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TAGS: OVIP (KISSINGER, HENRY A.)  
SUBJECT: WALL STREET JOURNAL EDITORIAL, WEDNESDAY, MARCH 12  
FOR AMBASSADOR ANDERSON FROM S/PRS

WALL STREET JOURNAL, MARCH 12: SENATORIAL IMPERIALISM :

SO MIKE MANSFIELD AND HUGH SCOTT HAVE DECIDED THAT LON NOL IS NOT THE RIGHT MAN TO HEAD THE GOVERNMENT OF CAMBODIA, AND THAT THE STATE DEPARTMENT AND PRESUMABLY THE CIA SHOULD USE, IN THE REPUBLICAN LEADER'S WORDS, "AS MUCH PRESSURE AS NECESSARY" TO SECURE HIS REMOVAL. THESE DEMANDS THAT CAMBODIA CHANGE ITS GOVERNMENT ARE INTENDED, WE PRESUME, TO REQUITE THE SINS OF "AMERICAN IMPERIALISM."

NOW, ON A PERSONAL LEVEL, THE SE'ATORS' SUGGESTION MAKES A GOOD DEAL OF SENSE. LON NOL AND HIS ASSOCIATES WOULD BE WELL ADVISED TO RESIGN WHILE THERE AS STILL AIR SERVICE BETWEEN PHNOM PENH AND THE RIVIERA, LEAVING TO THE FACELESS INSURGENTS SUCH PROBLEMS AS FEEDING THE REFUGEES. YESTERDAY THERE WERE IN FACT REPORTS ON AN APPARENTLY INDIGENOUS SHAKE-UP IN THE CAMBODIAN GOVERNMENT, BUT EVEN IF LON NOL HIMSELF LEAVES, SO FAR IT SEEMS THAT THE GOVERNMENT WILL STILL PREFER TO HANG ON SO LONG AS IT SEES ANY

CHANCE OF AVOIDING A NORTH VIETNAMESE FUTURE OR ITS TINY COUNTRY. A FOOLISH COURSE, PERHAPS, BUT SCARCELY A DISHONORABLE ONE.

IN THESE UNHAPPY CIRCUMSTANCES, IT SEEMS TO US THE SENSIBLE COURSE FOR THE U.S. TO MAKE CLEAR IT WILL NOT FIGHT CAMBODIA'S BATTLE FOR IT, BUT TO SUPPLY IT WITH ENOUGH ARMS TO OFFSET THE EXTERNAL SUPPORT BEING GIVEN THE INSURGENTS. THE U.S. SHOULD BE PREPARED TO ACCEPT CAMBODIA'S FALL AS NOT CRUCIAL TO U.S. SECURITY, BUT IT IS NOT UP TO THE U.S. TO SECOND-GUESS CAMBODIA'S DECISION TO FIGHT ON RATHER THAN SURRENDER.