

MEMORANDUM

THE WHITE HOUSE

WASHINGTON

SECRET/EXDIS

INFORMATION

April 16, 1970

MEMORANDUM FOR THE PRESIDENT

FROM: Henry A. Kissinger *HK*

SUBJECT: South Vietnamese Links with the New Government in Cambodia

The South Vietnamese Foreign Minister has informed us that he recently sent one of his assistants for a four-day visit to Phnom Penh. He also stated that the South Vietnamese Joint General Staff has sent a "messenger" of its own to Phnom Penh to talk about military matters.

Our Embassy in Saigon believes the GVN is now quietly pushing, or preparing to push, its contacts with Cambodia in the following four ways:

-- Upgrading the Vietnamese representation in Phnom Penh by increasing the Vietnamese staff which has been attached to the Japanese Embassy in Phnom Penh ever since the GVN and Cambodia broke relations.

-- Developing greater unofficial contacts with the Vietnamese community in Cambodia.

-- Using the Vietnamese permanent representative on the Mekong Committee, who is well-connected in Phnom Penh, to establish contact with the new Cambodian government.

-- Developing more contacts at the General Staff level.

One problem the GVN is going to face is the new Cambodian government's reported tendency to regard all Vietnamese as enemies. If the GVN does not protest Cambodian actions against the Vietnamese in Cambodia, it could forfeit its claim to represent the Vietnamese people. Moreover, it would enable the Communists to win the support of all Vietnamese living in Cambodia. On the other hand, the GVN does not want to jeopardize its relations with the new Cambodian government. We expect Saigon and Phnom Penh will attempt to settle this problem as soon as possible. 25X1

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ON-FILE NSC  
RELEASE  
INSTRUCTIONS  
APPLY TO  
PAGE 1 ONLY

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DOS, NSS reviews  
completed.

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ACTION

April 14, 1970

MEMORANDUM FOR DR. KISSINGER

FROM: John Holdridge

SUBJECT: South Vietnamese Links with the New  
Government in Cambodia

We have received further information on South Vietnamese efforts to strengthen its ties with the new Cambodian government.

RECOMMENDATION:

That you sign the memorandum for the President at Tab A.

Attachment

JHH:WRS:alh (4/14/70)

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