

# COMMONWEALTH SECRETARIAT

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9 May 1995

Mr. Sam Rainsy, M.P.  
National Assembly  
Phnom Penh  
Cambodia  
FAX NO: 855 23 28549

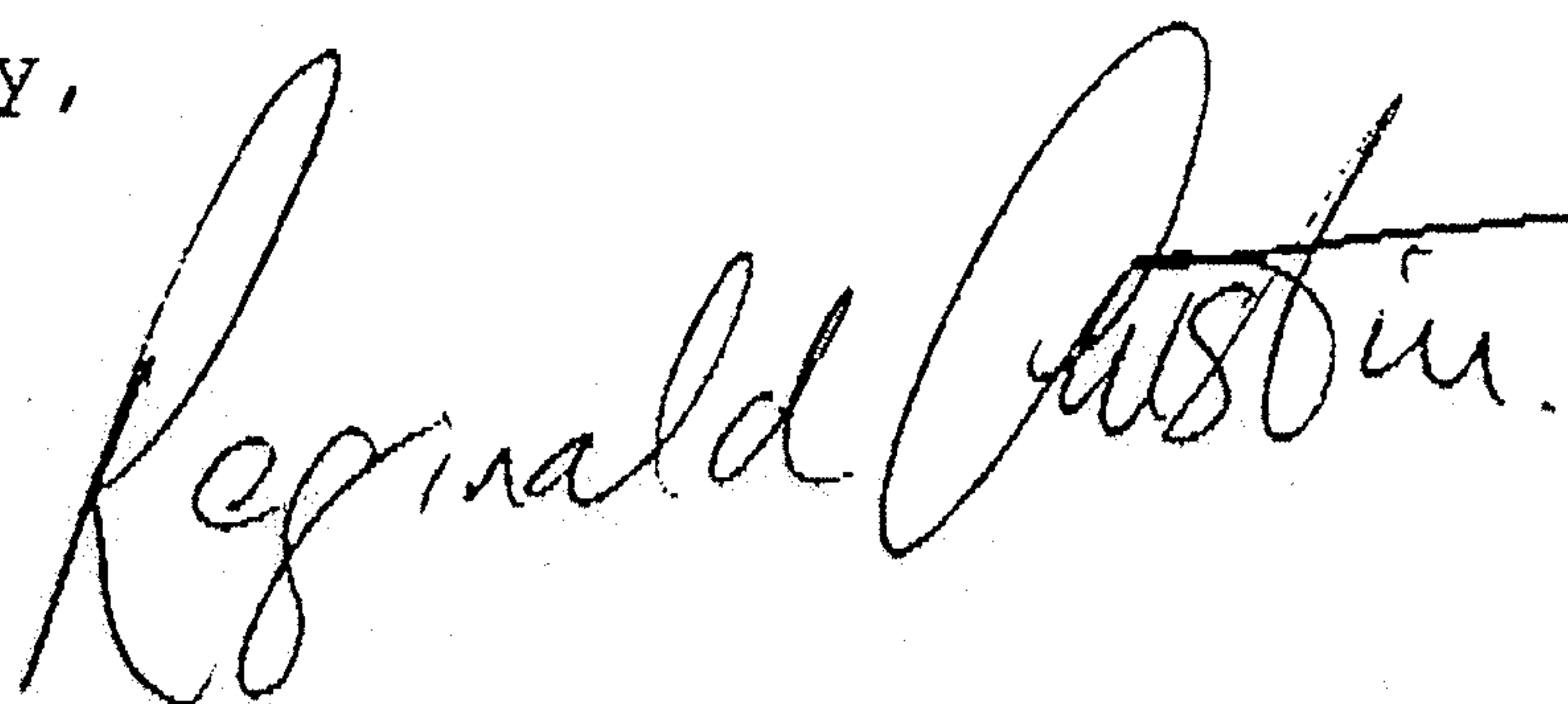
Dear Mr. Sam Rainsy,

This is to acknowledge, with sincere thanks the copy of your Open Letter raising the possibility of your expulsion from membership of the National Assembly, on grounds other than those provided by the Electoral Law and Constitution.

The allegation is serious, indeed, it would be correct, recollecting the consequences of the arbitrary dismantling of legality and constitutionalism in Cambodia over the past decades, to describe it as dreadfully serious.

I would hope, as would all of the many people who support Cambodia and the heroic commitment of its people to Parliamentary Democracy, that your concerns will not prove to be true. I feel sure that in the light of a proper consideration of the real long term advantages of open democracy, there will be no unlawful or unconstitutional action against you, or any other elected member of this historic Assembly, and the hope for Cambodia and the Khmer people which it symbolises.

Yours sincerely,



R. H. F. Austin  
Director  
Legal and Constitutional Affairs Division