

- 1 DEC 1981

Singapore Government

PRESS RELEASE

Information Division, Ministry of Culture, City Hall, Singapore 0617 • tel: 3378191 ext. 352, 353, 354/3362207/3362271

Acc. No. NARC

09-0/81 81/051 58

81-SR-13

STATEMENT ISSUED AT THE CONCLUSION OF THE VISIT TO BANGKOK
BY MR S RAJARATNAM, SECOND DEPUTY PRIME MINISTER (FOREIGN AFFAIRS) AND
MR S DHANABALAN, MINISTER FOR FOREIGN AFFAIRS
ON TUESDAY, 24 NOVEMBER 1981

His Excellency Mr Son Sann, Their Excellencies Mr Khieu Samphan and Mr Ieng Sary, His Excellency Mr In Tam (representing His Royal Highness Samdech Norodom Sihanouk) met individually and jointly with His Excellency Mr S Rajaratnam, Second Deputy Prime Minister (Foreign Affairs) of Singapore, His Excellency Air Chief Marshal Siddhi Savetsila, Foreign Minister of Thailand, and His Excellency Mr S Dhanabalan, Foreign Minister of Singapore, on 22 and 23 November in Bangkok.

At these meetings, the Khmer leaders discussed the work done by their officials over nine meetings, in the study of details involved in the formation of a coalition government of Democratic Kampuchea as agreed last September in Singapore. They agreed that the objectives set out in the Singapore Joint Statement should be speedily achieved.

Towards this end, they accepted a Singapore proposal, supported by Thailand, that the coalition government of Democratic Kampuchea to be established should, at this juncture of the struggle, be one in which each faction would retain its identity and be free to propagate its own distinctive political programme and philosophy for the future of Cambodia. This coalition government will work to achieve the essentials of the declaration adopted by the UN International Conference on Kampuchea last July. In particular it should be directed at attaining the two main elements in that declaration, namely:

- (A) To bring about the early withdrawal of all Vietnamese Forces from Cambodia and hasten the

process of reaching a comprehensive political solution, through exerting political, diplomatic and military pressure on Vietnam to do so, and

- (B) Thereafter, to enable the people of Cambodia to decide for themselves the form of Government of their choice through free elections conducted by the UN, and without coercion or intimidation from any quarter.

Based on this single objective for the proposed coalition government of Democratic Kampuchea, the Singapore proposal to the Khmer leaders was that this loose coalition government comprises a Head of State or President, the Prime Minister, the Deputy Prime Minister and three Ministers representing each of the three groups to be responsible for defence co-ordination and likewise for co-ordination of information and publicity. This proposed coalition government would be concerned only with the single objective of pursuing the struggle against Vietnamese occupation, after which it will be automatically dissolved to pave the way for the election of a government in Cambodia through free elections conducted by the United Nations. The Head of State or President, the Prime Minister and the Deputy Prime Minister will conduct international relations and seek to mobilise the widest possible international support for this struggle.

His Excellency Mr Son Sann considered this proposal and accepted it in principle, subject to endorsement by his followers.

His Excellency Mr In Tam, in accordance with instructions given him by His Royal Highness Samdech Norodom Sihanouk, has indicated that if the other two parties agree to the proposal, he would agree in principle subject to formal approval by His Royal Highness Samdech Norodom Sihanouk.

His Excellency Mr Khieu Samphan and His Excellency Mr Ieng Sary sought time to study these proposals and to consult their followers. They agreed to give their response within the next two months.