

good deal of hesitation on both sides. The situation was by no means eased by the attitude of certain over-zealous local officials who in some cases subjected the former resistants to petty harassment. The Government, on its side, was hesitant because not all the top leaders of the resistance movement had come out into the open and it felt that there was the nucleus of an underground opposition movement. While there may be no basis for suspicions on either side, it was clear that the climate of confidence necessary for broad national reconciliation was not present.

9. Petitions from former members of the resistance movement who were still in detention or who found it difficult to obtain identity cards and other papers or who were subjected to petty harassment by the police, have been received in the period under review. The Commission approached this problem in two ways. First, it took up the cases where harassment or arrest of former members of the K.R.F. was reported. Second, it sought to satisfy itself that the Government was adopting a generous and politically correct policy towards the former resistants in terms of Article 6.

10. The Commission felt that, in some cases at least, there was genuine misunderstanding in the minds of those who were still afraid to come forward to collect their identity cards. It was also felt that it was necessary for Government to restate its attitude to the former resistants so that local officials also understood Government policy correctly.

11. At the suggesting of the Commission, made at the weekly meetings, the Government agreed to issue a statement outlining once again the procedure for receiving reintegration cards and clarifying its policy towards constitutional political activity. The Government prepared a draft appeal which was then finalised in consultation with the Commission. The appeal which was issued by Government on January 14 is as follows:

"Wishing to complete the unification within the community for the liberty, peace and prosperity of the nation, the Minister of the Interior, on behalf of the Royal Government, reminds all those who have not submitted on this date that it is their duty to return to the Khmer community in order to consolidate the independence of our country.

"To attain this goal, Independent Cambodia needs to be united in order to be strong and prosperous and those who still remain outside the community must cease all activities which produce delays and contrary forces harmful to the rapid development of unity, peace and prosperity in the Kingdom. They are therefore invited to apply for re-admission to the national community.

"The procedure for requesting re-admission is simple. Principal points can usefully be recalled: those who wish to rejoin the community should report with their weapons, if they have any, to the administrative authorities of the Khums, Sroks or Khets, or to the military authorities. The latter will forthwith issue them with a card of re-admission into the Khmer community, with which they may return home and move freely through the whole country without being troubled. This card may immediately be