

This order was issued, according to the Prime Minister, because an opposition party was alleged to be printing ballot papers, with the name of their candidate accompanied not with the distinctive sign of the opposition party in question, but with a portrait of Prince Sihanouk. This portrait was used as the identifying symbol of the Sangkum Riyastr Niyum. Under Cambodian law, distinctive signs or symbols are used to assist voters in choosing between candidates. Also, under Cambodian law, ballot papers which bear the symbols, are printed by the candidates themselves, and the voter, who is given in the polling booth a ballot for each candidate, chooses among them which one he will cast into the ballot box.

23. There was one important issue in the early days of the electoral period on which the Commission intervened decisively with the Royal Government and that was in regard to the registration of a new political party organized by certain former members of the Khmer Resistance Forces. The following is a summary of the relevant facts of the case:

On June 20, 1955, Mr. AN-Meang, former member of the Khmer Resistance Forces, wrote to the Commission that an application submitted by him to the Minister of the Interior requesting permission to register a party to be called Pracheachun to participate in the elections had been turned down.

Mr. AN-Meang requested the International Commission to intervene with the Royal Government to enable the former members of the Khmer Resistance Forces to take part in the elections as guaranteed in the Geneva Agreement. He enclosed copies of his correspondence with the Minister of the Interior.

The International Commission wrote to His Excellency the Minister of Foreign Affairs, on June 25, 1955, drawing his attention to Article 6 of the Geneva Agreement and requesting him to state the reasons for rejecting the application for registering the Pracheachun as a political party.

The Minister for Foreign Affairs stated in a verbal message to the Chairman that the Government objected to Article 3 of the Rules of the Pracheachun which read as follows;

"Article 3: The following is the aim and line of conduct of the Pracheachun Group:

To unite the whole Khmer people in the National Community without distinction of race (majority and minority), class, party or religion, in order to fight the imperialists and their servants, to defend peace, consolidate independence, realise democracy and raise the standard of living of the people."

The Government's objection was that Article 3 seemed to indicate that the Pracheachun would be an international association as it admitted all races and nationalities to membership and that in