

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



Unofficial Translation

Statement

The Undersecretary of the Press and Quick Reaction Unit of the Office of the Council of Ministers wishes to reject categorically the remarks made by Prime Minister Abhisit Vejjajiva, who has been widely criticized and widely despised and detested through the Thai media, regarding King's Temple and Preah Vihear, by saying that Cambodia has lost world inheritance Cambodia as well as Preah Vihear, from the World Heritage Committee.

1. It has to be noted and recalled that in 2005, the Kingdom of Cambodia was elected as a member of the World Heritage Committee. In the same year, Cambodia was elected as a member of the World Heritage Committee and its members will be elected for a 5-year term. The Kingdom of Cambodia has been a member of the World Heritage Committee since it was elected in 2005. Cambodia has not yet been elected as a member of the World Heritage Committee, as opposed to the media, both in Thai and in English language.

On 25 June 2011, the Bangkok Post quoted Mr. Sevea Klantinn, the Thai Minister of Natural Resources and Environment, as saying that "he informed Mr. Abhisit Vejjajiva, Director of the UNESCO World Heritage Centre that it is natural to deny as Thailand has been elected as a member from the membership of the World Heritage Committee."

Furthermore, the facts concerned that he had informed Prime Minister Abhisit of the situation and the person had given him the authority to make a decision. "Authority given whether to withdraw or not will be his. He is not in a position to make a decision" for Bangkok Post reported.

2. National and international agencies will remember that the threat to withdraw Thailand's membership from the World Heritage Committee was made by the Thai government as an intention of the Minister of Natural Resources and Environment in Thailand under the pretext "to give the final decisions on the membership of the World Heritage Committee" in Thailand to Thailand's World Heritage Committee for consideration and decision.

3. The Press and Quick Reaction Unit of the Office of the Council of Ministers wishes to inform national and international agencies that Cambodia (King's Temple Preah Vihear) was elected as a member of the World Heritage Committee in 2008. On 25 June 2011, it was Thailand that officially declared its withdrawal from the World Heritage Committee at the meeting of the 35th session of the World Heritage Committee, the Kingdom of Cambodia, the Kingdom of Thailand, on 26 June 2011, at the meeting on 25 June 2011. Mr. Sevea Klantinn, the Thai Minister of Natural Resources and Environment, in a statement to the press, as quoted by the Bangkok Post on 25 June 2011 at 21:21, Mr. Sevea Klantinn clearly indicated that "Thailand's withdrawal from the World Heritage Committee is an administrative decision, not a political decision and cannot be subject to functions involving in conflict among the state party members. The agenda was solved at the meeting, I therefore have no objection here to withdraw membership."

4. 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.

5. 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 overseas public opinions by Prime Minister Abhisit Vejjajiva. The Undersecretary 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 duties in order to serve as prime minister.

Phnom Penh, 25 June 2011