

The Office of the Council of Ministers' Press and Quick Reaction Unit has issued a statement as follow:



English Translation

Statement

The Department of the Press and Quick Reaction Unit of the Office of the Council of Ministers wishes to report categorically the remarks made by Prime Minister Abhisit Vejjajiva, who has not only attacked and insulted Cambodia and Cambodia's people through the Thai media, recently.

1. On 25 June 2011, the Bangkok Post reported that Prime Minister Abhisit Vejjajiva and his colleagues have withdrawn the 10th session of the World Heritage Committee that is being held in Phnom Penh in the last few days of the World Heritage Committee.

2. In fact, the decision and statement (submitted by Prime Minister Abhisit Vejjajiva and his colleagues) will be before the 10th session of the World Heritage Committee that is being held in Phnom Penh in the last few days of the World Heritage Committee, and Mr. Abhisit's own have accordingly announced to withdraw Thailand from the UNESCO World Heritage Committee, as reported in Thai media, both in Thai and in English language.

On 25 June 2011, the Bangkok Post quoted Mr. Serey Khanthit, the Thai Minister of Natural Resources and Environment, as saying that "he informed Mr. Serey Han, Director of the UNESCO World Heritage Centre that it is intended to do so as Thailand had no choice but to withdraw from its membership of the World Heritage Committee."

Furthermore, Mr. Serey Khanthit had been informed from H.E. Heng Amitha of the Ministry of the Interior and the person had given him the authority to make a decision. "Authority given (which is a decision) will not be taken. Mr. Serey Han said. The cabinet has empowered him to do so" for Bangkok Post reported.

3. National and international opinion will remember that the issue to withdraw Thailand's membership from the World Heritage Committee was made by the Thai government, as announced by Serey Han, in the 10th session of the World Heritage Committee that is being held in Phnom Penh in the last few days of the World Heritage Committee. This issue is submitted to the World Heritage Committee for consideration and decision.

4. The Press and Quick Reaction Unit of the Office of the Council of Ministers wishes to inform national and international opinion that Cambodia (via Mr. Serey Han, Phnom Penh) has not withdrawn from the World Heritage Committee, as reported in Thai media, both in Thai and in English language.

From the UNESCO World Heritage Committee, on 25 June 2011, it was Thailand that officially declared its withdrawal from the World Heritage Committee at the meeting 10th session of the World Heritage Committee, the 10th session, as reported by the Bangkok Post on 25 June 2011 at 21:21. Mr. Serey Khanthit merely confirmed the World Heritage Committee, on 25 June 2011, as reported, that an international organization, with a view to planning, identifying and caring, has begun to function involving in conflict among its past party members. The agenda was listed as the agenda 1, Cambodia, here is where there is relevant countries.

5. Endowed with great civilization and culture, Cambodia has thousands of temples that need the international community's support for protection, conservation and restoration. Since it became a member of the 1972 Convention Concerning the Protection of the World Cultural and Natural Heritage and the 1964 Convention for the Protection of Cultural Property in the Event of Armed Conflict, Cambodia has received strong support for the conservation and protection of cultural heritage through the International Coordinating Committee for the Safeguarding and Development of the Historic Site of Angkor (ICC), Angkor, making possible sustainable development and mitigating negative impacts on heritage sites.

6. In the current difficult situation that Cambodia faces from acts of aggression by the Thai military against Cambodia's sovereignty, especially the shelling that has damaged the Temple of Preah Vihear, which is a World Heritage Site, Cambodia needs international support, particularly from UNESCO, to protect and conserve the site, as stipulated in the 1954 Hague Convention.

In conclusion, Cambodia deeply regrets the negative attitude, the continued lies and fabrications by domestic and foreign public opinion by Prime Minister Abhisit Vejjajiva. The Department of the Press and Quick Reaction Unit of the Office of the Council of Ministers is of the view that Mr. Abhisit Vejjajiva should further his media in order to serve as prime minister.

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Phnom Penh, 25 June 2011