



KINGDOM OF CAMBODIA
Nation - Religion - King
+++++

Phnom Penh.....

NATIONAL ASSEMBLY

April 2, 1999

Mr. James D. Wolfensohn
President of the World Bank
Washington, D.C.
Fax # (1) 202 522 30 31

Mr. President,

From reliable Western diplomatic sources confirmed by UN sources in Phnom Penh, the Cambodian parliamentary opposition has learned with dismay that former Australian Ambassador to Cambodia Tony Kevin has been appointed as the World Bank's Representative to Cambodia. He is even reportedly scheduled to arrive in Phnom Penh on 20 April 1999.

Given Mr. Kevin's past statements and actions in support of the Hun Sen regime, his complete lack of criticism of the regime's gross violations of human rights during and following the bloody 1997 coup d'état, his biased position regarding the 1998 elections (according to "The Cambodia Daily" of July 20, 1998 he was quoted as saying that he was leading a group of foreign observers to Cambodia "to counter what he perceives as the demonization of the CPP by influential members of the international community"), Mr. Kevin cannot decently represent an international financial institution which is supposed to be neutral and to base its approach on purely economic and technical grounds.

I am writing to ask you to reconsider Mr. Kevin's appointment if any decision has actually been made. Such an appointment would contribute to legitimize any unilateral and questionable action taken by the current regime in the fields of forest and other natural resources management, fiscal transparency, budget allocation, public sector reform, etc., issues which are fundamental for Cambodia's economic recovery and rehabilitation. Because of his political commitment to the ruling CPP, Mr. Kevin cannot be trusted to be impartial, to push for appropriate actions to help put Cambodia on the right track and to promote sustainable development on the basis of the rule of law, transparency and accountability.

Yours sincerely,

Sam Rainsy

Sam Rainsy, MP
Leader of the Opposition