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COUNTRY CAMBODIA

VIETNAM

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EVAL 23 APRIL 1965

1. CAMBODIAN INTEREST IN GENEVA TYPE CONFERENCE ONLY IF LIMITED TO DISCUSSION OF CAMBODIAN PROBLEMS
2. REJECTION OF GOVERNMENT OF VIETNAM PROPOSAL FOR BILATERAL BORDER TALKS

PLACE & DATE ACQ.

SOURCE AND APPRAISAL

REF

FIELD REPORT NO.

1. THE CAMBODIAN GOVERNMENT (RKG) WILL PROBABLY TELL BRITISH ENVOY PATRICK GORDON WALKER, WHO IS EXPECTED IN PHNOM PENH ON 25 APRIL, THAT IT FAVORS A GENEVA-TYPE CONFERENCE ON CAMBODIA ONLY IF IT IS LIMITED TO DISCUSSION OF CAMBODIAN PROBLEMS. PRINCE SIHANOUK'S PERSONAL ADVISER SON SANN AND FOREIGN MINISTER KOUN WICK WERE SCHEDULED TO WORK OUT THE CAMBODIAN POSITION TOGETHER ON 24 APRIL. **FIELD COMMENT:** IN THIS CONNECTION, THE SOURCE SAID THAT DURING THE PAST 10 DAYS THE RKG FOREIGN MINISTRY HAD BEEN REVIEWING DOSSIERS ON BORDER ISSUES LIKELY TO COME UP AT SUCH A CONFERENCE, BUT INVITED ATTENTION TO A

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SPEECH BY PRINCE SIHANOUK ON 23 APRIL IN WHICH HE SAID, ACCORDING TO THE 24 APRIL ISSUE OF LA DEPECHE DU CAMBODGE THAT "IT IS CATEGORICALLY THAT WE REFUSE A CONFERENCE ON CAMBODIA WHICH WOULD BE ONLY A PRETEXT FOR CONVERSATIONS ON SOUTH VIETNAM" AND THAT "OUR REFUSAL OF A CONFERENCE ON OUR COUNTRY WITH AN OVERLAPPING INTO THE VIETNAM AFFAIR IS EVEN MORE JUSTIFIED SINCE CHOU EN LAI AND PHAM VAN DONG CLEARLY ASSURED ME AT DJAKARTA THAT THEIR COUNTRIES WOULD AGREE TO RETURN TO GENEVA ONLY TO EXAMINE AND SETTLE THE CASE OF CAMBODIA EXCLUSIVELY. CONCERNING SOUTH VIETNAM, THEY WILL REFUSE ANY DISCUSSION, EVEN THE LEAST CONVERSATION, WITH THE IMPERIALISTS."

2. THE RKG CAN BE EXPECTED TO REJECT THE PROPOSAL OF THE GOVERNMENT OF VIETNAM (GVN) FOR BILATERAL TALKS ON BORDER PROBLEMS. THIS REJECTION IS NOT FAVORED BY RKG FOREIGN MINISTER KOUN WICK OR BY THE FOREIGN OFFICE IN GENERAL, BUT PRINCE SIHANOUK IS EXPECTED TO DECIDE ON THIS REJECTION BECAUSE HE DOES NOT WISH TO DEAL WITH THE GVN, A GOVERNMENT HE FEELS WILL BE SOON REPLACED BY ONE FORMED BY THE NATIONAL FRONT FOR THE LIBERATION OF SOUTH VIETNAM.

3. SOME CONCERNED FOREIGN OFFICIALS, HOWEVER, FAVOR SUCH TALKS. THEY FEEL CONFIDENT FROM THEIR STUDIES OF FRENCH RECORDS BEARING ON BORDER QUESTIONS THAT THEY CAN COME OUT OF ANY BILATERAL NEGOTIATIONS WITH THE GVN WITH CAMBODIA'S INTERESTS WELL PRESERVED. MORE FUNDAMENTALLY, THEY FEEL THAT CONDUCTING SUCH BILATERAL TALKS WITH THE GVN WOULD BE GOOD DIPLOMACY. THEY HAVE A FAVORABLE

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IMPRESSION OF GVN PRIME MINISTER PHAN HUY QUAT. THESE RKG DIPLOMATS RESENT THE METHOD AND CONTENT OF SIHANOUK'S PERSONAL DIPLOMACY, AND NOT ONLY IN THIS CASE. THEY ARE ALSO CONCERNED WITH THE EFFECT OF SIHANOUK'S ATTITUDE AND CONDUCT TOWARD THE UNITED STATES WHICH THEY FEAR HAS MADE VERY DIFFICULT ANY POSSIBLE RAPPROCHEMENT WITH THE UNITED STATES.

4. FIELD DISSEM: STATE ARMY CINCPAC PACFLT PACAF ARPAC.

END OF MESSAGE

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