

CAMBODIA

Date of Elections: March 20, 1976

Purpose of Elections

Elections were held for all the members of the newly-established People's Representative Assembly provided for in the new Constitution promulgated in January 1976. Previous legislative elections took place in 1972 when the Constitution of the same year was in effect*.

Characteristics of Parliament

Under the terms of the 1976 Constitution**, the unicameral Parliament of Cambodia, the People's Representative Assembly, consists of 250 members elected for 5 years. Of these members, 150 represent the country's peasant population, 50 represent workers and 50 represent the armed forces.

Electoral System

All Cambodian citizens over 18 years of age who have not been convicted of crime had the right to vote in the 1976 general elections.

The Standing Committee of the Constitutional Commission, which acted as an election committee, decreed that candidates for the People's Representative Assembly had to be at least 25 years of age with a record of revolutionary struggle and good moral character.

Deputies were elected by direct universal suffrage and secret ballot. Constituencies were delimited on both an occupational and regional basis; representatives of peasants were selected in 10 regional constituencies, each choosing anywhere from two to 30 deputies, whereas workers' representatives were elected chiefly by factory workers, transport workers and rubber plantation workers.

General Political Considerations and Conduct of the Elections

Following the promulgation of Cambodia's new Constitution on January 5, 1976, the Cambodian Government fixed the date of the 1976 general elections on February 4.

* See *Chronicle of Parliamentary Elections VII (1972-1973)*, p. 81.

** See section *Parliamentary Developments*, p. 13.

The 250 seats of the People's Representative Assembly, set aside for representatives of peasants, workers and the armed forces (Revolutionary Army), were contested by 515 candidates belonging to the National United Front of Cambodia, the country's political organization.

After the elections, it was announced that 98% of Cambodia's eligible electorate had cast votes. The successful candidates included 46 women (29 peasants' representatives, 8 workers' representatives and 9 army representatives).

At its first session, held on April 11-13, the Assembly approved a new Cabinet headed by Mr. Pol Pot.

Statistics

1. *Results of the Elections and Distribution of Seats in the People's Representative Assembly*

Voters 3,462,868 (98%)

Political Group	Number of seats
National United Front of Cambodia.	250

2. *Distribution of Deputies according to Professional Category*

Peasants	150
Workers	50
Members of the armed forces.	50
	250

3. *Distribution of Deputies according to Sex*

Men	204
Women	46
	250