

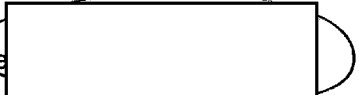


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
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Dear   and I sent in a cable 

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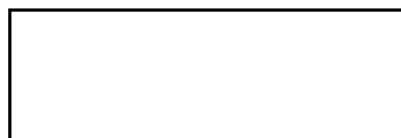
asking about orientation trips. Knowing how our admin people work, I'm not very surprised that we never got an answer. Nevertheless, we would like to take trips--all our predecessors did--and so we have to know how to go about applying.

Among the many questions we have are:

- ✓ Are trips for people already overseas still allowed?
- ✓ How long can the trips be?
- ✓ Do we have to send a detailed itinerary home?
- ✓ What sort of justification is required? In the past these have been simple orientation trips. Both  and I are capable of making up justifications at least as good as those of people who have visited here.
- ✓ How long in advance do we have to apply?
- ✓ To whom do we apply?
- ✓ What sort of funding is this to be charged to? (The finance people here won't give us money until they know what numbers to put on the forms.)

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
I'd appreciate anything you can do about this, at least a hint to admin that it is customary to answer cables within three months.






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I just got here a few months ago, but as I understand the new system, my successor is supposed to be chosen a year in advance--by next June. The attached paper may be of some use to everyone in making the selection. If you use it, presumably you will want to change the  to English.

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One point in the paper may have come through slightly stronger than I intend it. I am not trying to support the mystery cult of Far East expertise. I have been told many times how difficult it is to understand the Oriental mind and the resulting politics. One big argument of those initiated into the religion is that  politics is so complex that it can be understood only after years of study at the feet of a master. The truth is that  politics is more complicated than  politics but less complicated than

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 The prize for complicated politics, of course, is no longer given, everyone having dropped out of the contest after the Lebanese won 16 years in a row.

The point I was trying to make is that it is much easier to brief on Cambodia if you know who Lon Nol is, how Sihanouk got thrown out, and where the Mekong river is. You don't need to understand Khmer society in any great depth.

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