

(Unofficial Translation)

**Clarification from the Office of the Secretariat of the Council for
Democratic Reform**

Reference is made to the Statement issued by the Council for Democratic Reform on 19 September B.E. 2549 (2006) at 23.50 hours, explaining the reasons why the Council was compelled to seize the country's administration, as under the government of Pol. Lt. Col. Thaksin Shinawatra, severe divisions and disunity had emerged among the Thai people, with different sides driven to win by resorting to all means at their disposal with the situation deteriorating by the day. In addition, there were reliable reports that on 20 September B.E. 2549 (2006), the People's Alliance for Democracy (PAD) had called for a massive demonstration by mobilizing large numbers of people from throughout the country to join with the PAD in Bangkok to force Pol. Lt. Col. Thaksin Shinawatra out of office. At the same time, the government was preparing to bring in their own supporters from provincial areas to oppose the PAD. It was estimated that this confrontation would lead to violence with bloodshed and loss of life, with the unrest possibly spreading throughout the country.

The Armed Forces assessed the situation and saw that, if left thus unchecked, the country would suffer grievous harm which would be difficult to heal, and that the means and legal authority at its disposal would not be sufficient to keep the situation under control. It was therefore compelled to take control of the situation immediately to preempt the confrontation from occurring. After this had been accomplished, the leaders of the Armed Forces then sought an audience of His Majesty the King to report on the situation and the actions that had been taken. Subsequently, His Majesty the King appointed General Sonthi Boonyaratglin as Leader of the Council for Democratic Reform. This was to endow the Council for Democratic Reform with the mandate and authority to maintain peace and order and to provide the basis for the issuance of Orders as necessary. Once the interim constitution is promulgated and a government is formed to administer the country, the Council's authority in this regard will be given to the responsible institutions and administrative mechanisms.

Announced on 29 September B.E. 2549 (2006).