

- Unofficial Translation -

**Briefing by General Sonthi Boonyaratglin, Head of the Council for Democratic Reform under Constitutional Monarchy, to the Diplomatic Corps**

**20 September 2006, at 14.00 hrs**

**Royal Thai Army Headquarters**

- The Council undertook this important mission for the following reasons:
  - Lack of political confidence in Thailand and impasse of political differences
  - Severe increase of disunity among the Thai people
  - Rampant corruption, malfeasance and widespread nepotism
  - Inability to proceed with the reform process as intended by the Constitution
  - Interference of national independent agencies, crippling their ability to function properly and to effectively solve the nation's problems
  - Certain substantive democratic elements in the Constitution have been undermined
  - The existence of social injustice
  - Evidence of words and actions which have shaken and been proven to be against the very foundation of Thailand's democracy with HM the King as Head of State.
- Given these reasons, all members of the Council including myself, have received numerous requests to undertake this mission in order to restore peace, security and justice to the country.
- The Council undertook this mission to end the political impasse, uncertainty and lack of political confidence, which have protracted for so long.
- I would like to reaffirm that Thailand will adhere to the UN Charter and remain committed to international treaties and agreements, under the basis of equality of states. The existing relationship between the Kingdom of Thailand and other countries shall be fostered and enhanced.
- The Council has, so far, received cooperation from all sectors of Thai society, without any resistance. More importantly, the Council members and I have been graciously granted a Royal Audience to report on our action and the situation to Their Majesties the King and Queen last night.
- The Council will ensure that a provisional constitution will be announced within two weeks so that a government under a civilian Prime Minister can be set up at once to run the country. There will be a legislative body responsible for legislation and the drafting of the new constitution, which will lead to early general elections.
- All actions and activities, from this point on, will be strictly in compliance and conformity with the legal norms and laws.

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**The Council for Democratic Reform Under the Constitutional Monarchy**

**Pointers- Questions and Answers**

**1. The legitimacy of the Council and the coup d'etat?**

Due to political tensions and the division in society which has roused our democratic system with the King as the head of state, the Council found it necessary to resolve the situation. This will be implemented in the shortest period of time to end the confusion, resolve uncertainty and end the political crisis. The Council has no intention to become the administrator of the country.

**2. Why was the constitution abrogated?**

The constitution could not resolve the problems that arose in our society and the democratic process was not carried out according to the constitution's objective. Moreover, there were proposals to amend various points. The temporary constitution that will be created will pave the way for the drafting of a permanent constitution that is truly democratic.

**3. Elimination of press freedom, blockage of television broadcasts by international news agencies?**

Control of media outlets at the start of the task was necessary and a temporary measure. The Council recognizes that freedom of the press is an important part of a democracy and is uncomfortable with the fact that our task was carried out in a way that appeared to control the freedom of the press.

**4. Will you allow former Prime Minister Thaksin and his family return to Thailand?**

That shouldn't be a problem. All Thai people can live in Thailand.

**5. Will former Prime Minister Thaksin face prosecution?**

Everything will be carried out under the rule of law.