

MEMORANDUM

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NATIONAL SECURITY COUNCIL

~~SECRET/SENSITIVE~~

ACTION

June 8, 1973

No action required. MD

MEMORANDUM FOR:

MR. KISSINGER

FROM:

RICHARD T. KENNEDY
ALVIN P. ADAMS *RA*

SUBJECT:

Lon Nol Comments

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Attached at Tab I is a memorandum from you to the President briefly summarizing recent remarks made by Cambodian President Lon Nol 25X1

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[Redacted]

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In remarks intended for U. S. policy makers, Lon Nol also expressed a need for additional aircraft deliveries to compensate for the expected loss of direct U. S. air support. Additionally, Lon Nol suggested that we augment by 200 the current official U. S. presence in Cambodia to provide greater technical assistance. He further discussed a project to recruit 10,000 men (largely Khmer Krom in Vietnam) to expand his small pacification program.

Comment: We do not believe that Lon Nol's remarks require any specific action. None of his suggestions appear feasible at present. The Khmer air force has a shortage of pilots and mechanics which would cut against further aircraft deliveries. Congress has tied our personnel in Phnom Penh to a 200-man ceiling. Finally, the pacification program in Cambodia

NSS review completed.

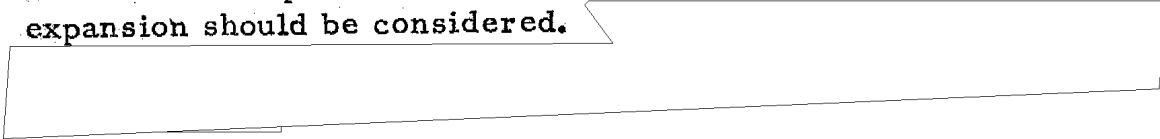
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is still in an experimental stage and needs further review before expansion should be considered.



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RECOMMENDATION:

That you forward the memo at Tab I.

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THE WHITE HOUSE
WASHINGTON

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June 2, 1973

Dear Mr. President:

Thank you for your kind letter of May 19 in which you again expressed your appreciation for American assistance and your interest in medical treatment at Dr. Cooper's clinic in New York City.

I very much understand your desire for a medical visit to the United States and accept your judgment that it is necessary. While the ultimate decision on this matter must rest with your physicians in New York, you can be sure that we will provide whatever assistance is necessary when your plans are completed. I suggest that you keep Ambassador Swank abreast of your plans so that we can take the necessary action here.

I have followed with great care developments in the Khmer Republic over the past months. I commend you on the wisdom of your decisions to broaden your government and to allow a group of able men to assist you in guiding the destiny of your people. In this, you have again displayed the selflessness and sense of duty which marks you as the Republic's foremost patriot. I am fully confident that the new foundation you have established will bring about further improvement in administrative and military performance. I also trust that in your absence, the members of the High Council will work together harmoniously for the benefit of all and will fully carry out reforms which will present you with a strengthened Republic upon your return.

I, of course, would look forward to a brief meeting with you following your plans for treatment in New York. I trust that my schedule -- while being very crowded this

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summer -- will allow a visit with you and suggest that further details be worked out after your arrival.

In closing, let me again express my respect for your leadership in the past, most difficult months and my deep hope that a lasting peace can soon be attained in your country.

With kind regards,

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script, appearing to read "Richard Nixon", written in dark ink.

His Excellency
Marshal of the Khmer Armies
Lon Nol
President of the Khmer Republic
Phnom Penh

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