skills, experience and resources are precious in this decisive period for the future of Cambodia.

FUNCINPEC recognizes the right of all Cambodians living abroad to vote during national elections.

Education

Education in all domains and at all levels governs the future of the country.

All Cambodians, regardless of their age, sex, ethnic origin, religion or social status must have equal chances to receive an education according to their capabilities, without being subject to discrimination of any kind.

Education is mandatory for all children from the ages of six to sixteen and is free in public schools.

Traditional structures, notably in the area of basic education (monastery schools), coexist with other types of institutions (primary and elementary schools, high schools, universities, institutes providing vocational training).

Apprenticeships and professional training constitute a new and vital component of national education, responding directly and immediately to needs linked to the reconstruction and development of the country. This instruction is technical, concrete, relatively short, adapted to economic needs and will require the establishment of appropriate structures.

Generally speaking, the educational system must be geared to meet the economic and social needs of the nation and must work together with the nation's decision-making centers (the administration, public and private firms) regarding the content of its programs and its methods. The country's authorities, universities and firms must strive in unison and on a constant basis to ensure that there is a correspondence between the number of degrees awarded and the number of professional job openings.

The educational system is capable of identifying the most brilliant students and promoting the development of their talents and abilities.

The campaign against illiteracy is strengthened and expanded, notably in rural zones.

Adequate resources are devoted to training and increasing the number of personnel in the educational sector, notably as far as teachers and professors are concerned.

Khmer is the official language. In order to promote international ties and to encourage the development of exchanges with other nations, foreign languages are taught in all domains and at all levels considered necessary, with the assistance of friendly countries.

Exchange and cooperation programs involving the sending abroad of students and trainees are established between our universities and those of other countries and function independently of all political considerations.

Work and Employment

All citizens have the right to work.

The authorities must therefore take all necessary measures in the short-, medium- and long-term to prevent unemployment and to fight underemployment.

All work must give rise to decent remuneration. Promotion of the worker must occur on the basis of merit and experience.

A work legislation will determine the rights and obligations of workers and employers.

The Mass Media

The liberty of radio, television and the written press is a recognized fact of public life.

Journalists can thus work in complete independence without being subject to any kind of pressure or coercion on the part of the authorities. As in all democracies, the only constraints are those of a public nature and are determined by the law.

The multiplicity of tastes, interests and opinions is reflected in the diversity of the mass media.

Radio broadcasting stations and television networks can stem from both the public and private sectors.

Buddhism

Buddhism is the State religion comprising an overwhelming majority of the Cambodian population and constituting a pillar of the national identity.

However, all citizens have the freedom to believe or to worship as they like. Other religions or beliefs, notably Islam, Catholicism and Protestantism, are equally respected and protected. A person's adherence to a given belief does not entitle him to any particular privileges nor hinder in any way his public or private life.

The Buddhist community is able to return to its ancestral traditions and practices. All believers can freely enter the monkhood without being subject to a political or administrative check. The management of each monastery is the exclusive responsibility of the Venerable Chief of the monastery, the monks and the faithful who belong to it. The monastery, notably in rural zones, is fully recognized as serving the role of a place of worship and a center for social and cultural activities around which community life is organized.

Ethnic Minorities

The rights of ethnic minorities (Muslim Khmers, Sino-Khmers, Khmers Loeu...) are guaranteed and protected. Their languages, cultures and religions are recognized.

All citizens, regardless of their ethnic origin, are equal before the law. They enjoy the same rights and are bound by the same obligations.

The Historical and Cultural Patrimony

All components of the Khmer people's historical and cultural patrimony will be protected and, if necessary, rehabilitated: the arts, monuments, religious works, sculptures, paintings, dances, music, handicrafts, etc.

Books and works of value destroyed under previous regimes are republished.

The protection and the restoration of the temples of Angkor constitute a capital undertaking which requires permanent attention. This task will necessitate the assistance of the international community through the intermediary of organizations such as UNESCO. Aid from France, provided by the French School of the Extreme Orient, is particularly precious.

V - ECONOMIC POLICY

In the economic domain, the new Cambodia must face two crucial challenges: reconstructing a country ravaged by war and setting up a liberal economy within the framework of a law-abiding state which will permit anarchy and arbitrary practices to be brought to a halt.

Concerning reconstruction, our country can be inspired by the examples of Japan and the countries of Western Europe following the Second World War. As for gaining control over the anarchic and volatile situation currently prevailing in the urban areas, we must fight institutionalized corruption and implement explicit legislation adapted to the country's current situation.

The regime installed by the Vietnamese Army has over the past years proceeded with a crude liberalization of the economy resulting in inflation, speculation, anarchy, generalized corruption and an aggravation of the people's misery. Moreover, it has shamelessly been engaged in selling off public property. This regime is confusing the principles of a market economy with the law of the jungle. It is trampling national interests underfoot and privileging the personal interests of strictly a small group of dishonest leaders.

Following the instauration of a new government more respectful of lawful procedures and national interests, getting Cambodia back on its feet again will necessitate the aid and assistance of the world community: friendly countries such as the United States of America, France and other countries in the European Economic Community, Japan, China, Australia, the ASEAN countries and international organizations working in the economic, technical and financial domains. Moreover, it will above all demand a persistent effort on the part of the newly reunited nation. As it was during the Sangkum Reastr Niyum epoch, our slogan is: **"Cambodia helps itself"**.

The Fundamental Option

Our choice of society is clear: it is that of a free society.

Economic liberty is indissociable from political liberty. To try to establish one without the other would only lead to repression or chaos. In the new Cambodia, only a liberal democratic government characterized by political 'multipartism' such as we advocate, can establish and ensure the smooth functioning of a **market economy** which represents our fundamental option.

This liberal economic system ensures its citizens of the right to own property and promotes free enterprise within the framework of open competition. It restricts the production apparatus to manufacturing only the goods which the market - that is to say, the consumers - demand. It avoids the irrationalities, waste and frustrations inherent in the communist system. It presupposes the free circulation of persons, merchandise and capital. It appeals to the intelligence and initiative of all citizens.

Lessons may be drawn from the example of Thailand which presents geographical and cultural characteristics akin to those of Cambodia and which has experienced remarkable economic growth over the past fifteen years.

However, economic liberty must be compatible with our concern for national solidarity and the pursuit of social objectives as well as with the protection of the nation's higher interests. The State must establish an institutional framework and appropriate controls to ensure that economic liberty is exercised in an orderly and efficient fashion.

One of the objectives of our economic policy is to promote the emergence of a growing middle class. Such an evolution will avert tension provoked by social inequalities which are overly striking. As a means of achieving that evolution we want to render agricultural concerns more flourishing and favor the development of small- and medium-sized firms in the business sector.

Unlike the classic model of development, the Cambodian economy which is now primarily based on agriculture will simultaneously expand into the secondary and tertiary sectors. The service sector will thus rapidly become the driving force of economic growth, the objective not being to make beforehand of industry the dominating focus of development.

In our economic system the private sector can coexist with a public sector. Cambodia therefore possesses a mixed economy. It also seeks to attract foreign investment which will benefit from favorable conditions.

The Rejection of Former Institutions, Methods and Practices

Under the guise of "liberalism", the government installed by the Vietnamese Army introduced backward practices and morals bringing to mind the 19th-century brand of capitalism which has become associated, in our country, with the political structures of a totalitarian communist regime.

Under this regime, the two mainstays of economic activity are speculation and the pillage of national resources (deforestation, over-fishing, etc.).

Medium- and long-term investment, associated with employment and which generates wealth, is practically nonexistent.

The "privatization" of public firms is one manifestation of the selling off of public property. This practice is carried out in a trivial and illegal manner and only serves to enrich a few individuals who are misusing their power.

FUNCINPEC pledges to fight corruption in all its forms. It will strive to bring about the triumph of patriotism and moral integrity. It denounces economic transactions, contracts and agreements which are contrary to national interests. With the overpowering will of the people, it insists that Cambodia be returned to Cambodians.

The First Tasks of the New State

Before anything else, conditions of security must be restored for the benefit of all citizens over the full extent of national territory. In particular, the crucial work of demining and removing explosive devices of all kinds must be undertaken and completed with the aid of specialized teams provided by friendly countries.

A detailed legislation must be elaborated regarding economic, financial, commercial, fiscal and social policies. This legislation will determine the "rules of the game" which apply to everyone. The State must ensure that the laws and regulations are respected and it must play a regulating and inciting role in the functioning of the economy.

A statistical apparatus is set up to collect, process and publish national data permitting an evaluation of the nation's resources and an appraisal of the state of the economy. A national system of accountancy is developed.

A modern banking system is established and a macroeconomic stabilization program is implemented to maintain the value of the national currency and to ensure its convertibility.

The Transportation and Communication Infrastructures

The restoration of the communication routes is essential in the first phase of reconstruction. This conditions the picking up of the economy by permitting exchanges to occur and develop.

The highway network must be restored as soon as possible with top priority placed on heavily-traveled routes: the Phnom Penh - Sihanoukville highway, the national routes going around Tonle Sap lake and extending to the Thai border, the road to Kampong Cham which continues in the direction of Laos, and the principal route leading to Vietnam.

The railway network (Phnom Penh - Sihanoukville, Phnom Penh - Poipet) must also rapidly be repaired because it permits the transportation of passengers and goods at more competitive rates.

The river network provides natural facilities which should be taken advantage of immediately and to the maximum extent possible. It does not require heavy investment with the exception of some dredging and development work.

Maritime transport is facilitated by the renovation of the Sihanoukville deep-sea port situated in a duty-free zone.

Air transport is organized in such a way as to ensure permanent access of our country to international traffic. The objective pursued is to attract a significant influx of tourists and to enable the national airlines to benefit from this traffic. The airports, notably those in Phnom Penh and Siemreap, are repaired, enlarged and modernized.

The postal and telecommunications services are in the public domain and are organized in such a way as to link all the provinces to each other and to the capital, and to establish rapid and reliable communication links between Cambodia and the rest of the world. These services will be modernized with the installation of equipment employing the latest technologies.

Agriculture

The agricultural sector represents the top priority of the reconstruction and development program. It provides direct subsistence for 80% of the population and constitutes, thereby, a factor of social stability. It should enable Cambodia to attain **self-sufficiency in food production** during the delicate period of reconstruction. In the longer term, a more productive agricultural sector creating exportable surpluses and raising the standard of living of the rural population must serve as the basis of development for the whole economy.

Development of the agricultural sector is based on a set of structural, economic and technical measures, notably:

- **agrarian reform**, carried out in such a way as to more equitably apportion the farmable areas, to grant ownership of land to peasants or recognize their existing property rights, and to increase agricultural productivity;
- **the clearing and exploitation of new tracts of land**;
- **the dissemination of modern techniques and practices** (mechanization, irrigation, use of fertilizers, insecticides, pesticides and other plant-treatment products) by evaluating beforehand the costs and benefits of each measure and their overall effects on the environment;
- **the provision of basic and advanced training to agricultural personnel and technicians** in order to assist the rural population;
- **the establishment of a research and development program** aimed at selecting the best adapted and most productive varieties of vegetables and animal breeds;
- **the creation or restoration of research centers and model farms**;
- **the implementation of a water program** through the construction or restoration of dams, reservoirs, canals and other systems of irrigation;
- **fishing**, in both the sea and fresh water, constitutes for the country a very important industry whose development must be regulated in order to ensure the replenishment of fish species and to avoid the pillage of national riches;
- **animal-raising** can constitute an important complement to farmer's resources through the provision of aid and instruction in this sector. Animal-raising may adopt a more industrial approach and include new forms such as fish-breeding;

- **the agro-industry** is promoted in order to multiply markets for agricultural products, create employment in the rural zones and increase the value of national production;

- **rubber-production**, which benefits from very favorable conditions in Cambodia and which provides the country with significant revenue in foreign currency, must be developed in line with modern methods. The objective is to rapidly return to production status the 50,000 hectares being exploited before 1970, to then exploit the 100,000 hectares of red earth already designated for this purpose, before expanding to other areas suitable for this form of cultivation. The plantations belonging to French companies will be returned to their legal owners on the condition that they accept to restore them to normal activity and to run them in accordance with arrangements defined by mutual agreement with the authorities. The State encourages nationals to participate actively in rubber production which can be the object of family enterprise such as in Malaysia;

- **the exploitation of forests** must also be regulated in order to not deprive the State of a source of revenue, to preserve the ecological balance and to safeguard the country's future. The cutting of timber which can only take place in carefully designated zones subject to concessions made in due form must be followed up by a program of reforestation;

- **a survey of rare animal species** is carried out and measures are taken to ensure their protection and development;

- **a system of cooperatives** based on voluntary membership is developed in order to increase the buying power of farmers, to favor the commercialization or the processing of their production, to obtain well-adapted and easy terms of credit, and to disseminate modern techniques of production and management.

Community Development

Based on a series of measures conceived and coordinated at regional and local levels, community development aims to improve the standard of living of the rural inhabitants who make up the overwhelming majority of the Cambodian population. This necessitates the participation of several departments or services assembled under the guidance of an interministerial committee, or within a large ministry, and deals with objectives as diverse as the electrification of villages, the development of craftsmanship, the creation of small business ventures, the establishment of cooperatives, the construction of country roads, schools, and health clinics, the digging of wells and irrigation canals, the promotion of new agricultural techniques, the improvement of health conditions, the setting up of a social assistance program, etc. The villagers themselves participate closely in the conception, implementation and running of this community development program which represents the social and economic component of a direct and thriving democracy and which conditions the development of Cambodia as a whole.

A Modern System of Taxation

A law-abiding State is not viable without financial resources.

In order to cover its day-to-day expenses, to pay civil servants decently, to offer good public services and to construct and maintain national infrastructures, a modern State must have adequate resources at its disposal. For this reason it is necessary to institute a system of taxation which reconciles economic efficiency with social equity.

In order to complement customs duties which at this time make up the bulk of public revenues along with several other minor revenue-producing taxes, it is necessary to institute a true system of indirect taxation based on turnover, and an equitable system of direct progressive taxation based on income.

In this regard, it is necessary to institute a modern system of accountancy in all domains and at all levels of economic activity and to train the necessary personnel in the private sector and the public service.

Monetary System and Policy

The monetary system is based on the principle of Central Bank autonomy vis-à-vis the Government.

Commercial banks, Khmer or foreign, are subject to control by the Central Bank of Cambodia which centralizes both the entry and exit of foreign currency.

The creation of money must reflect the increase in national production and wealth and must correspond to the real financial needs of the economy. Monetary orthodoxy contributes decisively to price stability.

Territorial Planning and Development

A voluntarist approach will be taken to achieve balanced and harmonious development of the country. It consists of minimizing as much as possible the disparities in standards of living between urban and rural areas, of more evenly distributing infrastructures and resources, of promoting the development of the poorest and most isolated provinces and regions (in the North, North-East and South-West), of ensuring the peopling or repopling of these provinces or regions, of creating balanced poles of development extending over the entirety of national territory, of bringing rural exodus under control, of avoiding anarchic growth of cities and the proliferation of shanty-towns, of preventing congestion in the capital and of establishing town planning projects integrating human, social, cultural and ecological criteria.

This policy is based on an incentive system and is strictly voluntary. The key to its success lies in the creation of adequate infrastructures (roads, housing, water, electricity, schools, telecommunications, health services, shops, socio-cultural activities) and on the availability of adequate professional and financial incentives (allocation of land and means of employment, diverse aids and subsidies). The authorities ensure the constancy and the flexibility of this policy.

Industry and Handicrafts

The secondary sector fulfills an important role in the development of Cambodia. It responds to a specific and realistic approach. The principle objectives pursued for the time being are, on the one hand, the production of staple consumer goods to improve day-to-day conditions for the population and, on the other hand, the processing of agricultural and mining produce in order to increase the value of national production.

It is, therefore, essentially a question of developing light industries which require limited investment and which satisfy immediate demands. Among the possibilities are the manufacturing of textiles, household goods, plowing tools and construction materials, distilleries, rice-processing plants, canning factories, the development of the timber industry, the treatment and processing of natural rubber, etc.

In other branches there may exist industries of relatively large magnitude, notably where capital and technological investments require economies of scale: pharmaceuticals, petrochemistry, mechanical construction, etc.

However, it does not seem judicious to equip Cambodia with heavy industries such as steelmaking, shipbuilding or chemical production. These types of industries necessitate significant investment, face very severe foreign competition as a result of worldwide over-capacity, and would not be able to operate profitably in Cambodia. Furthermore, not having at its disposal but a limited internal market, Cambodia must envisage adopting forms of industry which take into account the international specialization of labor in order to respect the norms of competitiveness and profitability.

Small- and Medium-Sized Firms

In numerous sectors, small- and medium-sized firms are common and constitute the structures best adapted to the developmental conditions of our country. Their implantation in rural zones contributes to the desired development of these areas. Their role is essential in craftsmanship, an activity which must be encouraged and supported.

The Public Sector

Although private enterprise is common in practically all sectors of economic activity, the State retains control of certain sectors judged strategic or fitting the notion of public service: energy, mines, railways, post and telecommunications services.

Energy

Along with transportation, energy constitutes a vital factor in the development of any economy. For this reason, the authorities must rapidly restore electric power stations (thermal and hydraulic) to full operation and prepare for a substantial increase in the consumption of electricity.

Exploration for oil is encouraged and expanded. Concessions are granted to international petroleum companies accepting to invest, under well-determined conditions, on our soil and in the maritime zones within the bounds of our sovereignty.

Other forms of energy, such as solar and wind energy, are studied and exploited while taking into account profitability and ecological impact.

The Tertiary Sector and Tourism

The immense touristic potential of Cambodia (Angkor temples and other historical sites, cultural and artistic performances, beaches, the tropical climate, hunting and fishing) must be fully developed. Consequently, all service activities engaged in the tourist trade (hotels, restaurants, handicrafts, transportation) constitute an essential driving force in the development of the country by creating jobs and providing foreign currency.

The infrastructures serving the main touristic sites are restored and expanded. The hotel industry is rehabilitated, developed and modernized. Agreements are concluded with hotel chains, transport companies and foreign tour operators who are able to provide capital and know-how.

However, the development of tourism is conceived in such a manner as to take into consideration the full social, cultural and ecological implications for our country and to protect the national identity and traditions.

The financial sector (banking, insurance) is open to international participation and contributes to the development of the service industry.

Foreign Trade

Cambodia accepts the regulations governing free trade within both regional and worldwide contexts. However, during the temporary period corresponding to the undertaking of national reconstruction, certain special agreements or dispensatory arrangements are negotiated with our principle commercial partners and international bodies such as the GATT.

The objective is to facilitate and promote exports to the maximum extent possible while limiting imports to the capital goods necessary for the reconstruction of the country and to the consumer goods of prime necessity not yet being produced by companies established in Cambodia.

Foreign Investment

Cambodia invites multi-national companies to take advantage of all opportunities related to its economic development. The role of foreign investment is very important in fulfilling needs for capital goods, technology and know-how, and its benefits are spread throughout the whole country.

Among the guarantees, advantages and incentives offered are, notably: the guarantee not to nationalize or to requisition property, the provision of land and appropriate infrastructures, the exemption (partial or complete, temporary or permanent) from duties and taxes, the authorization to transfer profits, the possibility to freely import all needed equipment and raw materials, and the absence of obstruction to possible disinvestment. It is important to ensure judicial independence so that both contracts and the law are fully respected. To create a favorable environment, it is furthermore necessary to limit bureaucracy, to train the local personnel needed and to fight product-imitation by strictly respecting international copyright laws.

Duty-free zones are created, starting with the Sihanoukville port zone.

Among the sectors concerned by foreign investment are, notably, the labor-intensive industries, activities geared towards exportation or re-exportation, textiles, electronics and petrochemistry.

VI - FOREIGN POLICY AND INTERNATIONAL RELATIONS

Cambodia is a non-aligned country and a member of the United Nations, presently maintaining or seeking to establish friendly relations with all countries in the world.

As a sovereign state, it confirms its full and active participation in the work of all international organizations in the humanitarian, cultural, technical, economic, monetary and financial domains (ICRC, UNESCO, UNICEF, FAO, WHO, IMF, World Bank, etc.)

It seeks membership in the Association of South-East Asian Nations (ASEAN). It ceases to belong to the alliance of the three Indochinese states of which the other two members are communist Laos and Vietnam.

It honors all international agreements having been reached by a government incarnating independence and national sovereignty.

It demands the total and effective withdrawal of all categories of Vietnamese forces from Cambodia. It considers null and void all agreements and treaties concluded after 1969 which infringe upon Cambodia's national sovereignty and territorial integrity. The problem of Vietnamese citizens illegally settled in Cambodia will be resolved according to the provisions of international law and with full respect for humanitarian principles while privileging the legitimate interests of the Khmer people.

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Ranariddh Appeal at Party Congress

Reported Bk 0403142192 Voice of the Khmer in Cambodian 0430 GMT 4 March 92

"Appeal" launched by H.R.H. Prince Norodom Ranariddh, President of the National United Front for an Independent, Neutral, Peaceful, and Cooperative Cambodia (FUNCINPEC) and member of the Supreme National Council of Cambodia, to the Cambodian compatriots assembled during the FUNCINPEC World Congress held from February 27-29, 1992 in Oddar Meanchey Province.

* * *

I have the great honor today, in the spirit of national reconciliation of the October 23, 1991 Paris peace agreement and in my capacity as President of FUNCINPEC - the true Sihanoukist party - to launch the following appeal to all Cambodian compatriots, without distinction and regardless of their political tendencies. I would like to address myself to the Khmer national conscience residing deep within the heart and soul of every Cambodian.

First of all, I would like to address the Cambodian women in our country who are the very symbol and model of courage. You have struggled valiantly, day after day and in tragic and painful circumstances, to defend what you and Cambodians cherish the most - respect for life. You have suffered and have been witness to the worst suffering possible, from hunger, fear, and sickness, from the unjust loss of family members, and from the weariness at the end of those days of horror and anguish. But despite it all, you stand firm, with your heads high, courageously finding the energy to continue the struggle for the survival of your children and that of our entire nation.

Cambodian women, more than ever, want to regain peace and a sense of freedom, for they no longer want to see husbands terrorized nor fear for the safety of their children and families. What Cambodian women yearn for and what I equally desire is to see family life flourish once again in peaceful and joyful harmony. In the future, we will need you more than ever for you are the ones who organize our daily life and who will contribute the most to the rebirth of our nation. I would like to work with you to ensure that your children benefit from adequate nourishment and free medical care, that they receive a normal education and the opportunity to make a decent living, that they have the chance one day to found a family of their own.

It is due to your efforts under such harsh and trying circumstances that I wish to express my admiration for you and to praise you. I want you to know that I consider the role of Cambodian women to be of immense importance in FUNCINPEC. [applause]

As for our elders, those compatriots who knew peace before our country became embroiled in war, those of you who because of your will and fighting spirit survived, I would like to emphasize that you represent our cultural values and the transfer of knowledge and experience from one generation to another. Your wise counsel will light the way for us and teach us to prepare for the future.

You elders with great knowledge and experience, please teach us what you know about traditional Khmer medicine or about the Khmer civilization, its history, customs, legends and traditions. This insight will satisfy our yearning for knowledge and help calm the impatience of our youth.

We want all Cambodians to know a life of justice and peace. I am happy with the thought that a glorious period is once more dawning upon Cambodia and that our children will live in an era of prosperity. I would like our elders to lead a comfortable life, to grow old in decent and humane conditions, and to be cared for by affectionate families and friends.

Now, I would like to address myself to all combatants. Although you sometimes fought against our cause, I would like to say that I fully understand what you did. I also understand that at the time you thought you were serving a just cause. For this reason, I respect you - having fought against you. However, my sentiments lie in particular with our compatriot combatants, those in the ranks of the Sihanoukist Army, the National Army of Independent Kampuchea, who made untold sacrifices in the struggle to liberate our sacred and beloved motherland. [applause]

Thanks to the noble sacrifices of our resistance fighters, Cambodia has regained peace and will eventually be able to return to a life of normalcy. The struggle they waged for so many years was not in vain. It has had concrete results of great significance and lasting value. Having led the armed struggle of the Sihanoukist Army - later the National Army of Independent Kampuchea - I have learned the worth of its fighters, the value of their determination, the total selflessness of their sacrifices in the crusade to achieve a genuine victory. From now on, they will occupy an esteemed place in the history books of our beloved Cambodia. [applause] Future generations will acknowledge their accomplishments and will experience feelings of profound gratitude and respect for the sacrifices made by these compatriots in the struggle for Cambodia's freedom.

I am greatly concerned about the compatriots, both military and civilian, who are disabled because of the war. I want to share their pain and will strive to do everything possible to ensure that these compatriots can lead a decent life and play a determining role in our new post-war society.

During the national reconciliation phase, some compatriot combatants will remain at their posts to ensure peace and to defend the territorial integrity of Cambodia. [applause] Others, who will be demobilized, will be called upon by our movement to assist in the peaceful undertaking of reconstruction and economic development. [applause] I believe that since these compatriots are true combatants, with many valiant exploits already to their credit on the battlefield, they will be worthy of meeting the new challenge which awaits us - namely, to lead FUNCINPEC to victory in the 1993 elections. [applause].

Next, I would like to speak to Cambodia's farmers. Cambodia is a great agricultural country and its farmers represent its most active force. Thanks to their work, Cambodia will be able to feed itself and to maintain its independence and self-sufficiency. I want them to know that FUNCINPEC's agricultural policy will constitute a top priority among the tasks of development.

Agriculture is a concern which must be addressed immediately. [applause] In accordance with the Paris agreement, mine-clearing programs are already being implemented. This activity will be further intensified in order to increase to the maximum extent possible the amount of land available for compatriots to work on. Our party will take measures to provide seed and fertilizer in order to improve the quality and quantity of production. We will also strive to acquire modern agricultural equipment in order to assist our respected compatriot farmers.

Concerning the raising of livestock, we will seek to provide guidance on various methods of production in order to improve quality and output, both to meet local needs and to produce surpluses for export as we formerly did during the glorious era of the Sangkhum Reah Niyum. [applause] Our nation will once again become the granary of Southeast Asia, thanks to the efforts of the compatriot farmers, and for the well-being and prosperity of all Cambodians. [applause]

Concerning compatriot Muslims, Khmer Krom, Sino-Cambodians, Khmer Loeu and others, I would like to emphasize that, above all, you are Cambodians. Your diversity contributes to Cambodia's rich cultural heritage. You will always play a major role in our country.

I want to guarantee the freedom of belief of all Cambodians and to recognize and protect your traditions and customs. I would like to reaffirm my absolute opposition to all forms of racial discrimination, meaning that I seek to uphold your rights and freedoms as I do those of all other Cambodian citizens. [applause] As Cambodia has a small population, the nation needs the energy and goodwill of all compatriots. Each community can take part, according to its capabilities, in the immense task of rebuilding our country.

I would like to address all artisans, businessmen, entrepreneurs and other workers as well as those looking for jobs. I would like to inform these compatriots that the task of reconstructing Cambodia will rest upon your shoulders. In order that you may set up businesses and thrive in a atmosphere of social harmony, Cambodia must have a new and modern socio-economic policy based on a system of free enterprise obeying free market laws. [applause].

Because our country must be fully rebuilt, the investments which will be made in Cambodia will consist of modern-day technologies and innovations. In this area, we must never place personal interests ahead of those of the nation. Failing this, Cambodia will never be able to successfully make up for the time and opportunities lost in the past two decades.

We must set in place extensive educational programs which will require the close cooperation of compatriot teachers charged with a most important mission. In this regard, we can also count on the assistance of our compatriots abroad, of countries friendly to Cambodia and their leaders who have long supported us in our struggle. They will provide us with technical assistance and give us further training.

Governments and businessmen the world over are constantly in touch with us concerning our country's reconstruction. The countries of ASEAN, Japan, the United States, European countries, Australia and many others have successively contacted us to exchange views and to propose assistance for the undertaking of rebuilding Cambodia. For this reason, I would like to set up an economic commission consisting of specialists in order to facilitate cooperation between our Party and these donor countries.

I would like to address myself to the compatriot civil servants and officials who have held or who still hold positions in the civilian administration of Cambodia. I would like to say to you that I clearly understand the pressure which you have come under serving an administration in which you may not have believed, and how you may have been obliged to do so reluctantly and in full opposition to your own personal beliefs.

I ask those of you today who hold power, to reflect on the future of the country, to not arbitrarily make decisions whose consequences could gravely compromise our efforts to build a new Cambodia. I call upon your complete honesty. Serving the nation is the most noble of causes which necessitates a certain sense of self-sacrifice and deep moral values.

Cambodia will never be too rich in human resources to do without your competence and skills. If you share this belief we are ready to cooperate with you to rebuild and develop Cambodia. It is never too late to reconcile in the name of the Cambodian people and their future. [applause]

I would like to extend this appeal to all Cambodian compatriots, both refugees and expatriates, who reside abroad. You constitute a powerful force and a real chance for the nation. I know that our Cambodian compatriots the world over, although having been influenced by the countries in which they live, have remained faithful to and continue to abide by the values of our Khmer culture and civilization. [applause]

These compatriots have formed friendships and close relations with foreigners which will be extremely useful in forwarding the process of reconstruction which we will undertake. Your education, knowledge and skills will enable us to recover what our country has unfortunately lost in the past two decades. I ask you to be ready to respond to our requests for assistance. [applause]

If you have not already done so, you may write and introduce yourselves to offer your services and professional qualifications in the service of the motherland. We will make arrangements to welcome those of you who volunteer to help rebuild our nation. For those among you who are permanently settled abroad, make yourselves known and we will strive to provide you with information on the evolution of our efforts to rebuild Cambodia. Thereby our undertaking will gain momentum and support throughout the world. [applause]

In the future, when our officials and businessmen go abroad, they can get in touch with you and receive assistance in contacting foreigners who might be willing to participate in the reconstruction of our country. In this manner, you can indirectly help bring about the rebirth of our nation. Cambodia will become a nation open to all countries, friends with the world. [applause]

To the Buddhist priests, I would like to, above all, express my greatest respects. With you, I would like to once again see the early morning sun casting its rays on monasteries resounding with the chants of prayers. With you, I would like to once again see our monks and novices, draped in the traditional yellow monastic garb, making their rounds for food in villages throughout a free Cambodia. [applause]

I would like to once again see and hear with you pupils laughing and playing on the grounds of your monastery compounds. I would like to once again relive with you the diverse religious ceremonies and festivities which bring together the faithful of all origins. I would like to take part with you in those sacred ceremonies marking respect for our parents and loved ones in accordance with our Cambodian traditions and customs.

With you, I would like to see our monasteries resume the natural and revered role which they formerly served, one so important for our people, at the heart of Cambodian society. I would like to pray with you and call upon the triple jewels of our Buddhist faith to bless the Cambodian people with security, prosperity, and happiness forever. [applause]

Finally, I would like to address the youth of our nation. Whether they are combatants, farmers or students they constitute the momentum of our nation, its greatest investment, its most valued resource. [applause]. They are the ones who are going to propel Cambodia forward, with great strides, on the road to rehabilitation. It is they who are the most eager to see our country evolve and develop. They are the ones who will usher Cambodia into the 21st century.

First of all, I would like to ask that they remain faithful to the Cambodian culture and traditions which are the sole means by which to reconcile and unite our nation. Rarely have youth had to assume the burden which they do, to take in their hands the responsibility for the future of their country - Cambodia's future. [applause]

I am aware of your sense of friendship and moral values. I do understand your resolute will to transform Cambodian society and to render it more free, just, humane and efficient. I clearly understand your concerns for they are those shared by youth all over the world with whom I have dealt extensively for many years, having taught law to French students and those from many other countries. I understand these issues, furthermore, for the majority of my colleagues in the FUNCINPEC office are nationalist youths. [applause]

It will be one of my greatest joys to engage in direct dialogue with you and to exchange views. I propose that we decide together upon the future of our Cambodia, your Cambodia and that of your children. [applause] It is true that we must continue to be courageous and patient. It is true that the path before us is still long and strewn with obstacles. But I would now like to recall for all Cambodians the fundamental values of our beloved nation.

Our people are united by solidarity and love for one another. We must rally round Samdech Euv, the Father of Independence, the Father of National Reconciliation and the Father of National Reconstruction, to rebuild Cambodia. [applause] We are a people with great respect for common values and whose roots are solid and noble. We are a people who are joyful and kind by nature, whose enthusiasm must fuel the reconstruction of Cambodia. We are a people of patience and endurance, of intelligence and understanding, who must therefore draw lessons from our past experiences. We are honest people who must work together with confidence and on the basis of mutual trust. [applause] We are, above all, a determined people who must commit itself to the success of this great undertaking. [applause]

The Cambodian people can count on my fidelity and unflinching devotion along side our respected Samdech Euv in this immense undertaking. I hereby call upon all Cambodians in this country and throughout the world, from this day on, to unite around Samdech Euv and our party, FUNCINPEC, to bring about together and in unison the rebirth of Cambodia.

END

FUNCINPEC

Office of HRH Prince Norodom Ranariddh

Headquarters:

#48, Street 214

Sangkat Baeng Raing

Kann Daun Penh

Phnom Penh

Cambodia

Tel: (855-23) 26469

Tel/Fax: (855-23) 26471

*** * ***

Mailing Address:

PO Box 12-1014 Suan Phlu

Bangkok 10121

Thailand

Tel: (662) 286-3316/4442

Tel/Fax: (662) 286-9158

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