

D64264

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250/10/7/12

DEPARTMENT OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS

INWARD CABLEGRAM

MJW

I. 97465

FROM

DATED

15/11/68

1345 LT

AUSTRALIAN EMBASSY,
PHNOM PENH.

REC'D

15/11/68

1784 LT

1476 RESTRICTED IMMEDIATE

ADDRESSED WASHINGTON 656, REPEATED CANBERRA (INFO) 1476, SAIGON
732, BANGKOK 542.

L.C.U. DETAINEES.

FOLLOWING REMARKS MADE BY SIHANOUK AT SIHANOUKVILLE YESTERDAY
14 NOVEMBER WERE TAKEN DOWN BY LONDON '' TIMES '' CORRESPONDENT.

THEY WERE GIVEN US BY FIRST SECRETARY, BRITISH EMBASSY, WHO
WAS ALSO PRESENT AND CONFIRMS THEIR ACCURACY.

2. IN ANSWER TO A QUESTION BY FOISIE (LOS ANGELES TIMES) ON
RELEASE OF AMERICAN PRISONERS, SIHANOUK SAID (VERBATIM REPORT) -

'' I WANT A DIRECT MESSAGE FROM PRESIDENT JOHNSON TO SIHANOUK.
IF JOHNSON SAYS - '' PRINCE SIHANOUK, I PROMISE YOU THAT I WILL
DO MY BEST TO AVOID CLASHES ON THE FRONTIER, TO AVOID KILLINGS OF
YOUR CAMBODIANS, AND I WOULD LIKE TO OBTAIN FROM YOU THE LIBERATION
OF MY COMPATRIOTS, I SHALL ANSWER TO HIM - ALRIGHT. I WILL
ALLOW THEM TO GO. ALRIGHT.
BUT WITHOUT THAT NO. ''

SIHANOUK WENT ON TO SAY THAT DEAN RUSK SENDS MESSAGES VIA
AMBASSADOR DESCHAMPS AND THIS IS NOT ENOUGH.

THIS IS NOT THE RIGHT WAY OF DOING IT.

THE AMBASSADOR IS ONLY REPRESENTING AMERICAN INTERESTS.

THIS IS TRADITIONAL DIPLOMACY BUT I AM A HEAD OF STATE
AND IT MUST BE EQUAL SPEAKING TO EQUAL, AND IF HE DOES THIS I WILL
SEND THEM BACK.

3. SIHANOUK HAD BEEN SAYING JUST BEFORE FOISIE'S QUESTION THAT THE
AMERICANS TREATED HIM ONLY AS AN UNDER-SECRETARY OF STATE.

HE MENTIONED HIS OWN VISIT TO THE UNITED STATES IN THIS CONNEX-
ION.

/2.

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35

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4. WE UNDERSTAND SIHANOUK'S REMARKS WERE REPORTED LAST NIGHT BY
REUTERS, UPI AND " NEW YORK TIMES " CORRESPONDENTS.

A/MIN. AND DEPT.E.A.
MIN. AND DEPT. DEFENCE
D.C.O.
P.M.'S

15/11/68

A/SEC FAS(1) AS(JIC) INT SEA M@ FAS(2) PACAM AMSP
FAS(3) FAS(4) ICR PIO DL DDO
BANGKOK SAIGON WASHINGTON

RESTRICTED
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