NEWS 15/3/93: ROY HEAD

SAKHAN:
And now for today's news headlines with Vong Rithy and Kim Kil Thida.

RITHY:
Monday 15th March is the first anniversary of UNTAC's arrival in Cambodia. Although no special ceremony is planned, Mr. Yasushi Akashi, the Head of UNTAC, delivered a special statement to members of UNTAC's staff.
Mr Akashi said that UNTAC could be proud of 2 of its major achievements. The first of these is the repatriation of almost all of the 370,000 refugees who fled their homeland during Cambodia’s 2 decades of conflict.
RITHY:

UNTAC's second major achievement, Mr Akashi said in his statement to UNTAC's staff, is the registration of more than 4.6 million Cambodians who will vote in next year's elections.
THIDA:

Mr Akashi added that "I have have promised the political parties that UNTAC will give them the best election Cambodia has ever had, and the Electoral Component's performance so far has convinced me that we can keep that promise".

"ឃ្លា Akashi ឈ្នះអោនជាមួយប្រឆាំងដែលបានប្រើប្រាស់សម្រាប់អំឡុងប្រការកម្មារប្រឈម ការអនុវត្តន៍របស់អង្គចលនាប្រចាំអនុរៀប សម្រាប់សម្រាប់អំឡុងភាពល្អប្រយោជន៍ ហើយគេមានភាពជួយដល់អំឡុងភាពល្អប្រយោជន៍។"
RITHY:

However Mr Akashi acknowledged that UNTAC still faces major difficulties in other areas. The principle problem, he said, was the refusal of the Partie of Democratic Kampuchea to stick to the Paris Peace Agreements.
As a direct consequence of this, Mr Akashi said, the other 3 Cambodian factions, and particularly the State of Cambodia faction, have not stuck consistently to the Paris Agreement.
Mr Akashi also told his staff: "Nobody said that this mission was going to be easy. Cambodia has a cruel and bloody history, and many of the concepts that underlie our work – democracy, fairness, and respect for human rights, have never really taken root here."
THIDA:

He added: "One measure of the political progress made in this country since our arrival is the emergence of 20 parties willing to contest the election in what has for decades been a one-party state...I will say to you the staff of UNTAC, what I have already said to the leaders of the 20 Cambodian political parties: do not be intimidated."
Mr Akashi concluded by saying that all of UNTAC’s efforts and energies must now be devoted to establishing acceptable conditions for the best elections Cambodia has ever seen...Working together, relying on our professionalism and commitment, I know we will succeed."

"ოკა აკაში ურთიერთქმედების ცენტრმდე ესროლა ფაქტორების შორთან ახლა გამოწვეულ ადამიანზე, თუ იგი თანობით სძირობს მათ მიღება. თუ გეგმარისა ჰქონდა სიმრავლე მოქმედება, რომელიც ახალ პარალელად თავისუფალ სიმძლავრეში გასაგებელ ხდებოდა, იმავე შემთხვევაში ისინი თანობზე საკმაოდ მეტად თანობზე იქცენ.
SAKHAN:

Thank you Rithy and Thida for that news. And we will have a special feature on that meeting between Mr Akashi and the 20 political parties. That’s after this music from ---- -----

MUSIC,

(THEN CARRY ON WITH NEXT FEATURE)
SAKHAN;

You’re listening to Radio UNTAC.

Last week, Mr Yasushi Akashi, the Head of UNTAC, held a meeting with all 20 political parties. Radio UNTAC has decided to broadcast excerpts from this meeting.
Mr Akashi used the opportunity to express his belief that it is the 20 political parties who are the guardians and stewards of democracy, today and in the future.
SAKHAN:

Mr Akashi also explained the obligations that political parties have undertaken by entering the election.
AKASHI, TAPE 28, 4:21

The first among these is a solemn undertaking to accept the results of the election once UNTAC has declared it free and fair. This has already been accepted by the Cambodian factions signatories of the Paris Agreements....

SAKHAN:

Mr Akashi added a warning:
AKASHI, TAPE 28, APPROX 5:00]

...As I told the SNC on Tuesday the 9th March, we have heard much talk of Cambodians being "bad losers" and some parties already seem to be preparing the ground for a poor performance in the election by complaining that Khmer Krom, or overseas Khmer cannot vote, or that too many so-called Vietnamese can. As I told the SNC then and I tell you now, I reject those arguments. The electoral register now being finalised on the basis of the voter registration exercise completed in January represents the authentic Cambodian electorate.
SAKHAN:

Far more important than any individual party, said Mr Akashi, was the wish of the Cambodian people.
AKASHI, 9:42

Though the SNC embodies the sovereignty of Cambodia, true sovereignty resides in the people themselves, and their voice is expressed in free and fair election. No Cambodian party has the right to ignore that voice or to set aside the peoples’ will. I consider your participation in this process as a confirmation of your undertaking to accept that fact.
The second most important obligation, said Mr Akshil, was to campaign without resorting to violence.
Another obligation upon you is to campaign by peaceful means alone. Partly thanks to the efforts of UNTAC, which will continue, political violence seems to have abated in the last few weeks. However a resurgence cannot be ruled out. UNTAC is pressing the local authorities most strongly to improve their maintenance of law and order and to prevent and punish acts of political violence. But I must also urge you and your members to have the courage of your convictions and not to allow yourselves to be intimidated. Nor must you be tempted to meet force with force, or threat with threat. A victory won by violence is not worth having. The new government will win legitimacy only if its methods of gaining popular support are seen by all to be free and fair.
வெள்ளை காளியில் காட்சி கொள்ளாமல் போகிறேன். அடையாளங்களை விளக்கும் நிலையில் மீண்டும் போகிறேன். கூடிய நிலையில் ஓய்வு கொண்டு வளர்ந்தேன். உள்ளூரில் கூடிய நிலையில் ஓய்வு கொண்டு வளர்ந்தேன். கல்லூரியில் கூடிய நிலையில் ஓய்வு கொண்டு வளர்ந்தேன். மூன்று வருடக்காலத்தில் ஓய்வு கொண்டு வளர்ந்தேன்.
Canbodians had to remember, said Mr Akashi, that the eyes of the world were on them:
AKASHI, 14:58

The outside world, on whose help the new Cambodian government will depend for moral, political and financial assistance, is watching very carefully the events in this country as they unfold over the next few weeks. The new government, and consequently the amount of support it receives, will be judged primarily by the conduct of the electoral campaign and specifically, how free it is of violence and intimidation. Not only UNTAC staff, but thousands of international observers and reporters will spread out across the entire country to see how Cambodians will pass this great national test you have set yourselves. The United nations has already invited 1,000 electoral observers from 45 countries: the international scrutiny will be intense and unrelenting.
SAKHAN:

Political differences could be expressed in many ways, said Mr Akashi:
AKASHI, 18:27

Spirited and lively political debate conducted through the press, TV and radio and through marches, meetings and rallies, will encourage the world that Cambodians can debate their differences peacefully. But if the campaign is marked by threats, attacks and killings, many observers will be confirmed in their view that - I must be blunt - Cambodians are violent and intolerant and have no one to blame but themselves for the plight in which they find themselves.
I reject that view. I believe Cambodians do have it in them to resolve their differences peacefully. In the year that I have spent in our country I have been constantly impressed by the courage, good humour and common sense of Cambodian men and women. I do not believe that you, who seek to represent them, will let down those millions of ordinary people who need you.
SAMRECH:

Mr Akashi also explained in detail what political parties are allowed or not allowed to do in the period leading up to the elections. We'll hear what he had to say after this music from —— ———.

MUSIC
SAMRECH:

You're listening to Radio UNTAC.

And now we continue with the very important speech made by Mr Akashi to the political parties last week:

[Handwritten text not transcribed]
Finally I should like to bring to your attention two pieces of legislation that I recently signed and of which I informed the SMC at its working session on 9 March. The first sets out the kinds of political and campaign activities that are permitted by law before the campaign begins on 7 April, and those which are forbidden, as well as those activities which will be permitted after that date. Before the campaign begins, the following activities are allowed:
SAMRECH:
Mr Akashi went on to list exactly what was allowed before April 7th:

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AKASHI, APPROX 30:40

Canvassing for votes
Publicising the name or symbol of a party
Publicising the method of voting
Recruiting party members
Organising political meetings on private property
Printing and distributing materials relating to parties
Printing and distributing informations on social and economic matters, etc.
Broadcasting political information on radio or TV
Distributing and playing audio tapes and videotapes with political information.

- ធ្វើការប្រើប្រាស់សញ្ញាណការប្រការ ដើម្បីប្រការដ៏ល្អ
- ធ្វើការប្រើប្រាស់ទូរទស្សន៍នៃការប្រការ
- ធ្វើការប្រើប្រាស់ទូរទស្សន៍នៃការប្រការ
- ធ្វើការប្រើប្រាស់ទូរទស្សន៍នៃការប្រការ
- ធ្វើការប្រើប្រាស់ទូរទស្សន៍នៃការប្រការ
- ធ្វើការប្រើប្រាស់ទូរទស្សន៍នៃការប្រការ
- ធ្វើការប្រើប្រាស់ទូរទស្សន៍នៃការប្រការ
- ធ្វើការប្រើប្រាស់ទូរទស្សន៍នៃការប្រការ
- ធ្វើការប្រើប្រាស់ទូរទស្សន៍នៃការប្រការ
- ធ្វើការប្រើប្រាស់ទូរទស្សន៍នៃការប្រការ
- ធ្វើការប្រើប្រាស់ទូរទស្សន៍នៃការប្រការ
- ធ្វើការប្រើប្រាស់ទូរទស្សន៍នៃការប្រការ
SAKHAN:

Mr Akashi also explained what was not not allowed before April 7th:
ASASHI, APPROX 31:20

It is, however, illegal for anyone before the start of the election campaign to organise, address or hold a meeting in a public place; to disseminate in a public place over a public address system any political material, or to broadcast political material in breach of UNTAC guidelines.
SAMRECH:

After April 7th, Mr Akashi said, the parties would be almost completely unrestricted:

[Handwritten text in Khmer]
SAKAHN:

Finally Mr Akashi added that no opinion polls would be allowed during the campaign. Opinion polls are used in some countries before elections. Researchers or newspapers ask people which party they intend to vote for, in order to assess the "national opinion". Mr Akashi explained why UNTAC had prohibited opinion polls:
AKASHI, 36:05

During the election campaign, that is from 7 April onwards, parties and individuals can engage in any behaviour not forbidden by law. All the activities I have listed above are permitted, as are public meetings and the use of public address systems.
AKASHI, APPRX 38:00

UNTAC is taking this action in the light of the clear danger that the conduct of opinion polls could be seen by voters as a form of intimidation, or be taken advantage of by a larger political party to advance its cause.

Thank you for your attention, Excellencies.
SAMRECH:

That was Mr Yasushi Akashi, the head of UNTAC, explaining to the 20 political parties what was, and what was not, allowed before the elections.
SAKHAN:
And later on in this programme, you will be able to hear more statements from the Political Parties.

SAMRECH:
And now ------