



KINGDOM OF CAMBODIA
PERMANENT MISSION TO THE UNITED NATIONS

866 UN PLAZA, SUITE 420, NEW YORK, NY 10017
TEL: (212) 223-0676 FAX: (212) 223-0425



Please check against delivery

Statement
by

H.E. Dr. Widhya Chem,
Ambassador, Permanent Representative
of the Kingdom of Cambodia to the United Nations

Coordinator of the Day of Vesak at the United Nations-2006

Formal Dedication Ceremony
of the Vesak World Peace Stupa as a permanent gift
to the United Nations

UN Trusteeship Council Chamber
8 September 2006

Excellencies,
Mr Deputy Secretary-General,
Dear Friends,

On behalf of the Delegation of the Kingdom of Cambodia, I would like to join other Buddhist countries which sponsored the GA Resolution 54/115 entitled: *International recognition of the Day of Vesak at United Nations Headquarters and other United Nations offices* adopted on 8 February 2000, in expressing my sincere appreciation, to Ambassador Khunying Laxanachantorn Laohapan of Thailand for her perseverance and her unique role in making this event so spiritual and as well as historical in bestowing to the United Nations Headquarters the sacred Stupa which contains the holy relics of the Lord Buddha from Thailand, Sri Lanka and the Union of Myanmar. The presence of our Guest in honour, the Deputy Secretary-General Mark Malloch Brown, has helped made this event particularly auspicious.

When Lord Buddha passed away into Nirvana, the state of eternal peace of mind, His relics were divided into eight parts which were closed up and protected by the princes and communities. Or ten, or eleven, according to different traditions. Stupas were built over these holy relics.

Numerous Stupas were built in India where Lord Buddha lived and attained enlightenment. The symbolism of a Stupa is vast and complex. Every part of the outwardly visible Stupas have specific significance while inside the Stupas are scriptures and relics in defined positions, each equally alive with symbolic meaning like this sacred Stupa that stands for peace, goodwill, non-violence and compassion.

As the Stupas represent the enlightened mind, the person who contributes to the construction of it in the form of wealth, of his or her person or of his or her very desires and those who take part in bestowing its true meaning, at least in that very moment, *forgetting of themselves and devoting themselves to others*, have done a great merit in their endeavours for the good.

It is an act of consecration, no doubt, to dedicate this sacred Stupa containing the holy relics of Lord Buddha to the United Nations where they will be given due recognition at a time when all nations are persevering to resolve conflicts peacefully and embrace peace.

The gesture of the Kingdom of Thailand, to which my Delegation would like to subscribe, bears therefore special significance as it calls for peace, dialogue and harmony among nations,

peoples, civilizations, cultures and religions. May the holy relics of Lord Buddha contained in the beautiful Stupa brought by Thailand further the cause of peace, instill a culture of tolerance and generate compassion in the work of our World Organization responsible for the safeguard of international peace and security.
