

37. In accordance with the regulations, counting of votes was done as soon as the poll was over. By September 12, it was unofficially known that the Popular Socialist Community (Sangkum) had won all the 91 seats in the National Assembly. The following is the summary of the votes cast for each contending party:

| <u>Party</u>                                           | <u>Number of votes cast</u> | <u>Percentages of votes</u> |
|--------------------------------------------------------|-----------------------------|-----------------------------|
| Sangkum Riyastr Niyum<br>(Popular Socialist Community) | 630,625                     | 83                          |
| Democratic Party                                       | 93,919                      | 12                          |
| Pracheachun<br>(People's Party)                        | 29,503                      | 4                           |
| Liberal Party                                          | 5,488                       | 1                           |
| Redressment National<br>(National Recovery Party)      | 1,154                       |                             |
| Khmer Ekreach<br>(Khmer Independents)                  | 794                         |                             |
| Khmer Labour Party                                     | 289                         | 1                           |
| Independents                                           | 186                         |                             |

Total votes polled: 761,968 = 75% of registered electors.

Although the Sangkum's clean sweep of all seats in the National Assembly inevitably gave rise to some scepticism both inside Cambodia and abroad, it has to be noted that the Opposition parties recorded about 17% of the popular vote. It is inherent in the single-member-district plurality system of voting provided for in Cambodian electoral law, (as in that of many countries, unlike the system of proportional representation which is adopted in many other countries) that the strongest party receives a higher proportion of seats than of popular votes. In twenty-five of the ninety-one electoral districts into which Cambodia is divided, one of the opposition candidates received 25% or more of the Sangkum vote, and in six of these districts one of the opposition candidates received 50% or more of the Sangkum vote.

38. The entrance of Prince Sihanouk into public life transformed the national scene and served as a major factor in the overwhelming victory of the Popular Socialist Community.

39. The Cambodian elections have been followed with widespread interest throughout the world, particularly in view of the forthcoming general elections in Laos and Vietnam also which are envisaged under the Geneva Agreement. In spite of the fact that conditions of war and civil strife prevailed in Cambodia until a year ago and that sharp differences had arisen between the Government and the Opposition, which alleged that it did not have full freedom, the elections passed off peacefully.