

dismissed: but it is a fact that among the civil servants there are many supporters of the Democratic party as well as the Sangkum.

(d) On the other hand, officials of the Sangkum stated publicly that their party workers had been "victims of aggression" by the Pracheachun and Democratic parties. On September 8, they announced that there had been three assassinations, two cases of injury and four cases of kidnapping among their followers.

32. The Commission did not investigate these individual petitions and charges and thus cannot make any judgment on their accuracy or otherwise. Although Cambodian law provides judicial remedies for abuses or for a denial of the rights laid down in the Constitution and laws of the Kingdom, the petitioners chose instead to apply to the Commission for redress. It was felt, however, that it would be quite improper and inexpedient for the Commission to investigate such allegations, particularly in view of the very limited authority regarding the elections which is given to the Commission under the terms of the Cease-Fire Agreement. The opposition parties in whose ranks were included many former members of the KRF, have charged that they did not have full freedom because of the alleged pressures. The Government on the other hand charged that the opposition parties were trying to sabotage the election by courting arrest and complaining about a lack of fair conditions for campaigning. It is difficult for us to assess the extent to which these charges and counter-charges may have been valid.

33. During the course of their observation of the electoral campaign, Commission personnel observed two occasions where Democratic party meetings were broken up by supporters of the Sangkum. The first case took place in the town of Battambang where a theatrical show organized by the Democratic party was disrupted by force. Policemen, although present, did not intervene. The second incident took place on the square just in front of the Commission Secretariat headquarters in Phnom-Penh on the eve of the poll. While a meeting of the Democratic party was in progress a high dignitary arrived and started a rival meeting. In the confusion which followed several shots were fired and the chauffeur of a Sangkum leader was killed. Later, the candidate of the Democratic Party, who had been addressing the meeting, was arrested for questioning in connection with the shooting incident.

34. As polling day approached, the tenseness in the political atmosphere began to increase. Charges and counter-charges were made by the parties. In the last two weeks, the Prime Minister, who was the neutral chief of an Elections Government, expressed concern over the developments. He told us that the present elections were different from the previous three held in the country. In his view the reason was that the Pracheachun and Democratic parties were out to subvert the regime. He affirmed that this Government would do all in its power to defend the monarchical character of the State. He stated that there were some armed bands in the country which had affiliations with political parties and were terrorizing the rural population to vote against the Sangkum. The Prime Minister also stated that some of the unsubmitted members of the Resistance movement were now coming out to cause trouble. The Prime Minister gave as one instance the pillaging of a