



Department of State

TELEGRAM

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EXDIS

MILITARY COMMANDS HANDLE AS SPECAT EXCLUSIVE

THE FOLLOWING REPEATS AMEMBASSY SAIGON 14996 ACTION  
SECSTATE INFO CINCPAC MOSCOW PHNOM PENH VIENTIANE  
BANGKOK PARIS 03 DEC 74. QUOTE:

~~CONFIDENTIAL~~ SAIGON 14996

EXDIS (MILITARY ADDEES HANDLE AS SPECAT EXCLUSIVE)

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: MOPS, PFOR, VS, CB

SUBJECT: AMERICAN DEFECTOR IN CAMBODIA

REF : A) STATE 262242

B) PHNOM PENH 15590

1. WE APPRECIATE CLARIFICATION CONTAINED REF A. IMPORTANT  
HUMAN FACTORS IN THIS SITUATION, POINTED UP BY REF B, HAD IM-  
PELLED US TO SEEK THAT CLARIFICATION.

2. THE CHOICES INVOLVED IN ANY HUMANITARIAN QUESTION ARE ALMOST  
ALWAYS DIFFICULT, AND OFTEN CLOSE. THIS IS CERTAINLY TRUE IN THIS  
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CASE.

WE BELIEVE, HOWEVER, THAT REF B, ESPECIALLY PARAGRAPHS 5 AND 6, HAD INDICATED THE CORRECT CHOICE AND SET FORTH SOUND REASONS FOR IT. THERE ARE OTHERS INVOLVED HERE (WE HAVE RECENTLY SEEN REFERENCE IN SRF REPORTING [REDACTED] TO US POWS BEING HELD BY THE CAMBODIAN COMMUNISTS) WHOSE SITUATION MAY WELL BE MADE WORSE WERE THE APPROACH SUGGESTED IN STATE 254498 TO BE UNDERTAKEN.

25X1, E.O.13526

3. IT IS, OF COURSE, ENTIRELY FEASIBLE FOR US TO MAKE AN INQUIRY THROUGH THE FPJMT IN SAIGON. HOWEVER, THE COMMUNIST REACTION TO NUMEROUS INQUIRIES WE HAVE SUBMITTED THROUGH THE FPJMT IN AN EFFORT TO RESOLVE MIA CASES HAS BEEN COMPLETELY UNCOOPERATIVE AND NEGATIVE. MOREOVER, THE RELATIONSHIP BETWEEN THE NVA AND KC IN SOUTHERN CAMBODIA IS TENUOUS (OCCASIONALLY EVEN HOSTILE), AND NORTH VIETNAMESE INFLUENCE ON THE KC IS LIMITED. NEVERTHELESS, THESE CONSIDERATIONS DO NOT OF THEMSELVES MAKE AN INSURMOUNTABLE CASE AGAINST SUCH AN INQUIRY. OUR REAL CONCERN, LIKE THAT OF EMBASSY PHNOM PENH, IS THAT SETTING IN MOTION AN INQUIRY THROUGH THE FPJMT IS, IF ANYTHING, LIKELY TO RESULT IN ADDITIONAL RESTRAINTS ON NOLAN AND OTHERS WHO MAY STILL BE HELD IN CAMBODIA. WE THEREFORE SUPPORT THE CONCLUSION IN REF B. MARTIN UNQTE KISSINGER

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