



Special Representative of the Secretary-General
for Human Rights in Cambodia

តំណាងពិសេសរបស់លោកអគ្គលេខាធិការអង្គការសហប្រជាជាតិសម្រាប់កម្ពុជា



PRESS RELEASE

THE UNITED NATIONS CELEBRATION OF HUMAN RIGHTS DAY
13 December 1995
Hotel Royal Phnom Penh

THE KING OF CAMBODIA, THE FIRST PRIME MINISTER, THE CHAIRMAN OF THE NATIONAL ASSEMBLY, THE CHAIRMEN OF THE NATIONAL ASSEMBLY COMMISSIONS, INCLUDING THE COMMISSION ON HUMAN RIGHTS AND THE RECEPTION OF COMPLAINTS, MEMBERS OF THE GOVERNMENT, AMBASSADORS, DIRECTORS AND REPRESENTATIVES OF UNITED NATIONS AGENCIES, PROGRAMMES AND FUNDS, PRESIDENTS OF THE CAMBODIA AND INTERNATIONAL NGOS AND JOURNALISTS CONTRIBUTED TO THE SUCCESS OF THE UNITED NATIONS CELEBRATION IN THE KINGDOM OF CAMBODIA OF THE HUMAN RIGHTS DAY, ORGANIZED BY THE UNITED NATIONS CENTRE FOR HUMAN RIGHTS.

THIS CELEBRATION WAS HONOURED TO RECEIVE A MESSAGE BY HIS MAJESTY THE KING REAFFIRMING HIS IMPORTANT CONSTITUTIONAL ROLE AS GUARANTOR OF HUMAN RIGHTS AND INTERNATIONAL TREATIES, REFERRING TO THE PROVISIONS IN THE CONSTITUTION RELATING TO HUMAN RIGHTS AND ASKING THE REPRESENTATIVES OF THE INTERNATIONAL COMMUNITY TO HAVE UNDERSTANDING AND CONTINUE TO HELP THE KINGDOM ESTABLISH BETTER REDAGOGICAL, INSTITUTIONAL, LEGAL AND ADMINISTRATIVE STRUCTURES UNTIL THE RULE OF LAW IS FULLY ESTABLISHED IN CAMBODIA.

THE CHAIRMAN OF THE NATIONAL ASSEMBLY, SPEAKING AS A REPRESENTATIVE OF HIS MAJESTY THE KING, REMINDED THE PARTICIPANTS THAT THE ENTIRE CAMBODIAN PEOPLE HAVE OVERCOME GREAT SUFFERING DURING THE PAST TWO DECADES. HE SAID THAT THE PROVISIONS IN THE CONSTITUTION WHICH STIPULATE THAT CAMBODIA RECOGNIZES AND RESPECTS HUMAN RIGHTS AS DEFINED IN THE UNITED NATIONS CHARTER AND OTHER UNITED NATIONS HUMAN RIGHTS CONVENTIONS REPRESENT THE DETERMINATION OF CAMBODIA AND ITS RESPONSIBILITY TO OPEN THE NEW PAGES OF CAMBODIA'S HISTORY IN WHICH THE NATIONAL ASSEMBLY, THE ROYAL GOVERNMENT, THE JUDICIAL BRANCH AND THE PEOPLE OF ALL WALKS LIFE HAVE THE RIGHTS AND DUTIES TO ENFORCE THE PRINCIPLES OF MULTI PARTY DEMOCRATIC SYSTEM. HE EXPRESSED THE NIEW THAT THE RESPECT OF HUMAN RIGHTS HAS ADVANCES AND NOTED THAT MANY LAWS HAVE BEEN PASSED, AFTER LENGTHY DEBATES IN ORDER TO AVOID POSSIBLE

INFRINGEMENTS ON INDIVIDUAL RIGHTS AND FREEDOMS. HE SAID THAT WHAT CAMBODIA NEEDS IS FREEDOM AND A GENUINE RESPECT FOR HUMAN RIGHTS, REINFORCED BY AND APPROPRIATE SENSE OF RESPONSIBILITY, MORALITY AND DIGNITY TOWARD THE SOCIETY AND HUMANITY, AND HE RENEWED HIS CALL FOR PATIENT COOPERATION TOWARD THESE GOALS.

HIS ROYAL HIGHNESS THE FIRST PRIME MINISTER EXPLAINED THE ACIEVEMENTS MADE BY THE GOVERNMENT FOR THE PROMOTION AND PROTECTION OF HUMAN RIGTHS IN CAMBODIA. HE REFERRED TO THE NEW LEGAL FRAMEWORK ESTABLISHED IN CAMBODIA, WHICH REINFORCES THE CONSTITUTION. HE ALSO REFERRED TO THE INTEGRATION INTO DOMESTIC LAW OF SEVERAL UNITED NATIONS CONVENTIONS PROTICTING CIVIL, POLITICAL, ECONOMIC, SOCIAL AND CULTURAL RIGHTS, CHILDREN, REFUGEES, PROHIBITING RACISM, TORTURE, DISCRIMINATION AGAINST WOMEN. AMONG THE LAWS ALREADY APPROVED BY THE GOVERNMENT THE QUOTED THE LAWS ON NATIONALITY, ON THE PRESS, ON TRAFFICKING AND EXPLOITATION OF CHILDREN, ON THE BAR ASSOCIATION, ON THE SUPREME COUNCIL OF MAGISTRACY, ON THE ESTABLISHING AS A MINISTRY THE FORMER SECRETARIAT OF STATE FOR WOMEN AFFAIRS. HE ALSO MENTIONED A DECREE ON A CODE OF CONDUCT FOR POLICE AND THE ROYAL ARMY OFFICIALS. AMONG DRAFT LAWS BEING STUDIED BY THE GOVERNMENT HE MENTIONED A DRAFT LAW ON PRISON REFORM, A DRAFT ELECTORAL LAW, A DRAFT LAW ON THE ESTABLISHMENT OF THE CONSTITUTIONAL COUNCEL, AND A DRFAT LAW ON ASSOCIATIONS. HE NOTED THE CONTRIBUTION OF NGOS IN ASSISTING IN THE TRAINING OF THE POLICE AND THE ARMY.

THE CHAIRMAN OF THE NATIONAL ASSEMBLY COMMISSION ON HUMAN RIGHTS AND RECEPTION OF COMPLAINTS DESCRIBED THE ROLE OF THE COMMISSION IN THE LEGISLATIVE PROCESS, IN THE ANALYSIS OF COMPLAINTS RECEIVED ON VIOLATIONS OF HUMAN RIGHTS IN ORDER TO FIND AN APPROPRIATE AND EFFECTIVE SOLUTIONS. HE SUGGESTED COOPERATION AND MUTUASL SUPPORT BETWEEN NATIONAL INSTITUTIONS SUCH AS THE NATIONAL ASSEMBLY, THE GOVERNMENT, COURTS, NGOS AND THE PEOPLE. HE UNDERLINED THE NECESSARY NEED FOR CONTINUIN SUPPORT FROM THE INTERNATIONAL COMMUNITY.

THE REPRESENTATIVES OF THE UNITED NATIONS AGENCIES, FUNDS AND PROGRAMMES EXPLAINED THEIR MANDATE, ACTIVITIES AND PROGRAMMES RELATING TO HUMAN RIGHTS IN CAMBODIA, INCLUDING THE UNITED NATIONS COORDINATOR AND REPRESENTATIVE OF UNDP, THE SECRETARY-GENERAL'S REPRESENTATIVE IN CAMBODIA THE REPRESENTATIVES OF UNESCO, UNHCR, UNICEF, WFP, AS WEEL AS CARERE. THE CAMBODIAN HUMAN RIGTHS COORDINATION COMMITTEE AND THE ACTION COMMITTEE ALSO DESCRIBED THEIR ACTIVITIES AND MADE SUGGESTIONS FOR IMPROVING THE COOPERATION AMONG ALL ACTORS IN THIS FIELD.

A COMPILATION OF ALL SPEECHES WELL BE PREPARED BY THE UNITED NATIONS CENTRE FOR HUMAN RIGTHS AND PUBLISHED AT THE BEGINNING OF 1996. FOR FURTHER INFORMATION ON THIS CELEBRATION PLEASE CONTACT DAVID HAWK, CHEIF OF THE EDUCATION, TRAINING AND INFORMATION UNIT OF THE CENTRE FOR HUMAN RIGTHS, TEL. 362 585, FAX 362 176