



PRESS FILE

**គណបក្សជាតិខ្មែរ**  
KHMER NATION PARTY  
PARTI DE LA NATION KHMÈRE

Phnom Penh, 27 August 1996

**LET' S BE CONSISTENT**

In my capacity as an elected Member of Parliament and as President of the Khmer Nation Party, I share and support the view expressed by the First Prime Minister, HRH Prince Norodom Ranariddh, according to which the law outlawing the Khmer Rouge adopted by the National Assembly on 7 July 1994, should be submitted to the National Assembly again in order for the latter to consider its annulment or suspension, given the new situation facing the country.

By making this public statement, I am only consistent with myself because during the heated debate preceding the adoption of this law more than two years ago, I have expressed serious concerns about its constitutionality (many provisions of the law apparently clash with the spirit and the letter of the Constitution) and about its dangerous implications for innocent people, even though a handful of MP's -- including Prince Norodom Sirivudh and myself -- succeeded in making a few corrective amendments to the initial draft law which was just unacceptable. Therefore, in the absence of the Constitutional Council -- the formation of which is subject to an unjustifiable delay -- I can only support any alternative procedure aimed at rescinding or suspending this law. More importantly, it should be stressed that His Majesty the King had expressed strong reservations about the content of this law which the Monarch refused to sign Himself for promulgation once adopted by the National Assembly. Everybody now realises how right was His Majesty the King. Genuine and lasting national reconciliation which is the foundation for peace and prosperity, definitely requires that the law outlawing the Khmer Rouge be repealed.

Besides the repealing of the law outlawing the Khmer Rouge, as rightly suggested by the First Prime Minister, I want to congratulate the two Prime Ministers -- especially the Second one, Mr. Hun Sen -- for their bold initiative consisting in writing officially to His Majesty the King on 23 August 1996 requesting the Monarch to grant amnesty to Mr. Ieng Sary, a notorious Khmer Rouge leader during the murderous reign of Mr. Pol Pot. I think the Cambodian people expect the two Prime Ministers to be consistent with themselves. If one does not hesitate to push for the amnesty of such a highly controversial figure as Mr. Ieng Sary, one should be prepared to support an amnesty being granted by His Majesty the King to much less controversial figures such as Prince Norodom Sirivudh, Prince Norodom Chakrapong, Mr. Sin Song and Mr. Sin Sen. These persons have been condemned hurriedly for alleged wrongdoings which have not caused the death of anybody, whereas Mr. Ieng Sary was the number two leader of a regime clearly responsible for the death of at least one million innocent people.

I look forward to seeing in the very near future a broad national reconciliation which encompasses everybody regardless of his political affiliation. But I wish to see justice, fairness and wisdom prevail over personal considerations and political tricks.

SAM RAINSY