

(Unofficial Translation)

**Statement by the Council for Democratic Reform:
Council for Democratic Reform**

As it has become clearly apparent that the administration of the present caretaker government has led to severe rifts and disunity among the Thai people unprecedented before in Thai history, with different sides seeking to win using various means amidst prospects of the situation worsening with every day, the majority of the people are suspicious and untrusting of the government's administration which shows signs of rampant corruption, malfeasance, political interference in government agencies and independent organizations affecting their ability to perform their duties as prescribed by the Constitution of the Kingdom of Thailand, creating problems and obstacles for the conduct of political activities, as well as several actions verging on lèse-majesté against His Majesty the King who is highly respected by the Thai people. Although many sectors within society have continuously tried to compromise to resolve the situation, the divisions that exist could not be lessened. The Council for Democratic Reform, composed of the Commanders-in-Chief of the Armed Forces and the Royal Thai Police Commissioner-General, has therefore found it necessary to seize control of the country's administration from this moment onwards. The Council wishes to reaffirm that it does not intend to administer the country itself and will restore the democratic governmental system with a monarch as head of state to the Thai people as soon as possible so as to maintain peace and order within the Kingdom, as well as to extend the highest reverence to the monarchy, which commands the deepest respects of all the Thai people.

Announced on 19 September B.E. 2549 (2006), 23.50 hours
General Sonthi Boonyaratglin
Leader of the Council for Democratic Reform