

MAY 16

MEMORANDUM

THE WHITE HOUSE

WASHINGTON

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May 14, 1970

MEMORANDUM FOR THE PRESIDENT

FROM: Henry A. Kissinger *HK*

SUBJECT: Actions on Cambodia

The following is a report on actions taken or underway on Cambodia as of 6:00 p.m. last night.

Military Operations

- Operation Shoemaker. Attack on Base Area 352/353 in the Fishhook. Elements of the U.S. 1st Cavalry Division and 11th Armored Cavalry Regiment, and two Brigades of the ARVN Airborne Division are involved. 14 U.S. tactical air sorties were flown in support of the operation yesterday. A cache including 30 tons of rice was uncovered. The first U.S. units were withdrawn from Cambodia on 9 May. A total of 6,400 U.S. personnel are involved in Cambodia.
- ARVN Operation (Rock Crusher). Attack in the Parrot's Beak. Operations continue against assigned objectives with light resistance. 330 U.S. personnel are involved in Cambodia.
- Combined Operation (Binh Tay 1). Attack on Base Area 702. Units of the 4th U.S. Infantry Division and one ARVN Infantry Regiment are involved. The first U.S. units were withdrawn from Cambodia on 13 May. 2,661 U.S. personnel are involved in Cambodia.
- ARVN Operation (Hoc Ma). Two battalions of ARVN forces continue operations against Base Area 350. Eight U.S. tactical air sorties were flown in support.
- U.S. Operation (Giong To). Units of the 2nd Brigade, 1st U.S. Cavalry continue operations against Base Area 351. An enemy training center was attacked by U.S. gunships killing 65 enemy. U.S. personnel involved in Cambodia total 1900.

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- U.S. Operation (Toan Thang 44). Units of the U.S. 25th Infantry Division continued operations against Base Area 354. The first U.S. units were withdrawn from Cambodia on 8 May. U. S. personnel involved in Cambodia total 1,000.
- River Operation (Cuu Long 1). A combined US/ARVN operation on the Mekong River and against Base Areas 704 and 709. The ferry sight at the Highway 1 crossing of the Mekong is secured. 70 U.S. tactical air sorties were flown in support. The Vietnamese task force which proceeded to Phnom Penh on 11 May (no U. S. personnel accompanied) began the return trip to Vietnam yesterday with 9,000 refugees. 2,313 U. S. personnel are involved in Cambodia. The South Vietnamese reportedly will conduct additional evacuation operations for 32,000 refugees at Phnom Penh.
- Operation Binh Tay II. Attack into Base Area 701 was scheduled to begin at 2100 last night.
- Two ships and naval patrol aircraft continue surveillance operations off the Port of Kompong Som (Sihanoukville). A French cargo ship and Greek cargo ship were detected entering port; a Japanese cargo ship was reported leaving port for Manila.
- The Carrier Coral Sea is on station in the Gulf of Tonkin.

Military Assistance

- A total of 6,000 AK-47 rifles with 273,350 rounds of ammunition were shipped to Phnom Penh in initial phase of deliveries. Resupply of ammunition is taking place. Three million rounds are being procured for delivery beginning in August.
- A total of 15,025 carbines and 1,160,000 rounds of ammunition were shipped to Phnom Penh in initial phase of deliveries. Resupply of ammunition is planned every three days.

- 13,000 uniforms are available for shipment from Saigon to Phnom Penh.

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- A total of 1,787 ethnic Cambodian (Khmer Krom) troops with their equipment have been lifted in GVN aircraft to Phnom Penh. Five resupply flights have been completed, delivering a total of 63,600 pounds. Arrangements for payment of the Khmer in Cambodia have been completed.
- Survey of Cambodia's communications will be completed 19 May.
- Delivery of maps and air charts requested by Cambodia has been authorized.
- Action is being taken to expedite delivery of T-28 spare parts from suppliers in the U.S. Efforts being made to enlist Thai maintenance assistance.
- A Liaison Officer from MACV will visit Phnom Penh 18 May.

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Diplomatic Actions

- Cambodia is assisting in care and repatriation of Vietnamese refugees in Cambodia. Nearly 20,000 repatriates and refugees have entered Vietnam from Cambodia since 20 March. The Chief of South Vietnam's Permanent Mission arrived in Phnom Penh on 12 May.
- Japan, the Philippines, Australia, New Zealand, Thailand, South Korea, South Vietnam, Malaysia and Singapore have accepted Indonesia's invitation to an Asian Conference in Djakarta 16-17 May on Cambodia and Indo-China.
- Indonesia's Foreign Minister Malik wants a relatively bland balanced communique which will permit later diplomatic initiatives by the conference to set up machinery for follow-up actions. Japan will seek to have the conference work toward Cambodian neutrality in accordance with the 1954 Geneva Accords. We have advised our Embassies that we wish to avoid any implication that we are manipulating the conference and that we believe it would be useful if the conference were to send its own observer group to Cambodia.

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- Lon Nol has said that he would move his family out of Phnom Penh, allegedly because he fears assassination attempts against them. Lee Kuan Yew has informed us that Singapore has agreed to let them come there, but he does not know when they may arrive.
- Thailand and Cambodia formally reestablished relations yesterday. A Cambodian delegation is in Bangkok to work out arrangements for reopening rail and airline connections and reportedly also to establish military cooperation.
- Sihanouk has announced that his "government" is not a government in exile since three of his ministers are in Cambodia. Peking and North Korea have recognized the Sihanouk government in exile and broken with Cambodia. North Vietnam, Cuba, Yugoslavia, Romania, Iraq, Mauritania, Albania and Syria also have recognized Sihanouk. The Soviet position still is equivocal as the USSR seems to be trying to keep a foot in both camps in the face of Sihanouk's efforts to shame them into recognition.
- Peking and Hanoi have requested Cambodia to allow their Embassy personnel to leave. Cambodia probably will not permit their departure until return of Cambodian personnel from Peking and Hanoi is assured.
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- Republic of Korea will give medical supplies to Cambodia.
- Japan is sending medical supplies to Cambodia. Other humanitarian supplies such as food and clothing will follow. Japan also is considering economic aid.
- Thailand has agreed to provide aid to Cambodia in the form of food and to let trade contacts be carried on. Military aid may be considered in the future.
- The Manila press reports that the Philippines will not give military assistance to Cambodia and will wait until after the Djakarta conference to decide on non-military aid.

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- We have approved use of PL-480 food for emergency civic action needs in areas of allied military operations in Cambodia and through voluntary agencies for refugees in Cambodia.

Press Policy

- MACV, in response to a question on 12 May, announced the naval operation to interrupt NVA/VC shipping in Cambodian coastal waters.
- Two Senate Foreign Relations Committee Staff Members who spent a week in Phnom Penh are now in Saigon. They are pressing hard on the subject of the ownership of and transportation means used for the AK-47 rifles and carbines sent to Phnom Penh. They have recommended that the subject be pursued further in Washington.
- Press coverage of the Vietnamese naval relief operation to Phnom Penh emphasized the humanitarian aspect. Allegations that U.S. personnel accompanied were refuted.

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