

[Official translation from French]

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Phnom Penh, 13 June 1995

Respected Samdech Krom Preah,

The recent developments within our Party, FUNCINPEC, as within the National Assembly, lead me to write to you in order to bring the following to your attention.

I am surprised and saddened by the personal turn that recent events have taken and by the comments which have been made. All my actions and all the political positions I have taken were only inspired by my concern for the national interest and I have sought nothing but to defend principles.

1. With regard to the internal problems of FUNCINPEC, I adhere strictly to the Statutes and Internal Regulations of our Party. I hope, furthermore, that mechanisms and procedures can be put in place so as to permit a regular exchange of views among all the Members of the Executive Committee on the fundamental issues confronting our country and our Party. By this means, we avoid flaunting any possible disagreements in public and instead attempt to reduce or eliminate them among ourselves.

2. With regard to the problem of the National Assembly, I believe that our Constitution, the Internal Regulations of the National Assembly, the Electoral Law as well as the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights do not permit a Representative of the people to be dismissed at the sole initiative of a political party. In all circumstances, a Parliamentarian must be able to express himself according to his conscience: it is a principle that I will always strive to defend as a democrat. I think that the recent debate on this subject has contributed to advancing the cause of democracy in our country.

However, I do not believe that attacks of a personal nature contribute to advancing the cause that one wishes to defend. That is why, if in my various actions as a Member of Parliament or as a founding Member of FUNCINPEC, I have upset or hurt you personally, I assure you that it was not my intention and I ask for your pardon.

My keenest and sincerest wish is to work so that the interests of our country and the interests of our Party coincide always. I dream of seeing a united and strong FUNCINPEC under your lofty direction become a privileged instrument for the reconstruction of a prosperous, free and authentically democratic Cambodia.

Please accept, Respected Samdech Krom Preah, the expression of my always devoted feelings.

[signed]

SAM RAINSY