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U.S. EXPRESSES "DEEP CONCERN" OVER CAMBODIAN PROBLEM (TEXT)

WASHINGTON -- THE STATE DEPARTMENT HAS RELEASED THE TEXT OF THE DECEMBER 4 U.S. NOTE TO CAMBODIA WHICH EXPRESSES DEEP CONCERN "OVER THE CRITICAL ISSUE OF VIET CONG-NORTH VIETNAMESE USE OF CAMBODIAN TERRITORY" IN THE VIETNAM WAR.

THE NOTE, RELEASED DECEMBER 27, RE-EMPHASIZED WASHINGTON'S "WILLINGNESS TO COOPERATE IN ANY REASONABLE METHOD OF CONTROLLING THIS PROBLEM" OF ENEMY REFUGE IN CAMBODIA.

DISCLOSURE OF THE U.S. APPROACH TO THE GOVERNMENT OF CAMBODIAN CHIEF OF STATE PRINCE NORODOM SIHANOUK WAS MADE TWO DAYS AGO BY STATE DEPARTMENT SPOKESMAN ROBERT J. MCCLOSEKY. HE ACTED AFTER BROADCASTS FROM PHNOM PENH, THE CAMBODIAN CAPITAL, REFERRED TO THE AMERICAN APPROACH.

UNTIL THE DECEMBER 24 BROADCASTS THE UNITED STATES HAD DECLINED DISCLOSURE OF THE NOTE IN HOPES THE PROBLEM POSED BY COMMUNIST FORCES OPERATING FROM CAMBODIA COULD BE SETTLED PEACEFULLY THROUGH QUIET DIPLOMACY.

THE U.S. NOTE SUGGESTED PRINCE SIHANOUK'S GOVERNMENT "MAY NOT BE AWARE OF THE EXTENT" OF VIET CONG AND NORTH VIETNAMESE ARMY USE OF CAMBODIAN TERRITORY.

ATTACHED TO THE AMERICAN NOTE WAS A SUMMARY OF EVIDENCE THAT COMMUNIST FORCES WERE OPERATING FROM CAMBODIA. THE STATE DEPARTMENT DID NOT RELEASE THIS DOCUMENTATION WHICH WAS BASED ON DOCUMENTS AND INTERROGATIONS.

AMERICAN REGRETS WERE EXPRESSED AT THE IMPAIRMENT OF WASHINGTON'S DIPLOMATIC RELATIONS WITH PHNOM PENH. RELATIONS WERE SEVERED IN MAY, 1965.

"A PARTICULARLY DISTRESSING PROBLEM DIVIDING THE UNITED STATES AND CAMBODIA ARISES OUT OF INCIDENTS IN THE CAMBODIA-SOUTH VIETNAM BORDER AREA," THE NOTE SAID. IT POINTED OUT U.S. FORCES HAVE "NO HOSTILE INTENTIONS TOWARD CAMBODIA OR CAMBODIAN TERRITORY" AND THAT THE "ROOT CAUSE OF INCIDENTS" AFFECTING CAMBODIA IS THE "VIET CONG AND NORTH VIETNAMESE PRESENCE IN THE FRONTIER REGION, AND THEIR USE OF CAMBODIAN TERRITORY" IN VIOLATION OF CAMBODIA'S NEUTRALITY.

THE NOTE RECALLED THAT PRINCE SIHANOUK IN DECEMBER, 1965, HAD SUGGESTED MORE EFFECTIVE ACTION BY THE INTERNATIONAL CONTROL COMMISSION (ICC).

THE UNITED STATES, THE NOTE STRESSED, HAD CONSISTENTLY SUPPORTED STRENGTHENING THE ICC TO MAKE IT MORE EFFECTIVE IN PROTECTING CAMBODIAN TERRITORIAL INTEGRITY AND NEUTRALITY. THE COMMISSION WAS SET UP BY THE 1954 GENEVA CONFERENCE ON INDOCHINA TO OBSERVE IMPLEMENTATION OF THE GENEVA ACCORDS WHICH ENDED THE INDOCHINA WAR.

THE U.S. NOTE SAID ALSO THAT WASHINGTON HAD SUPPORTED AN INTERNATIONAL CONFERENCE ON CAMBODIA AND HAD SUGGESTED IN THE PAST DIRECT, INFORMAL DISCUSSIONS WITH CAMBODIAN OFFICIALS AS A WAY OF SEEKING AN ALTERNATIVE REMEDY TO COMMUNIST USE OF CAMBODIAN TERRITORY.

FOLLOWING IS THE TEXT OF THE U.S. NOTE TO CAMBODIA:

(BEGIN TEXT)

THE UNITED STATES HAS THE HONOR TO REQUEST THE EMBASSY OF AUSTRALIA TO DELIVER THE FOLLOWING INFORMATION TO THE ROYAL CAMBODIAN GOVERNMENT.

THE UNITED STATES HAS REGRETTED THE IMPAIRMENT OF ITS RELATIONS WITH CAMBODIA. DESPITE DIFFERENCES, HOWEVER, THE UNITED STATES CONTINUES TO RESPECT THE NEUTRALITY, SOVEREIGNTY, INDEPENDENT AND TERRITORIAL INTEGRITY OF CAMBODIA.

A PARTICULARLY DISTRESSING PROBLEM DIVIDING THE UNITED STATES AND CAMBODIA ARISES OUT OF INCIDENTS IN THE CAMBODIA-SOUTH VIETNAM

BORDER AREA. THE UNITED STATES WISHES TO EMPHASIZE THAT AMERICAN FORCES OPERATING IN SOUTH VIETNAM ARE ENGAGED IN CONFLICT WITH VIET CONG-NORTH VIETNAMESE FORCES COMMITTING AGGRESSION AGAINST SOUTH VIETNAM. THE AMERICAN FORCES HAVE NO HOSTILE INTENTIONS TOWARD CAMBODIA OR CAMBODIAN TERRITORY. THE ROOT CAUSE OF INCIDENTS AFFECTING CAMBODIAN TERRITORY IS THE VIET CONG AND NORTH VIETNAMESE PRESENCE IN THE FRONTIER REGION, AND THEIR USE OF CAMBODIAN TERRITORY IN VIOLATION OF THE NEUTRALITY OF CAMBODIA.

THE UNITED STATES HAS OFFERED TO COOPERATE IN SEEKING A SOLUTION TO THIS PROBLEM. FOLLOWING THE SUGGESTION OF HIS ROYAL HIGHNESS PRINCE SIHANOUK FOR MORE EFFECTIVE ACTION BY THE INTERNATIONAL CONTROL COMMISSION, MADE MOST NOTABLY IN DECEMBER OF 1965, THE UNITED STATES HAS CONSISTENTLY SUPPORTED SUCH ACTION AND HAS INDICATED ITS WILLINGNESS TO CONSIDER SYMPATHETICALLY ANY REQUEST FOR SPECIFIC ASSISTANCE TO THIS END.

AT THE TIME, THE ROYAL CAMBODIAN GOVERNMENT SUGGESTED THAT THE INTERNATIONAL CONTROL COMMISSION MIGHT UNDERTAKE CONTINUING AN EFFECTIVE REVIEW OF ACTIVITIES IN THE PORT OF SIHANOUKVILLE, AND IT WAS FURTHER SUGGESTED THAT THE COMMISSION MIGHT BE EXPANDED SO THAT IT COULD MORE EFFECTIVELY MONITOR THE BORDER AREAS BETWEEN CAMBODIA AND SOUTH VIETNAM.

IN ADDITION, THE UNITED STATES HAS SUPPORTED AN INTERNATIONAL CONFERENCE ON CAMBODIA, AND IT HAS ALSO SUGGESTED DIRECT, INFORMAL TALKS WITH CAMBODIAN OFFICIALS IN ORDER TO SEEK AN ALTERNATIVE REMEDY.

THE UNITED STATES IS DEEPLY CONCERNED OVER THE CRITICAL ISSUE OF THE VIET CONG-NORTH VIETNAMESE USE OF CAMBODIAN TERRITORY, AND IT WISHES TO EMPHASIZE ONCE MORE ITS WILLINGNESS TO COOPERATE IN ANY REASONABLE METHOD OF CONTROLLING THIS PROBLEM. THE ROYAL CAMBODIAN GOVERNMENT MAY NOT BE AWARE OF THE EXTENT OF VIET CONG-NORTH VIETNAMESE USE OF ITS TERRITORY, AND THE UNITED STATES THEREFORE WISHES TO PROVIDE IT WITH THE ATTACHED SUMMARY OF SOME OF THE EVIDENCE AVAILABLE. THE DOCUMENTS AND INTERROGATIONS FROM WHICH THIS EVIDENCE HAS BEEN COMPILED ARE

FULLY AVAILABLE IF DESIRED. ADDITIONAL EVIDENCE RECEIVED IN MORE RECENT PERIODS IS BEING ASSESSED, AND MAY BE PRESENTED TO THE ROYAL CAMBODIAN GOVERNMENT AT A LATER TIME.

THE UNITED STATES BELIEVES THAT THE ROYAL CAMBODIAN GOVERNMENT WILL SHARE ITS CONCERN OVER VIET CONG-NORTH VIETNAMESE USE OF NEUTRAL CAMBODIA. IT IS IN THE SPIRIT OF ASSISTING THE ROYAL CAMBODIAN GOVERNMENT IN ITS EFFORTS TO PREVENT VIOLATIONS OF ITS NEUTRAL TERRITORY THAT THIS EVIDENCE IS BEING PRESENTED.

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