

SAM RAINSY
11, rue Tiphaine
75015 PARIS

(Official translation)

Paris, 25 July 1995

Mr. CHHA SIM
Chairman
National Assembly
PINOM PENH

Mr. Chairman,

In the course of a month-long visit I have made to several countries, including Japan, Switzerland, France, the United Kingdom and Belgium, I have met a large number of parliamentarians and several international organizations specializing in legal and human rights issues. I have been given the following unanimous opinion from all these individuals and organizations: the expulsion of a member of parliament and his replacement by another person at the request of a political party is completely contrary to the law and to democratic principles and practices. Such an action tarnishes Cambodia's reputation internationally in that it contributes to the belief among our foreign friends that the Cambodian leaders either do not understand the law or are unable or unwilling to respect it.

In particular, I ask that you kindly examine with the greatest possible attention the Decision of the Committee on the Human Rights of Parliamentarians (of the Inter-Parliamentary Union, an international organization based in Geneva and grouping parliaments of 135 countries throughout the world) which "strongly hopes that the question of Mr. (Sam) Rainsy's status will be reconsidered rapidly by the highest authorities of Cambodia in a spirit which is in conformity with the principles of democracy and respect for human rights" (point 9 of the Decision).

Consequently, in order to defend Cambodia's honour, I request that you kindly proceed to discussions with all political parties so that a solution can be found, in a spirit of national unity, of a kind that absolutely avoids the expulsion of any MP from the National Assembly, from whatever political party, prior to the expiration of his/her mandate. As for illegal expulsions already announced, the National Assembly should retract such decisions and consider them as null and void.

Please, Mr. Chairman, accept the assurances of my highest respect.

(signed)

SAM RAINSY