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DIRECTORATE OF
INTELLIGENCE

Intelligence Memorandum

*Shipping to Cambodia
in the First Quarter of 1968*

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ER IM 68-58
MAY 1968

COPY NO. 126

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Foreword

This memorandum analyzes the pattern of foreign shipping to Cambodian ports to help in determining whether arms or military-related goods are reaching the Viet Cong through Cambodia. It updates CIA/ER IM 68-49, *Shipping to Cambodia in the Fourth Quarter of 1967 and Trends in 1967, May 1968*, [redacted] and is the third report written on a quarterly basis. Since there are only minor seasonal variations in shipping to Cambodia, most comparisons in this memorandum are made with the previous quarter rather than with the first quarter of 1967. The data for the first quarter of 1968 are preliminary and may be modified as additional information becomes available. For the purposes of this memorandum, Yugoslavia is considered to be a country of the Free World. Cargo weights are expressed in metric tons. The term *imports*, as used in this memorandum, refers only to imports by sea. Because of rounding, components may not add to the totals shown.

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CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE AGENCY
Directorate of Intelligence
May 1968

INTELLIGENCE MEMORANDUM

Shipping to Cambodia
in the First Quarter of 1968

Summary

Two probable military shipments arrived in Sihanoukville, Cambodia, aboard Chinese ships in the first quarter of 1968.

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also were delivered to Cambodia during the first quarter of 1968.

Despite South Vietnam's closure of the Mekong River for 50 days in the first quarter of 1968, ship arrivals at Cambodian ports were up 12 percent and imports were up 35 percent from the preceding quarter. For the first time since the port of Sihanoukville was opened in April 1960, ship arrivals at Sihanoukville exceeded those at Phnom Penh. More than 38,000 tons of petroleum were discharged at Sihanoukville (the previous high was 6,000 tons), most of it diverted from

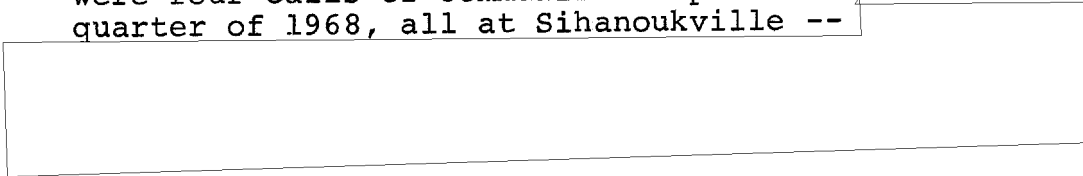
Note: This memorandum was produced solely by CIA. It was prepared by the Office of Economic Research and was coordinated with the Office of Current Intelligence.

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Phnom Penh and discharged into lighters. There were four calls of Communist ships in the first quarter of 1968, all at Sihanoukville --



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Ship Arrivals and Imports by Sea

1. A total of 149 ship calls were made at Cambodian ports in the first quarter of 1968, compared with 133 calls in the previous quarter. Three-fourths of the calls were at Sihanoukville; only one-fourth were at Phnom Penh. The volume of imports increased 35 percent above the previous quarter. Seventy-seven percent of the imports were discharged at Sihanoukville and 23 percent at Phnom Penh (see Tables 1, 2, and 3).

Sihanoukville

2. As a result of the closure of the Mekong River for 50 days, more ships called at Sihanoukville than at Phnom Penh for the first time since the port was opened in April 1960. Of the 112 calls at Sihanoukville, 108 were made by Free World ships,

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Congestion was a major problem during the quarter despite the use of lighters to offload petroleum and dry cargo.

3. Imports at Sihanoukville jumped to 156,400 tons, almost triple the volume in the fourth quarter of 1967. Petroleum, which is rarely discharged at Sihanoukville, accounted for much of the increase and totaled about 38,300 tons. Imports of coal, jute, cement, and metal products also increased significantly.

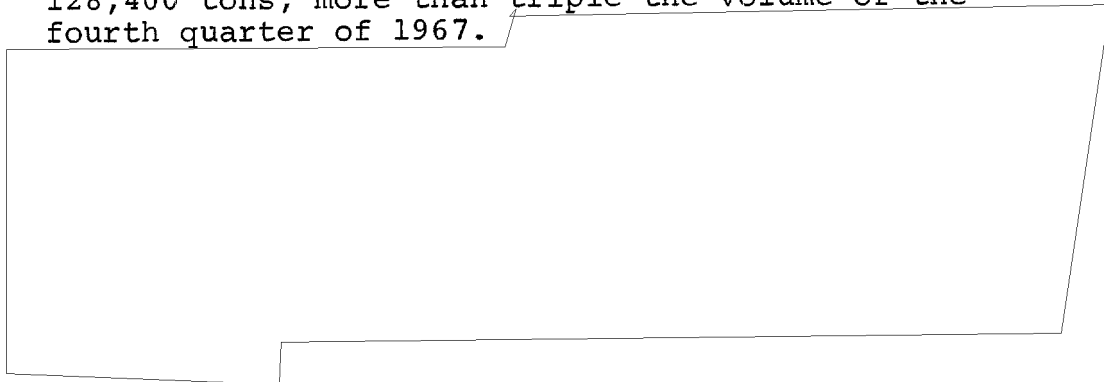
4. About 30,000 tons -- 18 percent of total imports to Sihanoukville -- were loaded in Communist countries.

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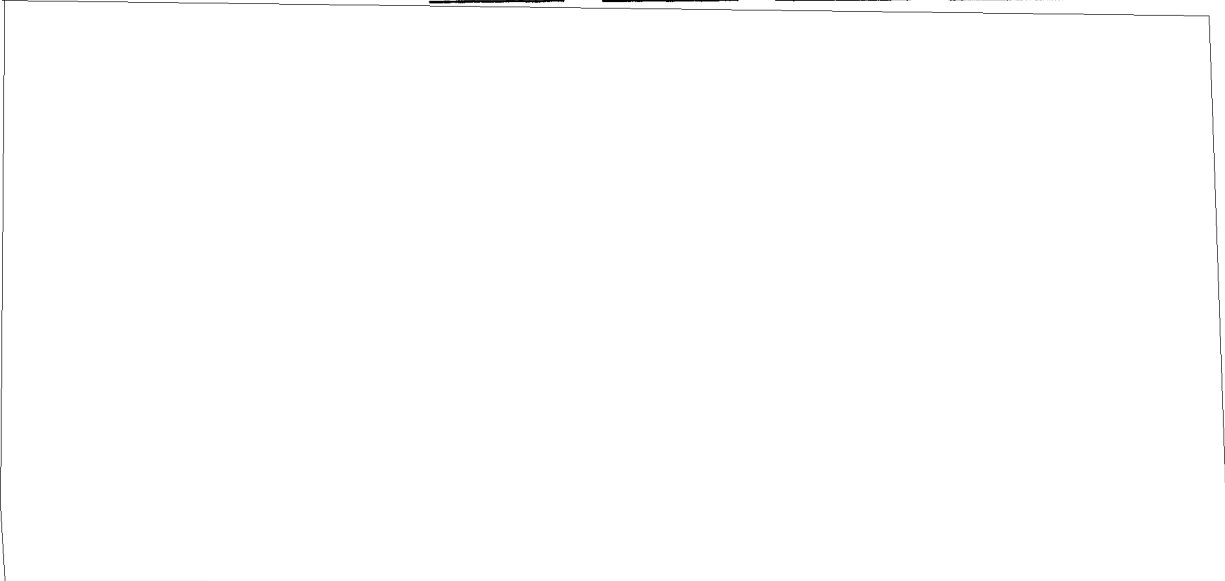
5. Imports from Free World ports rose to 128,400 tons, more than triple the volume of the fourth quarter of 1967.



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6. The composition of imports to Sihanoukville during the first quarter of 1968 and in the last three quarters of 1967 is shown in the following tabulation:

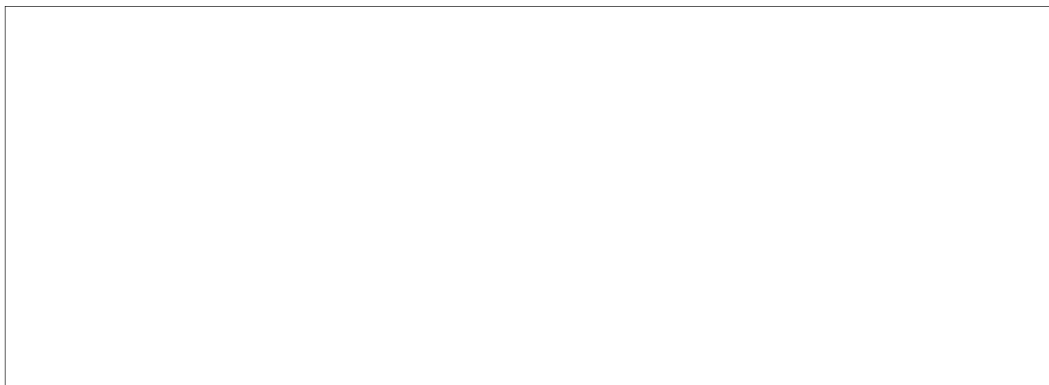
<u>Thousand Metric Tons</u>			
<u>1967</u>			
<u>Second</u> <u>Quarter</u>	<u>Third</u> <u>Quarter</u>	<u>Fourth</u> <u>Quarter</u>	<u>First</u> <u>Quarter</u> <u>1968</u>



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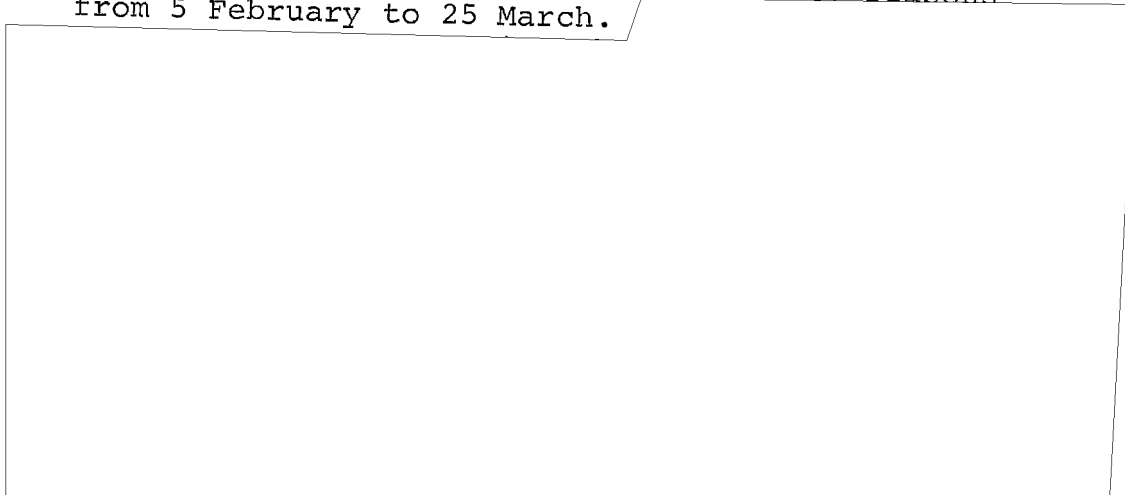
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Phnom Penh

8. Ship calls at Phnom Penh in the first quarter declined sharply because of South Vietnam's closure of the Mekong River for security reasons from 5 February to 25 March.



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9. Seaborne imports discharged at Phnom Penh in the first quarter totaled 46,400 tons, only about one-half the volume of the fourth quarter of 1967. As shown in the following tabulation, the closure of the Mekong River greatly reduced deliveries of petroleum to Phnom Penh:

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Table 1

Cambodia: Merchant Ship Arrivals and Cargo Discharged, by Port
Second, Third, and Fourth Quarters 1967 and First Quarter 1968

	Ship Arrivals			
	1967			1968
	<u>Second Quarter</u>	<u>Third Quarter</u>	<u>Fourth Quarter</u>	<u>First Quarter</u>
Sihanoukville	56	56	62	112
Phnom Penh <u>a/</u>	90	97	71	37
<i>Total</i>	146	153	133	149

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