

054702 DEPARTMENT OF STATE

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Text of Message Conveyed to the Royal Cambodian  
Government by the Australian Embassy, Phnom Penh,  
on December 25, 1967

"The deep concern of the Government of the United States of America over Viet Cong and North Vietnamese use of Cambodia was conveyed by note to the Royal Cambodian Government on December 4, 1967. The United States Government is disappointed to note that the Royal Cambodian Government, in its reply, does not share this concern. Nonetheless, the problem remains grave and the Government of the United States of America remains anxious to assist in its amelioration. Accordingly, it wishes to put forward the following proposal:

"The United States Government is prepared to offer material assistance to the International Control Commission (ICC) so as to provide the means of more effectively monitoring violations of Cambodian neutrality. The United States Government's intention is to enable the ICC to have a greater mobility and the consequent capability of conducting independent and random surveillance activities which would render significant assistance to the Royal Cambodian Government's attempts to maintain its neutrality. The United States Government believes this offer is responsive to the suggestion made at a press conference on November 26 by the Cambodian Chief of State, His Royal Highness, Prince Norodom Sihanouk.

"The delivery of the material assistance would be made to the ICC under arrangements on which the Royal Cambodian Government would be consulted. The kind of assistance to be provided is a matter to be arranged. Our thinking is to make available for an agreed period two helicopters with which at least French, Canadian or Indian crews are familiar. Also, the United States Government would cover the costs of the maintenance and operation of these two helicopters. Delivery would be made at Sihanoukville or any other point in Cambodia."