

*[Unofficial Translation]*

The Intervention of  
**Samdech Techo HUN SEN**  
Prime Minister of the Kingdom of Cambodia  
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Of ASEAN-US Dialogue Relations  
November 13, 2017  
In Manila, Republic of the Philippines

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*H.E. President!*

*President Donald Trump!*

First, I would like to express my appreciation to H.E. Najib Razak, the Prime Minister of Malaysia, the coordinating country for the review. It was also a great response from His Excellency President Donald Trump.

*His Excellency President!*

You are a great man to me. I should point out here: Maybe my father passed away as he did not hear a US president speaking at the United Nations, speaking at APEC, and reiterating today: "We respect the independence and sovereignty of your country. We want you to grow strong and independent, to deepen your historical value and to strive for the better future of your people." This is what we all strive for and grow together with a true partnership and a lasting partner. I think that your Excellency is a great person who I respect the most. This is a bit of a topic I would like to outline, but it can be in the topic of US relations with other countries.

I was one among 100 people in Cambodia – 1 percent – who considered you would win the election. 99% considered you, Mr. President, were the loser. But I'm one out of everyone. Before the election, I announced two times that you were the winner. But I received an attack from the president of the opposition party: "Only the same hairy animal can live in the same nest. Donald Trump is a dictator over money, while Hun Sen is dictator by money and arms." A Cambodian who is a professor in the United States said that if Donald Trump won the election, it would be the era of the rise of the non-humans. So I became a target of attacks for supporting you. But I'm proud of what I said before the election, which turned out to be correct. Do not forget that my grandchildren have been trained to hate you. This shows that the US embassy in Phnom Penh is not only neutral in the Cambodian issue, but

is not neutral in the US presidential election itself. I would like to inform you that if you follow your new policy in respect of the independence and sovereignty of other countries, the United States will have a lot of friends and you will be much respected and loved.

Nevertheless, I would also like to inform you that, among the countries here, I think, there are ones who dare to say, and ones who dare not to say. The real issue is this: the previous US administration used the notion of democracy and human rights to interfere with the internal affairs of others. We are victims again and again, and are now being victimized because of actions of your subordinating officials who practice against your policy lines. Your policy line is being revised, but US embassy in Phnom Penh has not made any change. We enforce the law, they attempt to prevent our legal enforcement. We enforce the laws for the country, they obstruct us. At this point, I think that maybe you have the duty to admonish the officials because this is a great principle of non-interference in the internal affairs of the people.

I also would like to point out that the issue between Cambodia with the United States is something I used to talk to President Obama. So it is: It is because Cambodia was abolished by a US-backed coup and became a debtor of the United States, and that debt, we inherited, so we have to pay back. We asked that we pay back, but asked the US to transform the debt to Cambodia. This is the point we ask you to consider because it's like taking a hammer to hit us and asking us to pay for brokering handle of the hammer. We did not know what they were doing with this aid; they bought weapons to fight in Cambodia while we were still young. But regardless of state heritage, we have to respect.

I think the President does not disagree with me at all points; I do not know if you are like me or me like you. Because, we, the people who like to speak the same thing; but because your age is older than me, so I like you. Last year, I also spoke to President Duterte as well; If Duterte like me? Or am I like Duterte? Because, indeed, I am prime minister long before Duterte and before the President, but because I am younger than you; Thus, I apologize for what I said here, if it is of the topic.

This point of non-interference is central to US foreign policy, and the United States may have more friends and close friends, and then the cooperation in the economy, trade and investment will begin from mutual trust, respect and understanding.

Thank you.