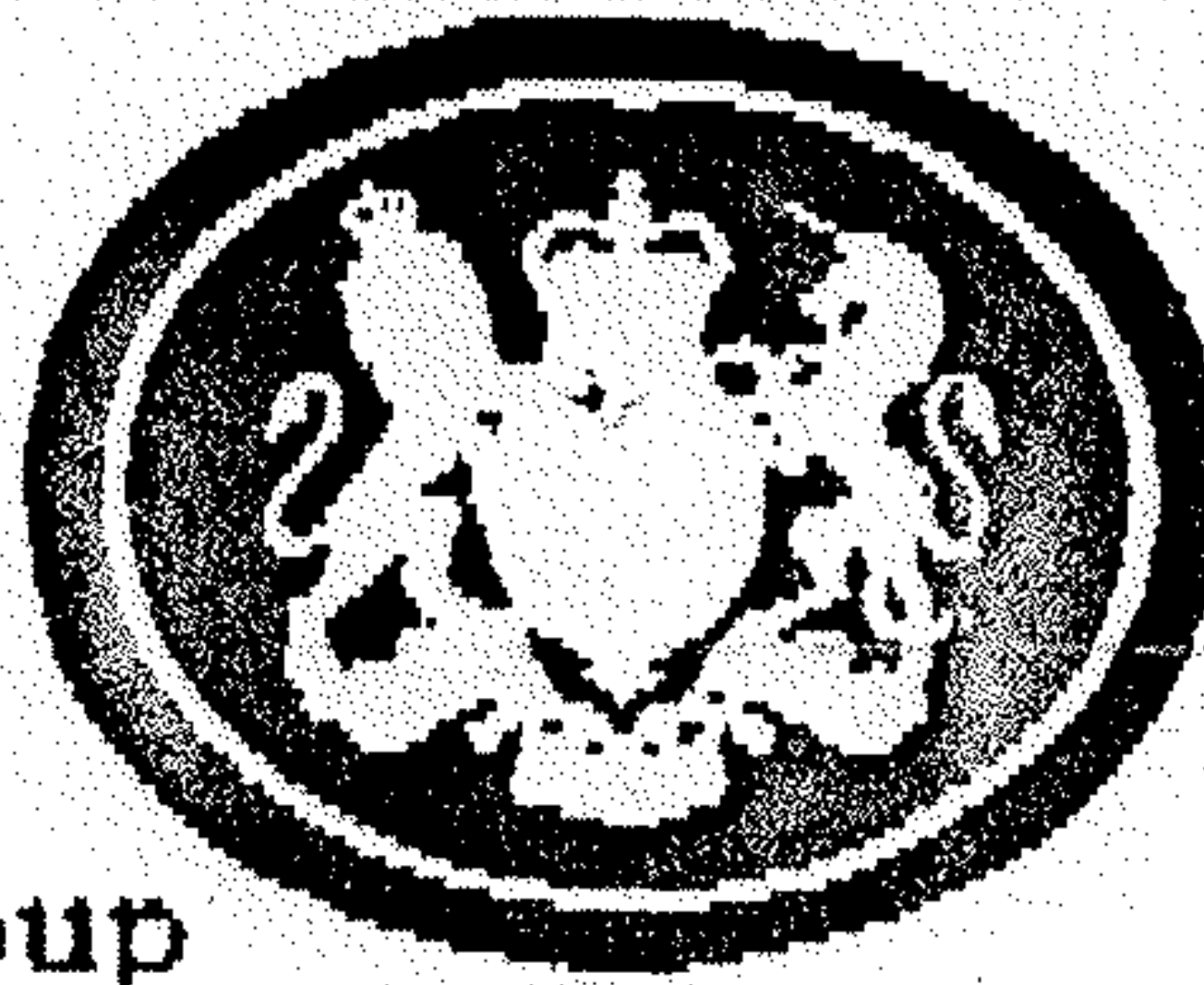


From Lord Avebury  
Chairman  
Parliamentary Human Rights Group



9525066

## House of Lords

June 25, 1995

*Dear Mr President*

You may remember that I wrote to you on June 6 about the threat to expel Mr Sam Rainsy from your Parliament. I suggested that if the leader of FUNCINPEC can revoke an MP's membership and call in his seat, the MP would become a mere cipher, exercising no independent judgement but simply following the behests of the Party managers. I added that the replacement of an MP by somebody else from the original Party list is unlawful, as well as quite contrary to the principle of democracy.

We now learn, to our great consternation, that the Permanent Committee of the National Assembly did vote for Mr Rainsy's expulsion by nine to three last Monday, and that on Thursday Mr Rainsy left the Parliament.

We were all the more astonished by these events, after seeing a translation of your statement of June 10, in which you pledged that the National Assembly would not abandon the principles of liberal multi-party democracy and the respect for international norms and human rights. I would respectfully suggest that you cannot honourably remain as Chairman of the National Assembly, when it has taken a decision so flagrantly in contravention of your firm promise to the Cambodian people and the whole international community.

Many people are seeing this expulsion as a death blow to democracy in Cambodia. I fervently hope this is not so, and that you and others will see how you can rescue democracy from those who are trying to kill it. I am sure that the Inter-Parliamentary Union will take up the case of Mr Rainsy at their July meeting. There is very little time in which to reverse this disastrous move, and restore Mr Rainsy to his elected post.

*Sincerely,*  
*Eric Avebury*

H E Mr Chea Sim,  
President of the National Assembly,  
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