

(Unofficial Translation)

**Statement by the Council for Democratic Reform
by General Sonthi Boonyaratglin**

At approximately 09.00 hours on 20 September B.E. 2549 (2006), General Sonthi Boonyaratglin, Commander-in-Chief of the Royal Thai Army, in his capacity as Leader of the Council for Democratic Reform, made the following televised address, in the presence of General Ruengroj Mahasaranond, Supreme Commander of the Royal Thai Armed Forces, Air Chief Marshal Chalit Pookphasuk, Commander-in-Chief of the Royal Thai Air Force, Admiral Satirapan Keyanon, Commander-in-Chief of the Royal Thai Navy, and Police General Kovit Wattana, Royal Thai Police Commissioner-General:

“Fellow Thai citizens, pursuant to the seizure of control of Thailand’s administration by the Council for Democratic Reform—resulting in the abrogation of the Constitution of the Kingdom of Thailand B.E. 2540 (1997) and the abolition of the Senate, the House of Parliament, the Council of Ministers and the Constitutional Court—the Council, comprising the Supreme Commander, the Commanders-in-Chief of the Thai Armed Forces, and the Commissioner-General of the Royal Thai Police, concurred that the administration of caretaker government has led to severe disunity among the Thai people unprecedented before in Thai society, that there were signs of rampant corruption, malfeasance and nepotism, that independent organizations had been interfered with, crippling their ability to perform their duties properly or to effectively resolve important problems faced by the nation, which if left unaddressed, would adversely affect the nation’s security and overall economy situation. In addition, some political activities undertaken verged upon lèse-majesté against His Majesty the King who is highly respected and revered by the Thai people.

The Council was therefore found it necessary to seize control of Thailand’s administration so as to quickly resolve the country’s situation and restore normalcy. 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. In addition, the Council will maintain peace and order within the Kingdom as well as extend the highest reverence to the monarchy, which is deeply beloved by all the Thai people. The Council therefore requests cooperation from all fellow citizens to remain calm and to support this undertaking so that it achieves its well-intentioned objectives.”