

THE ALLIANCE FOR REFORM AND DEMOCRACY IN ASIA

November 1, 2000

The Editor
Phnom Penh Post
Phnom Penh, Cambodia

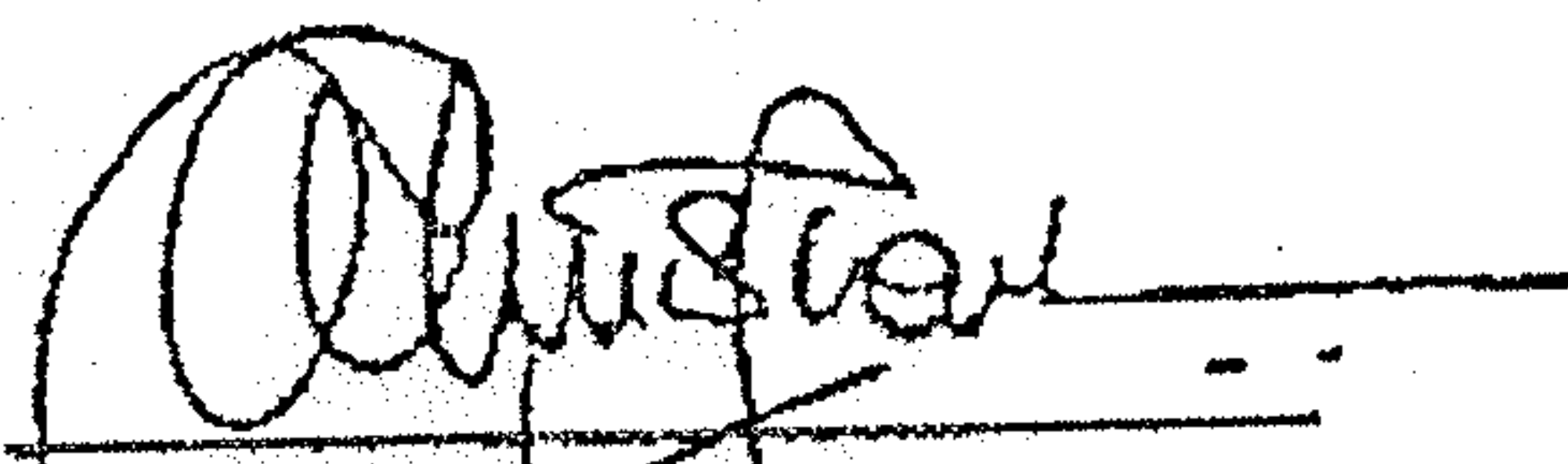
Dear Editor:

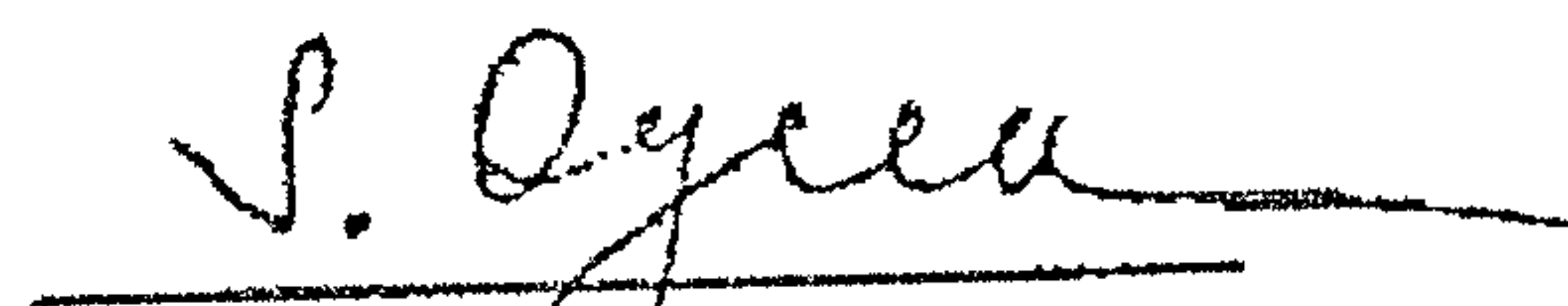
The Alliance for Reform and Democracy in Asia (ARDA) commends opposition leader Sam Rainsy for his tireless efforts to relieve the suffering of the people of Cambodia who have been left hungry and homeless following major flooding throughout the country caused, in part, by the mismanagement and illegal logging activities of the Cambodian government. The ARDA is relieved to learn that Sam Rainsy has ended his hunger strike, and the Alliance wishes to express its strong support for his courage in taking this extreme step to bring notice to the sorry state of governance in Cambodia today.

There is no question that the recent floods that have devastated Cambodia have dealt the harshest blow to the country's mostly poor and mostly rural population. These farmers and peasants have already suffered tremendously at the hands of their own government through land confiscation and other corrupt practices that are routine in the countryside. While nature has compounded their troubles, their government continues to fail them. Humanitarian assistance is not reaching those who need it the most and is cynically being used by the CPP government as yet another tool for political manipulation.

Cambodia's democratic opposition faces grave danger in its ongoing efforts to publicize the abuses committed by entrenched leadership unable to "govern the peace." The Alliance for Reform and Democracy in Asia expresses its solidarity with all those who seek transparency and accountability in government, and stands with Cambodian democrats as they continue their struggle.

Sincerely,


Dr. Ghee Soon Juan
General Secretary
Singapore Democratic Party


Ms. S. Oyan
Member of Parliament
Mongolia