

## English translation of the speech given by Uy Pengchun in Khmer

Khmer Air Force Reunion  
July 26th, 2014  
Written by : Uy Pengchun

Chum Reap Sour Lok and Lok Srei who are able to be with us today.

My name is Uy Pengchun, former Khmer Pilot in the 9th promotion.

Today, I have the honor to be selected as the President of the 2nd Khmer Air Force Reunion. In the name of the president and all committees, I would like to welcome all of you to this reunion. I would like to especially welcome those who traveled long distances from other states, France, and from Cambodia, to be here today. Your presence today is a great example of unification. Without your dedication, presence, and unification, we would not have today. This Unification is not only for the Khmer Air Force alone but also for those who have served with the Marines and Army. As a result of our cooperation and unity, we all succeed, not just the committees and the Khmer Air Force members.

I would like to tell you all about the events after March 18th, 1970.

At that time, we were students at Phnom Penh's University. Because of the war, we needed to leave our universities to join the National Armed Forces. Some students joined the Air Force, some joined the Marines, and some joined the Army. In the end, there were many students who died in the battlefields or were separated from their families and their hometowns. This was their great sacrifices for our country and our nation.

I would also like to tell you another story. This story relates to our salary. One of my friends asked me about our salary. He asked me how much were we paid at that time? I told him we were given 6000 Riels before 1974, but in 1974, we were paid 9000 Riels per month. If I took 9000 Riels and divided that by 30, we would have 300 Riels per day. The person who had asked me about the salary was a **T-28** fighter pilot and I asked him how many times did he go and drop bombs per day? He replied to me that he dropped bombs at least 4 times a day, sometimes 6 times, sometimes 8 times, and occasionally more than 8 times per day. Now I assume 4 drops per day to figure out how much we made per strike. If I take 300 Riels per day and divide it by 4 then we have 75 Riels.

Why do I need to tell you all about our salary? The main idea is to share with the younger generations and the young students that students in 1970 took their lives to die in the battlefields for 75 Riels. Now, the new generation and the young students cannot say that students in 1970 did not do anything for their country. Actually, we were proud to join our Armed Forces to protect our country and we were proud to fulfill our duties as the sons of Cambodia to join the National Armed Forces and defend our nation and protect our people. Students were not the only ones who joined the National Armed Force. We were standing and fighting alongside engineers, professors, workers from large companies, and other civilians. They, too, bravely joined the Armed Forces in the common goal of defending the nation and our Khmer people.

Finally, because we have not seen each other since 1975, almost 40 years, I would like to invite you all to enjoy tonight and dance together as much as you can until you hear the song SAYONARA, otherwise keep dancing until the end of our schedule. I also invite you to take as many souvenir pictures together as long as our health is still strong and our beauty is still beautiful and we hope that they not leave us so we don't feel sorry later.

In closing, I would like to ask God Please bless Cambodia and protect the Cambodian people.  
ANGKOR WAT Please stay and stick in the hearts of Cambodian people to the end of the world.  
Thank you.