



គណបក្ស សម រង្ស៊ី

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SAM RAINSY: POSITIONS ARE NOT IMPORTANT

The following are excerpts from Sam Rainsy's letter to His Majesty the King dated 25 October 2003 referring to the forthcoming talk among the three political parties.

"Since the tragic coup d'etat in 1970, the country has been sliding into the abyss from one regime to another. Your Majesty has predicted that Cambodia is currently losing its independence and territorial integrity, and it will vanish within ten years. With Your Majesty's permission, I would like to offer a more optimistic prediction. Due to the continual loss of our territory to the neighbours and the influx of illegal migrants into our country, and due to the endless destruction of the country's resources by the current leadership, Cambodia will cease to exist before 2030."

"Under such circumstances, a position sharing in any government system that leads to a complete destruction of our nation carries no significance. Cambodia desperately needs all Khmers to wake up and help save the nation. In this sense, we must reform the government system for the country."

"Of course, we need to find a solution to the current political crisis. Nevertheless, this solution must effectively steer the country away from the disaster in the near future, as predicted earlier. Beyond allocating positions to whoever, the real solution will have to be based on a guarantee that the next government will implement a number of crucial reforms to put Cambodia back on track. We may accept the guarantee that will address in principle the government institutions and mechanisms to protect the national interests under Your Majesty's auspicious guidance."

Based on these statements, it seems Sam Rainsy wishes to indicate to His Majesty the King that the allocation of positions to patriots and democrats in the new government is of no importance. It would be similar to re-arranging chairs on the deck of the Titanic.

However, it is most convincing that the current leadership, especially Hun Sen, is not capable of leading the country away from the awaiting fatal catastrophe. Therefore, in order to save Cambodia in time, there is now a need to reform the government institutions, which includes a change of prime minister.