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CINCPAC FOR FPA AND USIA ADVISOR

E.O. 12356: DECL: OADR

TEXT

TAGS: PINR, KAMR, PROP, VM, FR, US, CB

SUBJECT: ACTIVE MEASURES: POSSIBLE FAKE CONGRESSIONAL

LETTER ON US AID TO KHMER ROUGE

1. (C) IN AUGUST POL COUNSELOR CARNEY BECAME AWARE THAT LEFTIST FRENCH INTELLECTUAL AND FELLOW CAMBODIAN SPECIALIST SERGE THION, A RESEARCHER AT THE FRENCH

NAZI WAR CRIMES DISCLOSURE ACT 2000

CIA HAS NO OBJECTION TO DECLASSIFICATION AND/OR RELEASE OF CIA INFORMATION IN THIS DOCUMENT

EO 12958, 25X TPS/CR/IR by _ Date: 5(30(0)

BECLASSIFIED AND RELEASED BY CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE AGENCY SOURCES METHODS EXEMPTION 3B2B NAZI WAR CRIMES DISCLOSURE ACT DATE 2001 2007

FOR COORDINATION WITH

CNRS, WAS CIRCULATING A LETTER ALLEGING THAT THE U.S. PROVIDED FINANCIAL AID TO THE KHMER ROUGE FROM 1980-86. THION WAS SAID TO HAVE BASED HIS ACCUSATIONS ON THE FIGURES A CONGRESSIONAL STAFFER CITED IN A LETTER TO ONE OF THION'S CONTACTS.

- 2. (C) THION IS WELL KNOWN TO POL COUNSELLOR WHO WROTE ASKING WHAT WAS GOING ON. THION REPLIED DETAILING HIS SOURCES AND INCLUDING PHOTOCOPIES OF HIS CIRCULAR LETTER TO THE PRESS WHICH ENCLOSED A COPY OF THE CONGRESSIONAL STAFFER'S LETTER TO AN AMERICAN CONTACT OF THION'S AUSTRALIAN COLLEAGUE AND INFORMANT. THION ASKED FOR DETAILS OF THE DISINFORMATION AND EXPRESSED WILLINGNESS TO RECANT PUBLICLY. COPIES OF RELEVANT LETTERS POUCHED DEPT (EA/VLC), AND REPRODUCED BELOW (PARA #4).
- 3. (C) RECOMMENDATION. THE PRO-VIETNAMESE WING OF CAMBODIAN SCHOLARSHIP, WHICH INCLUDES THION AND THE AUSTRALIAN BEN KIERNAN, APPEARS TO HAVE BEEN TAKEN IN BY THE LETTER ALLEGEDLY FROM SENATOR KERRY'S STAFFER JONATHAN WINER. THAT LETTER SAYS THE U.S. GAVE MONEY FOR PEACE CORPS AND NARCOTICS ENFORCEMENT AS PART OF AID TO THE KHMER ROUGE, WHICH WE DOUBT ANY CONGRESSIONAL STAFFER COULD BELIEVE. THUS, THE LETTER ITSELF MIGHT BE A FORGERY AND DEPT. SHOULD GO IMMEDIATELY TO WINER TO ASK. IN THE MEANTIME, POL COUNSELLOR PROPOSES TO SEND AN INTERIM REPLY TO THION NOTING THAT THE COPIES HE FURNISHED SHOULD HELP GET TO THE BOTTOM OF THE MATTER, AND REITERATING THAT THE CHARGES OF DIRECT U.S. AID TO THE KHMER ROUGE ARE FALSE.
- 4. (C) THION'S 23 NOVEMBER LETTER TO POLITICAL COUNSELLOR

BEGIN TEXT:

SERGE THION I, AUBRAY 91780 CHALO SAINT MARS TEL. (6) 495 47 35

MY DEAR TIM,

FIRST OF ALL, IT IS GOOD TO HAVE NEWS FROM YOU.
OF COURSE I HEARD ABOUT YOU THROUGH COMMON FRIENDS IN THE PAST YEARS. I WAS SHOCKED TO LEARN ABOUT THIS CAR ACCIDENT IN SWITZERLAND. I KNEW THE COUNTRY AS A BAD PLACE FOR DRIVING BUT THIS ONE WAS TOO MUCH. SOME MONTHS AGO, I WAS TOLD YOUR WIFE STILL HAD DIFFICULTIES FOR WALKING. TELL HER WHAT A NICE SOUVENIR I HAVE FROM A DINNER AT YOUR PLACE IN BANGKOK, WITH ONE OF THE BEST SOUPS I EVER HAD IN MY LIFE. I HOPE THE TORONTO GLOBE AND MALL WILL CLAIM HER TALENT SOON, OR MAYBE SHE HAS OTHER PROJECTS.

I WAS ALSO TOLD YOU HAD THE CHOICE BETWEEN JAKARTA AND BANGKOK AGAIN. YOU DID THE RIGHT CHOICE. INDONESIA IS A FASCINATING COUNTRY AND THE MORE YOU GO INTO IT, THE MORE YOU'LL SCRATCH YOUR MIND. BUT OF COURSE JAKARTA, AS IT IS NOW (I SAW IT IN 69 WITH VERY FEW CARS, ONLY ONE BIG HOTEL, AND THE TRAVELING WAS MOSTLY WITH BETJAKS) MAY NOT BE THE BEST PLACE TO GET THE REAL JAVANESE TOUCH. ONE THING YOU'LL DO FOR ME IS TO C O N F I D E N T I A L SECTION 02 OF 04 JAKARTA 20077

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TRANSMIT MY RESPECTS TO THE HUGE STUPA OF BORUBUDUR. PAUL MUS, WHO WAS THE GREATEST ORIENTALIST IN FRANCE HAS WRITTEN A 1100 PAGES VOLUME ON IT. STILL WORTH READING.

YOUR INFORMATION WAS, AS USUAL, CORRECT. I KEEP IN TOUCH WITH THINGS KHMER AND I WORK HARD, BEHIND THE SCENE, TO BRING ABOUT THE MEETING BETWEEN SIHANOUK AND HUN SEN. THE ONLY THING I WANT TO BE INVOLVED IN IS A PEACE PROCESS. I AM NOT ENTIRELY OPTIMISTIC BUT I THINK WE HAVE NEVER BEEN SO CLOSE TO A BEGINNING OF A SETTLEMENT. ANYWAY, THIS IS WORTH TRYING. I VISITED THE BORDER IN JUNE, A BITTER SIGHT AS USUAL.

NOW YOU SAY I HAVE BEEN THE VICTIM OF A DISINFORMATION EFFORT. THIS IS QUITE POSSIBLE, OF COURSE. NOBODY'S IMMUNE. THE FIRST HINT OF THE STORY CAME WITH THE TEXT OF A LETTER SENT BY JOHN PILGER TO AN AUSTRALIAN NEWSPAPER. HE WAS MENTIONING THE FIGURE OF US AID TO THE KHMER ROUGE. AS I WANTED TO CHECK ON THAT AND KNOW THE SOURCE, I WROTE TO HIM BUT HE DID NOT REPLY. I THEN ASKED BEN KIERNAN IF HE KNEW ANYTHING. SEVERAL MONTHS LATER, BEN SENT ME A XEROX OF A US SENATE COMMITEE ON FOREIGN RELATIONS LETTER, SIGNED BY A JONATHAN WINER, COUNSEL OF SENATOR JOHN KERRY. AT THAT POINT, I HAD NO PARTICULAR REASON TO SUSPECT THE STATEMENT. I FOUND THE FIGURE FOR 1980 (US DOLLARS 54 MILLION) A BIT HIGH. FROM WHAT TRANSPIRED IN THE PRESS IN THE LAST YEARS, THE CIA CHANNELLED FUNDS TO THE KR WERE NOT SO HIGH. BUT I WAS LOOKING FOR THE SOURCE (QUOTED AS BEING THE CONGRESSIONAL RESEARCH SERVICE) AND THERE IT WAS. AS THE PRESS COVERAGE OF THE KLAUS BARBIE TRIAL LOOKED TO ME AS AN OUTRAGEOUS ATTEMPT TO WHITEWASH THE POST-VICHY GOVERNMENTS, I SENT COPIES OF THE LETTER TO A NUMBER OF LEADING FOREIGN NEWS EDITORS. AS FAR

AS I KNOW, NOTHING WAS PUBLISHED ABOUT IT. SOMEDAYS AGO, I GOT A LETTER FROM BEN SAYING THAT WINER "NOW" SAYS THE FIGURES ARE UNRELIABLE AND SHOULD NOT BE USED. IT SOUNDS LIKE A COVER-UP". AND HE GOES ON SAYING MORE DETAILS MAY BE OBTAINED FROM EVA MYSLIWIEC, AT OXFAM, IN OXFORD. I HAVE NOT WRITTEN YET TO THIS LADY. THAT IS WHERE I AM NOW. YOU SAY IT IS A BOGUS LETTER. I SUPPOSE THAT YOU KNOW THIS FOR CERTAIN. I WOULD OF COURSE LIKE TO HAVE MORE DETAILS AND KNOW EXACTLY WHAT IS BOGUS, THE LETTER ? THE FIGURES ? THE SIGNATURE ? WHO DID THAT ? THE PURPOSE ? IT MIGHT RELATE TO THE SECRET FINANCING OF THE CONTRA IN NICARAGUA. ANYWAY, MORE DETAILS FROM YOU WOULD BE USEFUL. I AM QUITE PREPARED TO ADMIT THE ERROR IN A NEXT PUBLICATION ABOUT CAMBODIA.

WHATEVER THE TRUE STATUS OF THIS LETTER, THAT WOULD NOT ALTER THE GENERAL FRAMEWORK OF US POLITICAL SUPPORT FOR THE KHMER ROUGE, BOTH AT THE UN AND AT THE BORDER, SOMETHING I STILL FIND DEEPLY SCANDALOUS. THE TRUTH ABOUT THE DETAILS OF THIS SUPPORT HAVE YET TO BE DUG OUT FROM THE ARCHIVES AND YOU ARE OF COURSE NOT IN A POSITION TO DO THIS RESEARCH. SO WE HAVE TO WAIT FOR A BETTER OPPORTUNITY.

I HAVE NO PLAN TO VISIT THE INDIES BY NOW BUT I AM SURE WE WILL HAVE OTHER OPPORTUNITIES TO BRUNCH OVER WORLD POLITICS.

AVEC TOUTES MES AMITIES.

/S/ SERGE END TEXT.

C O N F I D E N T I A L SECTION 03 OF 04 JAKARTA 20077

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5. (C) FOLLOWING IS THE TEXT OF THION'S 11 JULY 1987 CIRCULAR LETTER:

BEGIN TEXT:

MADAME, MONSIEUR,

VOUS SEREZ CERTAINEMENT SENSIBLE, EN TANT QUE PROFESSION-NEL DE L'INFORMATION, AU FAIT QUE CERTAINES NOUVELLES

SEMBLENT TOTALEMENT PASSEES SOUS SILENCE DANS LES MEDIAS.

AINSI, AU MOMENT OU SE MULTIPLIENT LES REVELATIONS SUR LE FINANCEMENT ILLEGAL DES "CONTRAS" NICARAGUAYENS PAR LE GOUVERNEMENT AMERICAIN, VOUS POURRIEZ APPRENDRE A VOS LECTEURS OU A VOS AUDITEURS QUE CE MEME GOUVERNEMENT AMERICAIN A GRASSEMENT SUBVENTIONNE LA RESURRECTION DE POL POT ET DE SES KHMERS ROUGES, LES AUTEURS DE L'UN DES PLUS EFFROYABLES MASSACRES DE NOTRE TEMPS.

AU MOMENT OU UNE OPINION UNANIME CONDAMNE DES CRIMES CONTRE L'HUMANITE COMMIS DANS UNE VILLE DE PROVINCE PAR UN SOUS-CHEF DE POLICE, IL SERAIT INTERESSANT DE CONNAITRES VOS COMMENTAIRES SUR LA GENEREUSE SUBVENTION AINSI ACCORDEE A D'INCONTESTABLES CANDIDATS AU TITRE TROP PEU DECERNE DE "CRIMINEL CONTRE L'HUMANITE".

LE DOCUMENT QUI FAIT PREUVE EST AU VERSO. DANS L'ATTENTE, VEUILLEZ CROIRE, MADAME, MONSIEUR, A L'EXPRESSION DE MES SENTIMENTS DISTINGUES.

/S/ SERGE THION

END TEXT.

6. (C) FOLLOWING IS THE TEXT OF THE ALLEGED WINER LETTER TO CHARTIENES

BEGIN TEXT:

LARRY CHARTIENES VIETNAM VETERANS OF AMERICA 2001 S ST NW SUITE 700 WASHINGTON DC 20009-1125

DEAR LARRY:

IN RESPONSE TO YOUR REQUEST FOR INFORMATION ON U.S. AID TO THE KHMER ROUGE, I HAVE RECEIVED THE FOLLOWING INFORMATION FROM THE CONGRESSIONAL RESEARCH SERVICE.

THE KHMER ROUGE RECEIVED NO FUNDS FROM THE U.S. FROM FISCAL YEAR 1976 THROUGH 1979. IN THE YEARS FROM 1980-86, THEY RECEIVED THE FOLLOWING FOR DEVELOPMENT ASSISTANCE, FOOD ASSISTANCE, ECONOMIC SUPPORT, AND IN SMALLER AMOUNTS FOR THE PEACE CORP, NARCOTICS ENFORCEMENT AND MILITARY ASSISTANCE:

IN FY 87 DOLLARS:

1980	\$54.55	MILLION
1981	\$18.29	MILLION
1982	\$ 4.57	MILLION.
1983	\$ 2.46	MILLION

1984 \$ 3.70 MILLION 1985 \$.84 MILLION 1986 \$.06 MILLION

I HOPE THIS INFORMATION IS OF USE TO YOU.
C O N F I D E N T I A L SECTION 04 OF 04 JAKARTA 20077

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SINCERELY,

/S/ JONATHAN WINER, COUNSEL SENATOR JOHN KERRY

END TEXT. WOLFOWITZ

ADMIN END OF MESSAGE

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