



KINGDOM OF CAMBODIA

Nation - Religion - King

NATIONAL ASSEMBLY

Phnom Penh, May 20, 1999

[Translated from Khmer]

SAM RAINSY PARTY MP PRESSES GOVERNMENT FOR ACTION IN LAND DISPUTES

Kim Sour Phirith - Senate

Kim Sour Phirith, MP from Banteay Meanchey (SRP), wrote a letter to Prime Minister Hun Sen, asking him to ensure that Hun Sen's instructions to authorities, regarding the seizure of land, would be followed. The letter begins by stating that 70 people representing 250 families from Group 8, Village of Kbal Spean, Commune of Poipet, District of Auchroue, gathered at the National Assembly on May 19, 1999 to complain about the military's seizure of their land.

Handwritten notes: 2p, has, over, look

On April 20, 1999, Hun Sen declared that he would take action to ensure that government officials and military units would vacate land that is under dispute and return it to its rightful owners. So far, the military units that have confiscated land from farmers have ignored Hun Sen's instructions. Moreover, they continue to threaten people and to force them from their homes. In a public letter to local authorities, the National Assembly called for a resolution to the land disputes. However, military units have torn up those posted letters. Such actions by the military amount to disobeying Hun Sen's orders and "betraying national interests," according to Hun Sen's own words.

Handwritten notes: 2, amcs, amcs

Kim Sour Phirith also recalled that Hun Sen claims to be the leader of an "economic government." However, he notes that the actions of the military damage Hun Sen's honor by undermining the credibility of the government and its ability to improve people's living conditions. Finally, this SRP MP insisted that Hun Sen must take new measures to protect people's rights and national interests as Hun Sen had already promised.

In addition to this correspondence with Hun Sen, Kim Sour Phirith also wrote about the same subject in a letter to King Norodom Sihanouk, requesting a royal intervention in the land disputes. Both letters were sent May 20, 1999.

For more information, please call Kim Sour Phirith (855) 012-858 445 or (855) 023-215 375.

Handwritten notes: 57/200 farms, 4 farms, 11 farms, 1 camp, Kbal Spean, 2/107 families from 3 villages, wrote letters, 4 communes, took land