

Hun Sen/Speech to a group of villagers from Kpg Cham
Takhmau Home known as "Safe Barrack or Banteay Sowatepheap"
Sunday, March 30, 1997
Reaction to the grenade attacks during a KNP demonstration in front of the NA

This is a tremendous tragedy after the tragedy caused by grenade explosion during Khmer New Year in Takhmau in 1983. At the beginning of 1990, we had 8 grenade explosions in PP. Now, the grenades exploded in front of the NA because the demonstration was aimed to be there. On this occasion, on behalf of the RG, the CPP, I would like to express condolences for the dead and appeal to doctors to provide emergency treatment for the wounded. At the same time, we vehemently condemn the perpetrators of the crime which can not be excused.

I have also told HE Sar Kheng, Hok Lundy to look into the legal mean whether [authorities] should drag the neck of the demonstration's mastermind to the court or not. Because, his occupation during these 3-4 months is staging demonstration — nothing else but demonstration. Demonstration has become the occupation of this politician [Sam Rainsy]. While investigating those who committed this violence, [authorities] should examine the law whether the proceed of this demo was legal or not. If not, how the demo leader should be dealt with? Just like a boat, when it sinks drowning passengers, the owner must be held responsible. Now, how responsible is the owner of demo before the law? I have ordered to have contact with the court made [in order] to arrest both the perpetrators and the leader of the demo, if this case [demo] did not receive permission from MI or concerned authorities.

This demo — its aim was to demand the abolition of the yuon puppet court, creation of SCM and the Constitutional Council. **I think these bunch must be handcuffed according to the law as their being responsible for the death because they are the one who caused it.**

I don't understand why they demanded the abolition a justice system which is functioning and was also recognized by Untac and the Paris Peace Accords. Who has the right [to abolish it], except military coup? Who encouraged this case, as far as the demo is concerned? I think it's time to have a clear-cut talk, with responsibility. Who instigated this? **This owner of demo — what he sells everyday, if he doesn't organize demo, outside countries would stop providing him with assistance. A number of foreign countries only encourage them to stage demonstration in PP. They are useful [to foreign countries] when they oppose the government. Some countries think like that, while the people are in need of peace, political stability for developing the country.** Is this demo capable of abolishing the justice system? Not just the demo, even the RG, NA have no right to do so.

The issue of SCM is up to HM the King. If the king wants to set it up, it can be so. I'd like to inform all compatriots throughout the country that the session of SCM must be conducted under the chairmanship of HM the King. But, the king has not yet called a meeting, while dispatching this issue to both PMs, parties to discuss, which is not their duties. I speak it out clearly that any selection as a judge, Supreme court judge, chief of appeal court, chief prosecutors is not the competence of political parties not the PMs. So, if the king does not call the meeting, the SCM remains unborn. (The NA can only appoint three members to the Constitutional Council, and three other must come from the king and three other must come from the Supreme Council of Judges.) The only possible and legal solution is to the meeting of SCG in order to decide who should retire, who should be appointed to head the supreme court, the appeal court — it is the matter of SCG. **So, there is not need to demonstrate at the NA. If a demonstration is needed, it must be to demand that the king lead the first meeting of SCG. This is the real substance of the problem.** I must talk [about this]. Letting people lose lives because of crook politicians — what people will depend on now? I'd like to appeal to the Cambodian people, if you want to demonstrate, please demonstrate to demand HM the King to lead the first meeting of the SCG. I'd like to warn all politicians, low and high, not to commit disgraceful act. Setting on fire while adding gasoline on it is disgraceful acts of politicians over the past decades.

I propose to the MI, National Police, while pursuing the perpetrators, to look into responsibility of the organizer of the demo. If it was not legally permitted, they must be immediately arrested. Hok Lundy has let me know that he had ordered the airport to not allow a number of people who led the demonstration to leave. Because these people have two

citizenship, they rely on running away when sth happens.

We can not just talk about the good [side], nor can we keep talking that the king is good, good, good — it's impossible because it is the king's problem. So, I'd like to appeal to the king, after his return, to lead the first meeting of SCG, through which appointments of who will do what in the court system can be made and appoint members to the constitutional council.

Hun Sen doesn't abuse the king, no. It's too much. The loss of lives was caused by this problem, that's why I have to talk. I apologize to the king, the queen and all parties for this speech because what happened shouldn't have happened. **This is irresponsibility, mistake of being irresponsible by leaving excuses for politicians to provoke this incident.**