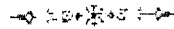


Kingdom of Cambodia

Nation Religion King



THE ALLIANCE OF THE DEMOCRATS



FUNCINPEC PARTY



27 September 2003

THE ALLIANCE IS READY TO TALK

The CPP-proposed first meeting of the new National Assembly this morning was marred by serious shortcomings by having in attendance only the 73 MPs elect from the Cambodian People's Party (CPP), and by not being presided over by His Majesty the King.

The event carries three significances.

1. The current government led by Mr Hun Sen is no longer legitimate since it was formed from the previous legislature, while the new one has yet to endorse a new government. At best the current government has become a caretaker government.
2. The Alliance of Democrats, with its 50 MPs elect, has proved itself to be a new formidable political force to be reckoned with. It has shown its solidarity beyond its opponent's wildest imagination, or even the expectation of some political observers. Actually, Cambodia's political landscape has changed dramatically for the better with a meaningful force to balance the absolute power of the ruling CPP.
3. The opportunity for talks between the Alliance of Democrats and the CPP has finally arrived. The latter proved this morning it does not command a two thirds majority necessary to govern the country on its own. The Alliance has a crucial role to play in shaping up the future of Cambodia by pushing for the implementation of long overdue reforms. To this end, the Alliance is open to dialogue with the CPP under the auspices of His Majesty the King, who is the Father of the nation and the guarantor of the national unity.

General Secretariat