

**NEVER AGAIN!
STATEMENT ON THE 60TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE LIBERATION OF
AUSCHWITZ AND THE OTHER NAZI EXTERMINATION CAMPS
27 January 2005**

by

**His Excellency Sok An, Deputy Prime Minister and Chairman of the Royal
Government of Cambodia Task Force on the Khmer Rouge Trials**

Today is a solemn occasion on which to commemorate those whose lives were taken in Auschwitz and the other Nazi extermination camps. It is estimated that two-thirds of the Jewish people living in Europe, as well as one-quarter of Europe's Roma people were killed, as well as other groups and including communists, disabled people, homosexuals and prisoners of war.

At the end of World War II, as the survivors emerged from those camps, the world pledged "Never again". But all people in the world know that this intention has not yet been achieved and remains a distant dream. Places distant from each other have their names now indelibly inscribed in the sorry history of humanity alongside Auschwitz - places such as Rwanda, East Timor, Sierra Leone, the former Yugoslavia and Darfur.

And the name of our country also stands in that list. In Cambodia we too shared that pain felt by our fellow human beings in Germany and the other countries of Europe under Nazi occupation. In Cambodia we too have said "Never again".

May we take this opportunity to pledge to do all we can to make this more than an empty promise. This year we mark the 30th anniversary of the beginning of the genocidal Khmer Rouge regime, and this year, after nearly a generation has passed, in conjunction with the United Nations, we expect to establish a court to try those responsible for such crimes. We ask all peoples and governments to join with us in carrying out this task, both to honour the memory of those who suffered, and as part of a universal commitment to prevent the recurrence of such horrors.