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Vietnam-Cambodia Joint Statement

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1. At the invitation of Samdech Hun Sen, Prime Minister of the Kingdom of Cambodia, His Excellency Mr. Phan Van Khai, Prime Minister of the Socialist Republic of Vietnam, paid an official visit to the Kingdom of Cambodia, from 6 to 7 March 2006.

2. During his visit, Prime Minister Phan Van Khai and his delegation were granted Royal Audience with His Majesty Preah Bat Samdech Preah Boromneath Norodom Sihamoni, King of Cambodia. Prime Minister Phan Van Khai also paid courtesy calls on Samdech Chea Sim, Chairman of the Senate and Samdech Heng Samrin, Acting Chairman of the National Assembly, and held official talks with the delegation of the Royal Government of Cambodia led by Samdech Prime Minister Hun Sen. Prime Minister Phan Van Khai and the Vietnamese delegation laid wreaths at the Independence Monument and the Cambodia-Vietnam Friendship Memorial.

3. The official talks were conducted in a cordial and friendly atmosphere. The two Prime Ministers briefed each other on the development efforts in their respective countries and reviewed a wide range of bilateral and regional issues.

4. Prime Minister Phan Van Khai and the Vietnamese delegation highlighted the significant importance of the upcoming State visit by His Majesty Preah Bat Samdech Preah Boromneath Norodom Sihamoni to the Socialist Republic of Vietnam, from 16 to 18 March 2006. The two leaders expressed their belief that this first-ever State visit to Vietnam by His Majesty the King of Cambodia will give a new impetus for the concerted efforts of the two countries to deepen their ties of good neighborliness, traditional friendship, comprehensive cooperation and long-term stability.

5. The two Prime Ministers are convinced that the growing traditional friendship and bilateral cooperation between the two countries and peoples have been carried forward steadily for the future generations and reaffirmed their determination to consolidate and expand the good neighborliness and close cooperation on the basis of principles as enshrined in the Joint Declaration of March 2005 during the visit of His Excellency Nong Duc Manh, Secretary General of the Vietnam Communist Party, to Cambodia from 28 to 30 March 2005 and the Joint Statement during the visit of Samdech Prime Minister Hun Sen to Vietnam from 10 to 12 October 2005. The Royal Government of Cambodia and the Government of the Socialist Republic of Vietnam fully committed to respect each other's independence, sovereignty, territorial integrity, non-interference into each other's internal affairs, non-use of force or threat to use

force, as well as the non-allowance of any hostile force to use one's territory to undermine the peace, security and stability of the other country.

6. Samdech Prime Minister Hun Sen expressed his admiration for economic development achievements in all sectors recorded by the Vietnamese people as well as other successes in the DOI MOI process. The Royal Government of Cambodia also highly appreciated Vietnam's sound foreign policy and active engagement in regional and international organizations, including the successful hosting of the 5th Asia-Europe Meeting Summit in 2004 in Hanoi as well as the upcoming hosting of the 14th APEC Summit to be held in Ha Noi in November this year.

7. Prime Minister Phan Van Khai acknowledged and warmly congratulated the great achievements of Cambodia in the pursuit of peace, national reconciliation policy, and in economic development in past few years, especially the success of the reform programs, under the framework of the Rectangular Strategy for Growth, Employment, Equity and Efficiency. Prime Minister Phan Van Khai also noted with appreciation the enhanced role and posture of Cambodia in ASEAN and the wider region characterized by its growing integration into the region and the world. Prime Minister Phan Van Khai wished the Cambodian people many greater successes in their efforts of building peaceful, independent, neutral, non-aligned and prosperous Cambodia.

8. Prime Minister Phan Van Khai renewed on this occasion the deep gratitude to the Royal Family and the Leaders and people of Cambodia for their valuable support and assistance rendered to the Vietnamese people in the past and at present as well. Samdech Prime Minister Hun Sen also expressed Cambodia's deep thank to the Government and people of Vietnam for the wholehearted support extended to the Government and people of Cambodia for their liberation from the genocidal regime and for their current cause of socio-economic development.

9. The two Prime Ministers expressed their satisfaction with the expanding and deepening bilateral cooperation in recent years, particularly following the exchange of visits by the top leaders of the two countries in 2005.

10. The two Prime Ministers expressed their satisfaction with the signing of the Complementary Treaty to the Treaty on the Delimitation of State Border of 1985, considering it as a cornerstone of the close relations between the two countries and reaffirmed their determination to implement the Treaty in order to make the Cambodia-Vietnam border a frontier of peace, friendship, and cooperation. Both parties agreed to speed up the completion of land border demarcation as expeditiously as possible to meet the target as agreed in the Complementary Treaty. In this connection, the two Prime Ministers welcomed the signing of the Agreement on Vietnam's Assistance to Produce Border Markers for Cambodia during this visit. Samdech Prime Minister Hun Sen expressed his appreciation and thanks to the Government of the Socialist Republic of Vietnam for the generous gesture of friendship.

11. The two Prime Ministers welcomed the signing of the Agreement on Border Health Quarantine, the Cooperation Plan on Information and the Memorandum of Understanding on the Initial Implementation of the Agreement for the Facilitation of Cross-Border Transport of Goods and People at the Bavet – Moc Bai Border Crossing Point. The two leaders underscored the importance of these agreements in providing substantial benefits to businesses and travelers and further expanding bilateral economic linkages.

12. Samdech Prime Minister Hun Sen and Prime Minister Phan Van Khai agreed to continue creating favorable conditions for fair treatment of their citizens in each other's territory, as any other foreign resident. The Government of the Socialist Republic of Vietnam expressed its sincere gratitude to the Royal Government and the people of Cambodia for their kind permission to the Vietnamese residents to exercise their legal rights to lead a normal life and do business in Cambodia.

13. The two leaders agreed to continue their cooperation with the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR) for strict implementation of the Tripartite Memorandum of Understanding signed in January 2005 for the Settlement of Issues relating to the Vietnamese Central Highlands Ethnic Minority People illegally crossing the border into Cambodia.

14. Samdech Prime Minister Hun Sen and Prime Minister Phan Van Khai shared the view that the current process of globalization is widening the gaps between the rich and the poor in the world and thus agreed that there is an urgent need to narrow the development gaps. In this regard, they supported the call to the developed countries and the international financial institutions to cancel various debts of the least developing countries (LDCs) in order for them to channel their resources to fight poverty, combat the widespread infectious diseases such as avian influenza, HIV/AIDS and malaria, as well as to ensure sustainable development.

15. The two Prime Ministers expressed satisfaction that their two countries share common perceptions on major regional and international issues and the need to continue their close cooperation within the regional and multilateral frameworks, such as the United Nations (UN), the Non-Alignment Movement (NAM), Group 77 (G77), Asia Cooperation Dialogue (ACD), Association of Southeast Asian Nations (ASEAN), Ayeyawady-Chao Praya-Mekong Economic Cooperation Strategy (ACMECS), the Asia-Europe Meeting (ASEM), Greater Mekong Sub-region (GMS) and East-West Corridor (WEC). The two leaders agreed to cooperate closely with Laos to step up the implementation of the Master Plan on the Cambodia-Laos-Vietnam Development Triangle. In this regard, both Cambodia and Vietnam expressed their thanks to Japan for providing assistance for the Development Triangle of Cambodia-Laos and Vietnam.

16. Samdech Prime Minister Hun Sen and Prime Minister Phan Van Khai reiterated strong commitment of the two countries to work closely with other ASEAN member countries to speed up the implementation of the Vientiane Action Program, particularly the ASEAN Integration to meet the challenges of the building up the ASEAN Community and the deepening of partnership between ASEAN and its Dialogue Partners.

17. Prime Minister Phan Van Khai welcomed Cambodia's intention to join the Asia Pacific Economic Cooperation (APEC) the soonest possible, once APEC lifts its moratorium on new membership. Samdech Prime Minister Hun Sen, on the other hand, reiterated Cambodia's support for Vietnam's entry in the World Trade Organization (WTO) at the earliest possible date.

18. The two leaders emphasized the importance of close cooperation among the Mekong riparian countries to ensure sustainable development of the countries concerned, especially those in the downstream. The two countries will actively contribute to the implementation of the Trans-Asia Highway project and the Singapore-Kunming Railway Link (SKRL), in particular on the missing link between Cambodia and Vietnam, keeping in mind that the realization of these projects will greatly contribute to the development of the region.

19. Prime Minister Phan Van Khai expressed his sincere appreciation to the Royal Government and People of Cambodia for the warmest and generous hospitality extended to the delegation of the Socialist Republic of Vietnam during their official visit to the Kingdom of Cambodia.

20. His Excellency Mr. Phan Van Khai, Prime Minister of the Socialist Republic of Vietnam, extended a cordial invitation to Samdech Hun Sen, Prime Minister of the Kingdom of Cambodia, to make an official visit to the Socialist Republic of Vietnam. Samdech Prime Minister Hun Sen expressed his heartfelt gratitude and accepted the kind invitation with pleasure.

Phnom Penh, 6 March 2006

For the Government of the Socialist Republic of Vietnam

Phan Van Khai
Prime Minister

For the Royal Government of Cambodia

Hun Sen
Prime Minister