

*The President's Daily Brief*

*Sunday Aug 23, 1970*

~~C29 September 1970~~



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Cambodia :

The military situation is quiet. Communist troops have pulled back from the Prek Tameak area, and government forces are now sweeping the east bank of the Mekong. Apart from desultory shellings <sup>near</sup> ~~in the~~ Kompong Thom city, no enemy attacks have been reported in the countryside for the past 24 hours.

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 INFO AMEMBASSY BANGKOK  
 AMEMBASSY CANBERRA  
 AMEMBASSY DJAKARTA  
 AMCONSUL HONG KONG  
 AMEMBASSY KUALA LUMPUR  
 AMEMBASSY LONDON  
 AMEMBASSY LUSAKA  
 AMEMBASSY MANILA  
 AMEMBASSY MOSCOW  
 AMEMBASSY NEW DELHI  
 AMEMBASSY PARIS  
 AMEMBASSY RANGOON  
 AMEMBASSY SAIGON  
 AMEMBASSY SEOUL  
 AMEMBASSY SINGAPORE  
 AMEMBASSY TAIPEI  
 AMEMBASSY TOKYO  
 AMEMBASSY VIENTIANE  
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JOINT EMBASSY DAO MESSAGE

SUBJ: CAMBODIAN SIT REP - AUGUST 22

1. POLITICIZATION OF CAMBODIAN YOUTH.

AKP AUGUST 22 CARRIES SUMMARY OF WORKING SESSION OF EDUCATIONAL AND YOUTH OFFICIALS DISCUSSING NECESSITY OF REVAMPING EDUCATIONAL SYSTEM TO PREPARE YOUTH FOR THE ETERNAL CONFLICT OF POLITICAL AND ECONOMIC BLOCS. CONCLUSIONS OF THE MEETING WERE THAT CAMBODIA MUST FORGET ITS ISOLATION AND PREPARE FOR ENTRY INTO INTERNATIONAL SOCIETY OF NATIONS. MOREOVER, CAMBODIA MUST ADAPT ITSELF RAPIDLY TO THE REAL WORLD. "DELAY WOULD BE NOTHING LESS THAN AN ACT OF PURE SUICIDE". MEETING ALSO RECOMMENDED "PROGRESSIVE POLITICIZATION" OF CAMBODIAN YOUTH BY MODIFYING SCHOLASTIC COURSES WITH A VIEW TO DEVELOPING A NATIONAL CONSCIENCE AND SPIRIT. AIRGRAM TO DEPT FOLLOWS.

2. GRENADE INCIDENT IN PHNOM PENH.

EMBASSY INFORMED THAT AT APPROXIMATELY 9:15 P.M. IN PHNOM PENH'S DOWNTOWN "TENDERLOIN DISTRICT", SEVERAL KHMER KROM OR FANK SOLDIERS THREW A HAND GRENADE WOUNDING THREE PEOPLE. INCIDENT NOW UNDER INVESTIGATION BY POLICE WHO STATE SOLDIERS GOT INTO ARGUMENT OVER WOMEN AND IN NO WAY WAS TERRORIST ATTACK.

3. MISSING JOURNALISTS.

ON REPORT FROM PARIS THAT TWO FRENCH TELEVISION MEN CAPTURED IN SIEM REAP AREA ARE NOW DEAD, JOURNALISTS' COMMITTEE NOW PLANS MEETING ON AUGUST 25 TO DRAFT NEW APPEAL TO LUSAKA NONALIGNED CONFERENCE FOR NEWS OF MISSING COLLEAGUES.

4. NEW GOVERNOR FOR KOMPONG SPEU.

AKP FOR AUGUST 22 CARRIES NOTE CONCERNING TRANSFER OF FUNCTION OF GOVERNOR OF KOMPONG SPEU FROM BRIGADIER GENERAL SAR HOR TO UNG THAN. SAR HOR, NEWLY PROMOTED FROM COLONEL TO BRIGADIER, IS ALSO SECOND IN COMMAND TO GENERAL SOSTHENEZ FERNANDEZ, COMMANDER OF SECOND MILITARY REGION WHICH INCLUDES KOMPONG SPEU. MR. UNG THAN, ACCORDING TO EMBASSY'S RECORDS, WAS MOST RECENTLY GOVERNOR OF THE AUTONOMOUS URBAN AREA OF KIRIROM. (BIO DATA WILL BE FORWARDED WHEN AVAILABLE.) CEREMONIES HELD IN KOMPONG SPEU TOWN AND ATTENDED BY MINISTER OF INTERIOR AND DEPUTIES FROM REGION.

5. PRESS BRIEFING.

A. BRIEFER STATED THAT SITUATION COUNTRY WIDE WAS QUIET AND THAT ENEMY FORCES WHO ATTACKED PREK TAMERK HAVE NOW DISPERSED AND

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ARE BEING HARRIED BY FRIENDLY AIR AS THEY MAKE THEIR WAY THROUGH FLOODED COUNTRYSIDE. BRIEFER APOLOGIZED FOR NOT BEING ABLE TO TAKE JOURNALISTS ON TRIP TO PREK TAMERK AS PROMISED, BUT TRANSPORT WAS IN SHORT SUPPLY.

DAM BRIEFER SAID BATTALIONS WHO SUCCESSFULLY FOUGHT AT PREK TAMERK HAVE BEEN RELIEVED BY FRESH TROOPS AND COMMANDER OF 65TH BATTALION, THOUGH WOUNDED IN LEGS, WAS EAGER TO REJOIN THE FRAY.

C. ONLY OTHER ANNOUNCEMENT CONCERNED DAILY MORTAR HARASSMENT OF KOMPONG THOM.

D. COMMENT: ACTING BRITISH MILITARY ATTACHE TOLD EMBOFF AT BRIEFING THAT HE HAD VISITED 122 ARTILLERY UNIT ON PERIMETER OF PHNOM PENH THAT HAD SUPPORTED ACTION AT PREK TAMERK AND THAT HE, AS FORMER ARTILLERY OFFICER, WAS FAVORABLY IMPRESSED WITH: CONDITION OF MEN, GUNS, AMMUNITION; ADEQUACY OF PERIMETER DEFENSE BY INFANTRY UNIT AND PROFESSIONALISM, USE OF PLOTTING BOARDS, GUN CONTROL AND COMMUNICATIONS WITH GROUND FORWARD OBSERVER. END COMMENT.

6. MILITARY (FROM FANK J-2/J3).

DURING PAST 24 HOURS THERE WERE NO SIGNIFICANT ATTACKS ALTHOUGH HARASSING ACTIONS CONTINUE. FANK BEGAN A CLEARING OPERATION IN PREK TAMERK AREA.

A. ON THE MORNING OF AUGUST 22 FANK BEGAN SWEEP OPERATIONS TO COVER AREA ALONG EAST BANK OF MEKONG RIVER OPPOSITE PHNOM PENH AND NORTH TO THE PREK TAMERK AREA. AIR AND NAVY UNITS ARE SUPPORTING GROUND OPERATION. COMMENT: SOUTHERN LIMIT OF SWEEP IS AREA WHERE MORTAR ROUNDS LANDED TWO DAYS AGO WHICH LED TO PRESS STORIES UNDERLINING DISTANCE FROM CENTER OF PHNOM PENH. NONE OF PRESS REPORTS THAT EMBASSY HAS SEEN MENTION FACT THAT MEKONG RIVER IS APPROXIMATELY ONE MILE WIDE IMMEDIATELY IN FRONT OF CITY. END COMMENT.

B. ON AUGUST 19 ARMED VILLAGERS FOUGHT APPROXIMATELY 40 KHMER ROUGE IN VILLAGE 35 KILOMETERS WEST OF PHNOM PENH. THERE WERE NO VILLAGE CASUALTIES BUT THERE WERE SOME ENEMY WOUNDED.

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Uruguay: Foreign Minister Peirano, in an interview in a pro-governemnt newspaper, [Redacted]

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[Redacted]

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[Redacted] out spelled ~~out~~ his govern- ment's policy on the efforts of third parties to [Redacted]

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[Redacted]

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the secure the release of/kidnap victims. Emphasizing that the Uruguayan government will not"enter into deals with such low criminals," Dr. Peirano pointed out that Brazil [Redacted] might find a way to make a deal on its own behalf that would not require any action by the Uruguayan government.

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require [Redacted] This statement, considering its source, ssems to be almost an invitation to a foreign governemnt or even a private organization to attempt to ransom [Redacted]

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[Redacted] Gomide and Fly.

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[Redacted]

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[Large Redacted Area]

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**OBJ: OBJ POSITIONED ON TANGO CITY NEGOTIATIONS WITH KIDNAPPERS**

1. FOLLOWING IS INFORMAL TRANSLATION OF TEXT OF INTERVIEW WITH  
FOCHIN PEIRANO FACIO PUBLISHED TODAY (AUG. 21) IN PRO-GOVERN-  
MENT "EL DIA". EMPHATIC THIS SOURCE CONFIRMED WITH FOREIGN  
OFFICE THAT ARTICLE ACCURATELY REFLECTS HIS VIEWS ON THIRD PARTY  
NEGOTIATIONS TO EFFECT RELEASE OF REDMAP VICTIMS.

2. "EL DIA" PERIODIC LATELVAR PAPER HAS PUBLISHED AN  
INTERVIEW OF ONE OF ITS REPORTERS WITH THE DIRECTOR OF THE  
FOREIGN POLICY DIVISION OF THE MINISTRY, IN WHICH HE MAKES  
STATEMENTS WHICH REPRESENT AN OPPOSITE TO THE URGENT AND ATTITUDE.

"A. R. COSTANZO'S STATEMENTS HAVE BEEN MISINTERPRETED.

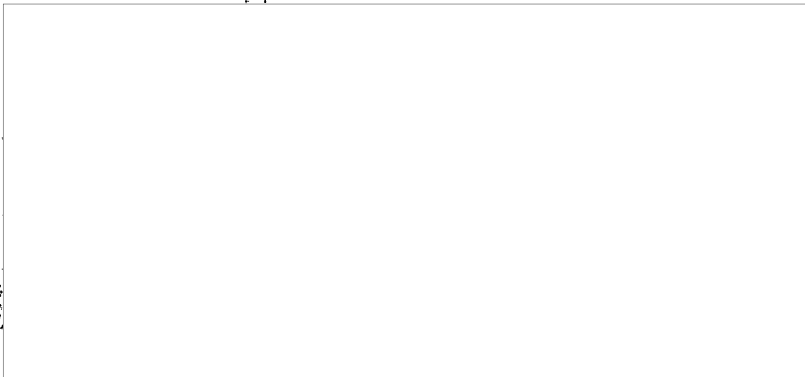
"B. IS IT TRUE THAT NEGOTIATIONS COULD BE STARTED WITH THE  
SEDITIONARY ELEMENTS OR EVERYTHING EXCEPT THE EXCHANGE OF  
PRISONERS?

"C. THAT IS NOT TRUE NOR WAS IT STATED IN THAT MANNER BY

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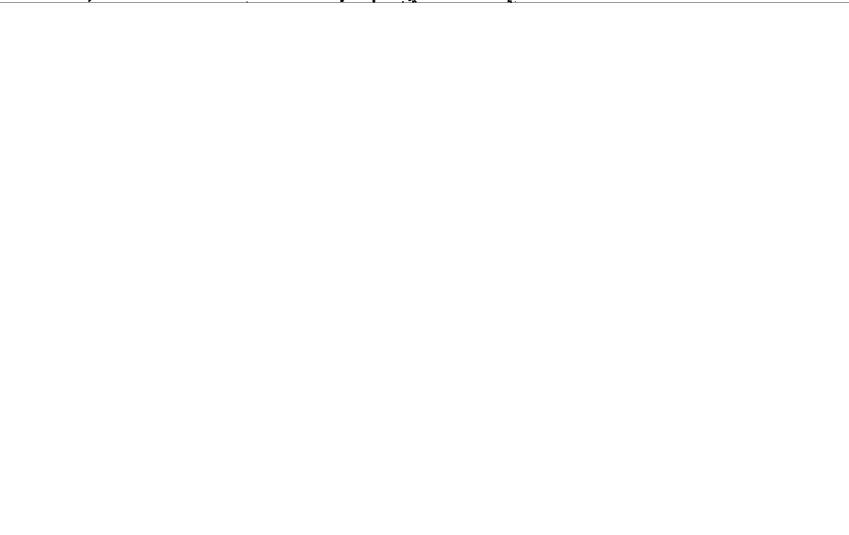
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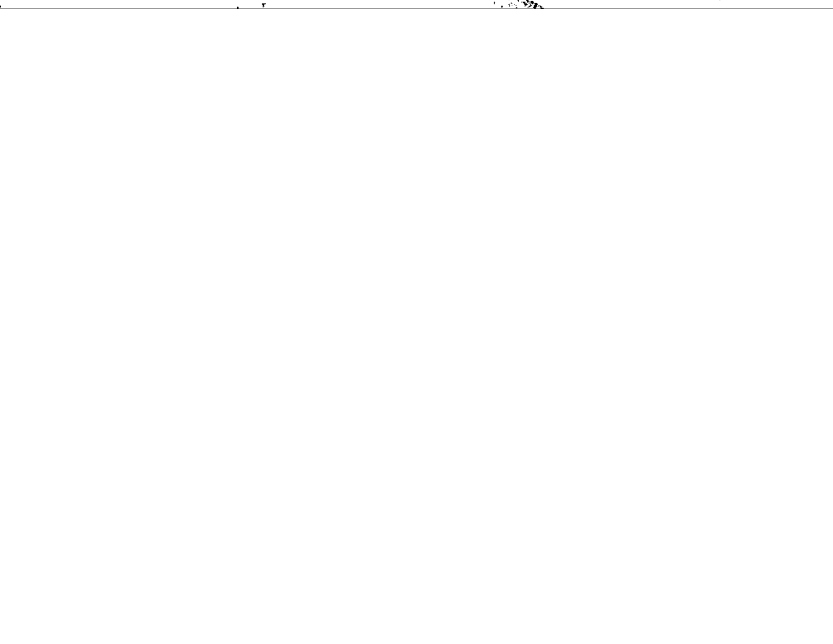
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