

KINGDOM OF CAMBODIA
Nation Religion King



NATIONAL ASSEMBLY

Phnom Penh, 24 November 2000
5.00 pm

**ORCHESTRATED VIOLENCE DIVERTS ATTENTION
FROM THE REAL AND URGENT PROBLEMS FACING THE COUNTRY**

The Sam Rainsy Party deeply deplores the armed and bloody incident that occurred last night in Phnom Penh. We vehemently and unequivocally condemn all those who were behind the incident. We insistently ask for a serious investigation to identify and punish all those who masterminded the attack or manipulated the attackers in a sort of theatre play, using violence and disinformation to serve their political agenda.

Such politically motivated and orchestrated violence can only divert attention from the real and urgent problems facing Cambodia: failure of the government to alleviate poverty, curb corruption, stop the destruction of natural resources, eliminate ghost soldiers, reduce military expenditures in a serious and significant way, reform the civil administration, increase civil servants' salaries, put in place decent social services, devise and implement a land reform to redistribute land to address the plight of the homeless and landless farmers, helping democracy take root in the countryside by organizing communal elections without further delay, ensuring genuine peace and stability based on justice by sincerely cooperating with the United Nations to establish an independent tribunal to prosecute former Khmer Rouge leaders.

The Sam Rainsy Party, which has always condemned all forms of violence, has also always pushed for an appropriate resolution of the above problems. Last night's attack makes more difficult and more remote such a resolution. Last night's attack is a crime since it provoked bloodshed. It is also a crime because the confusion and the diversion of attention it produces, dealt a blow to the hope of democrats and justice-loving people who are peacefully struggling for a better, more progressive and more humane Cambodia.

Who benefits from the crime? The answer is obvious: those whose only objective is to preserve the status quo in order to protect their entrenched interests and perpetuate their illegitimate power against the will of the people.



Sam Rainsy
Member of Parliament