

Ministry of Education, Youth and Sport

Phnom Penh, 3 January 2007

**Respectfully addressed to His Excellency Sok An
Deputy Prime Minister
and Minister in Charge of the Office of the Council of Ministers**

Objective: The result of the meeting of the Working Commission to review a “History of Democratic Kampuchea.”

Reference: Resolution of the Office of the Council of Ministers, No. 77SSR, dated 6 October 2006.

Pursuant to the letter of the Office of the Council of Ministers referenced above, I would like to inform you that I and members of the Working Commission to review the draft of “A History of Democratic Kampuchea” convened a meeting at the Ministry of Education, Youth and Sport on 14 December 2006 to discuss and exchange ideas on the draft of the history of Democratic Kampuchea (DK). The commission understands that the text is broad and shows many aspects of the Democratic Kampuchea regime. At the same time, the meeting recognized the following points:

1. The description of the events is too broad and beyond the period of Democratic Kampuchea (1975-79); it mixes Khmer Rouge history with the period of the Khmer Republic regime and mentions DK after 1979 (pages 77-79).
2. The description of the party’s history is unclear and unofficial (Chapter 2, pages 13-21).
3. The description of many individuals is unnecessary and also affects the security of those individuals.
4. Most descriptions are in the form of narrative story, but are not depicted as historical events.
5. The text shows a variety of figures on one event with many references, for example, the number of people killed during DK (page 55-80). This makes it difficult to study.

On the other hand, the Ministry of Education, Youth and Sport has a specific curriculum on the history of Democratic Kampuchea, which was put into the history textbook for grade 9 and grade 12 for general education. After considering the above five points, the commission decided that the text can be

used as a core reference to write a history textbook, but cannot be used as a history textbook for general education.

As the above mentions, please, Your Excellency, accept this for your information and please give your recommendation.

Please, Your Excellency, accept the assurance of my high consideration.

On behalf of Minister of the Ministry of Education, Youth and Sport
Secretary of State and Chairman of the Working Commission

Signed and sealed

Im Sothy