

NSC 7/2 - 10 AM

- 1 - Port security
- 2 - DCI Briefing
- 3 - Sit Korea - Chun JCS
- 4 - US Tactics following Amistice - NSC 154
- 5 - US Objective w re Korea after Amistice - NSC 157
- 6 - Addnl UN Forces for Korea - NSC 147
- 7 - US Obj + Pol re Near East - NSC 155
- 8 - Security of Strat important Ind Opns
w re Countries
- 9 - NSC Status of Projects

CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE AGENCY
OFFICE OF CURRENT INTELLIGENCE
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COMMENT ON SITUATION IN CAMBODIA

Not used

A durable political settlement of the Cambodian dispute with France appears remote and an armed clash is possible at any time. While the Cambodian people apparently are calm, the king can count on overwhelming popular support for whatever course he takes. There is a bare possibility, however, that a precarious modus vivendi may be reached which would postpone a breakdown in relations.

During the last few days, the French have reinforced their garrison at Phnom Penh, the capital, with two battalions of North African troops, which have an unsavory reputation in Cambodia; 15 tanks, 10 armored cars and an amphibious unit have also moved into the capital and arms have reportedly been issued to French civilians. The Cambodian government