



20 March 2000

His Excellency Mr Hans Corell
Under-Secretary-General of the United Nations

Your Excellency,

In response to your request, I am pleased to provide confirmation of what was stated in our discussions concerning the position of the Royal Government of Cambodia regarding decisions already taken regarding amnesty for the Khmer Rouge.

The Cambodian Constitution gives the right to His Majesty the King to grant amnesties (Article 27), and also to the National Assembly to make laws concerning amnesty (Article 90). So far His Majesty King Norodom Sihanouk has only exercised this right with regard to the Khmer Rouge when requested by the Royal Government of Cambodia, with a clear endorsement also by two-thirds of the members of the National Assembly.

Our Draft Law (Article 40) makes a clear statement of the government's intent not to request an amnesty for any person who committed crimes relating to applicable law described in Articles 3-8 of that Draft Law. This indicates our intention to make a clear break in the cycle.

As to the past, I can inform you that, with regard to matters covered in this Draft Law, there has been only one case, dated 14 September 1996, when amnesty was granted to only one person with regard to a 1979 conviction on the charge of genocide.

Sincerely,

Sok An
Senior Minister and Minister in Charge of the Council of Ministers