The Integration of Cambodia into ASEAN: Challenges to the Cambodia's Foreign Policy

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(P30790)

PROJECT PAPER SUBMITTED IN PARTIAL FULFILMENT FOR THE DEGREE OF MASTER OF ARTS IN STRATEGY AND DIPLOMACY (UKM-IDFR)

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BANGI

2005
DECLARATION

I hereby declare that the work in this thesis is my own except for quotations and summaries, which have been duly acknowledged.

May 09, 2005

Date

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ABSTRACT

This Project Paper studies the Cambodian Foreign Policy from 1954 to present with the emphasis on its policy toward ASEAN, relying on primary sources. It also provides a window into the foreign policy decisions in Cambodia and the relationship between Cambodia and ASEAN, which has experienced a variety of changes from suspicion to friendship, from hostility to cooperation. This Project Paper especially, attempts to explain and analyze how the internal and external challenges at first caused foreign policy decision makers to oppose entry into ASEAN and the impact of external factors, which prevented Cambodia from joining the regional club and then later propelled Cambodia to join ASEAN.

In essence, as this Project Paper identifies, Cambodia needs to develop a roadmap for its proactive foreign policy, which formulates options and strategies so that it can play a constructive role in international relations. Cambodia's ASEAN leaders need to consistently pursue Cambodia's ASEAN policy through the five key parameters of foreign policy using pragmatism and long-term thinking. As a small country emerging from many years of destruction and isolation, Cambodia needs to formulate and develop a sound foreign policy with short, medium, and long-term interests, which can bring an increased security, diplomatic visibility, prestige, legitimacy and prosperity. In addition, the perspective of political economic is also the main analytical point of this paper.
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