



គណបក្សជាតិខ្មែរ

KHMER NATION PARTY
PARTI DE LA NATION KHMÈRE

Phnom Penh, May 13, 1996

HUN SEN WANTS TO STAGE A COUP TO TOPPLE RANARIDDH FROM FUNCINPEC'S PRESIDENCY

Second Prime Minister Hun Sen said in a speech on May 11, 1996 that he expected the alliance between CPP and FUNCINPEC to hold either with or without First Prime Minister and FUNCINPEC President Norodom Ranariddh. He also added that he expected the ruling coalition to last through the 1998 national elections and beyond (*The Cambodia Daily*, May 13, 1996).

Mr. Hun Sen once more strongly reaffirmed his position following Prince Ranariddh's declaration on March 22, 1996 according to which FUNCINPEC may withdraw from the coalition Government and/or dissolve the Parliament if CPP does not agree to an equal sharing of power and positions at the local and provincial levels.

But this time, Mr. Hun Sen's statement clearly implies that he is prepared to stage an illegal coup to topple Prince Ranariddh from FUNCINPEC's presidency. This manoeuvre is tantamount to a coup d'état since it will ipso facto provoke the dismissal of Prince Ranariddh from his First Prime Minister position.

The following remarks can be made:

- 1- Mr. Hun Sen proves that he is prepared to use any means to come to his end, i. e. absolute power, and that he is determined to continue to violate and to ignore the law.
- 2- Using intimidation and money, fear and corruption, Mr. Hun Sen confirms his intention and his plan to "slice" (according to his own word) any political parties which oppose his drive and drift towards absolute power.
- 3- To topple Prince Ranariddh from FUNCINPEC's presidency, Mr. Hun Sen will not hesitate to provide any means and facilities to a few FUNCINPEC renegades to organize a rival and illegal FUNCINPEC "Congress", in blatant violation of the Party's Statutes and Internal Regulations. He will also order the Court, which has always been subservient to CPP, to disregard any legitimate complaint lodged by Prince Ranariddh or his supporters.
- 4- By being in the past too weak and too complacent with Mr. Hun Sen and his authoritarian philosophy and methods, Prince Ranariddh is now paying the price of his leniency and his own disregard for fundamental political and moral principles.
- 5- It is not too late for all non-communist Cambodians to unite in order to defend democracy and rule of law which are the pre-requisite conditions for Cambodia to achieve genuine and sustainable development.

SAM RAINSY

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