

Cambodia only associations of Cambodian citizens would be allowed. The verbal message was later confirmed in a letter by the Royal Government dated July 11, 1955.

The Commission consulted the founders of the Pracheachun on this point. There was some difference of opinion as to the interpretation of the Cambodian text of Article 3 of the Rules, but the founders agreed to amend Article 3 to meet the objections of the Government.

In spite of this, there was some difficulty and delay in Government accepting the application of the Pracheachun. The Commission at its weekly meeting with the Prime Minister made it clear that if the application of the former members of the Khmer Resistance Forces to form a party was turned down, it would lead to charges before the Commission of a violation of Article 6 of the Geneva Agreement and from that point of view the validity of the election would be questioned.

After some discussion, the Prime Minister agreed that he would take steps to expedite the registration of the party. However, he wanted the party to affirm its adherence to constitutional forms of activity. Although strictly such a guarantee was not called for from reintegrated citizens, the Commission advised the Pracheachun to give such an assurance.

The matter was satisfactorily settled and the Pracheachun was registered in time to enable it to nominate 35 candidates for the elections.

24. It will be appropriate to point out that there was more mediation than intervention in this case, as it indicates the spirit in which the Commission approached these problems. The Commission was most anxious to ensure the registration of the Pracheachun as otherwise the whole election would have been challenged on the ground of violation of Article 6 of the Geneva Agreement. After a great deal of effort, the matter was settled satisfactorily on the last day set for receiving nominations.

25. The electoral campaign did not begin to warm up till four or five weeks before polling. There was very little activity in the first month of the electoral period as parties and candidates were waiting for the final approval of the nominations. In the final stages, however, the tempo of electioneering was great. Meetings were being held all over the country and party banners could be seen everywhere. Processions were taken out and parties organised rallies and staged plays. The most active campaigning was done by the Popular Socialist Community. In every place there were banners exhibiting the picture of His Royal Highness Prince Sihanouk who is the Supreme Counsellor of the Popular Socialist Community or the Sangkum as it is called. The Prince himself toured the provinces and addressed large meetings. Prominent personalities, including some Ministers, spoke in