



# គណបក្ស សម រង្ស៊ី

SAM RAINSY PARTY  
PARTI SAM RAINSY  
សមរង្ស៊ី សម្រង់ យុត្តិធម៌

## STATEMENT

October 16, 1998

### COMPROMISE IS NECESSARY FOR THE SAKE OF THE NATION

The Sam Rainsy Party, together with FUNCINPEC, has already proven its willingness to compromise and to explore new directions in hope of forming a democratic government. We will continue to do our best to reach that goal, using every peaceful and legal means. The only thing we will not compromise is our commitment to democracy.

The disturbing comments made by the Vice President of the Cambodian People's Party this morning indicate that the ruling party remains unwilling to make any compromise at all. Instead it seems to be dedicated to a strategy of pure intimidation.

This is consistent with the its past actions, such as the brutal crackdown on peaceful protesters, the threats against opposition leaders, the illegal imprisonment of its critics inside the country, and the threats against foreign media and even the US Congress.

A meeting outside Cambodia, as suggested by the opposition, could place all parties on more equal footing. But the ruling party refuses to negotiate unless it is able to threaten its negotiating partners with arrest or worse. This would not be a negotiation, but a hostage situation, similar to the one that preceded the convening of the National Assembly.

Throughout the electoral process and since then, we have followed the rules, the law and the Constitution to the best of our ability. Our actions have never been meant to "divide the country" or to detract from its sovereignty, which we uphold strongly. They have always been strictly peaceful efforts made within the law and according to the law, and they always will be, because we hope for a Cambodia where political differences and political debate do not have to lead to warfare.

Meanwhile the ruling party has ignored the rules, trampled human rights and paid lip service at best to the law and the Constitution. It has refused to consider political reforms that are essential to real democracy. Despite winning a minority of the vote, it demands absolute power through control of every governmental mechanism. Such an unbalanced, unrepresentative outcome would be a mockery of democratic principles and a tragedy for the Cambodian nation.

We must work together to avoid such a disaster.

[END]

For more information, call Rich Garella in Phnom Penh (855-12-802-062) or Yim Sovann in Bangkok (66-1-826-3175, or knpsr@ksc.th.com).