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SAM RAINSY PARTY
PARTI SAM RAINSY

សីលធម៌ សច្ចធម៌ យុត្តិធម៌

STATEMENT

November 30, 1998

MAIN POINTS OF RAINSY'S ADDRESS TO NATIONAL ASSEMBLY

MP Sam Rainsy, SRP president and expected opposition leader, is to make the following points during his address to the National Assembly today in the course of the Assembly's election of a new Government.

My party supports the program that Funcinpec and the CPP have agreed upon, although it is incomplete. However, I will not vote for the government slate that the leaders of those two parties have proposed.

The members of the party doubt the ability of the (proposed) Council of Ministers to carry out the program. For the most part they are the same people who held these portfolios for the past five years, during which we saw the pillaging of Cambodia's natural resources; the institutionalization of a criminal economy based on smuggling, money-laundering, drug-trafficking and corruption; the creation of a police state with total impunity for human rights violators; and the misallocation of scarce government funds to the security apparatus at the expense of human needs.

Again we see co-Ministers in Defense and Interior, a dilution of responsibility that will leave the real ruling party in firm control once again. That same party will control the Finance Ministry and other "money ministries", as well as the Finance and Banking Commission of the Assembly. Therefore that party will have control of the two fonts of power in Cambodia: guns and money.

Even in a climate of total impunity, without fair access to the media for the opposition, with systematic campaigns of intimidation by the ruling party, sixty percent of the people voted for change. They deserve new leaders, not the same leaders that have exploited them and caused them to live in terror while plundering the resources that rightly belong to the people and the nation.

To install the same people in the Government is a recipe for disaster, and we will not support it. We do not support approaches to the nation's problems that are based on power-sharing and political deals such as the proposed Senate. We support actions and we will demand it.

As the opposition, the Sam Rainsy Party will create a shadow cabinet to critique the actions of the government and to suggest improvements and changes in policy. We hope that the forces who support democracy both inside and outside Cambodia will do their best to ensure that the opposition can play a meaningful role as it must in a parliamentary democracy.

We pledge to push substantial policies and create new approaches to solve the problems of food shortages, lack of health care, environmental degradation, failure to meet the civil service payroll, and the other problems that plague our country.

We also pledge to use our position to protect our party supporters and all supporters of democracy in the countryside of Cambodia where the worst rights violations traditionally go unpunished and unnoticed.

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For more information, call MP Son Chhay (012-858-857) or Rich Garella (012-802-062).