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## Message Text

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ACTION EA-14

INFO OCT-01 EUR-25 NEA-10 ISO-00 CIAE-00 PM-07 H-03 INR-10

L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-07 PA-04 RSC-01 PRS-01 SP-03 SS-20

DPW-01 IO-14 AID-20 DRC-01 OMB-01 /146 W

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P R 091135Z APR 74

FM AMEMBASSY PHNOM PENH

TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 5699

INFO AMEMBASSY BANGKOK

AMEMBASSY CANBERRA

AMEMBASSY COPENHAGEN

AMEMBASSY JAKARTA

AMCONSUL HONG KONG

AMEMBASSY KUALA LUMPUR

AMEMBASSY LONDON

AMEMBASSY MANILA

AMEMBASSY MOSCOW

AMEMBASSY NEW DELHI

AMEMBASSY PARIS

USLO PEKING

AMEMBASSY RANGOON

AMEMBASSY SAIGON

AMEMBASSY SEOUL

AMEMBASSY SINGAPORE

USIA WASHDC

AMEMBASSY TOKYO

AMCONSUL UDORN

AMEMBASSY VIENTIANE

AMEMBASSY WELLINGTON

USMISSION USUN

AMCONSUL CAN THO

AMCONSUL BIEN HOA

AMEMBASSY TAIPEI

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CGUSARSUPTHAI  
CNO  
COMNAVINTCOM  
COMSEVENTHFLT  
COMUSMACTHAI  
7/13 AF  
7TH PSYOPS  
COMUSSAG  
III MAF  
CINCPACAF

C O N F I D E N T I A L SECTION 1 OF 3 PHNOM PENH 5144

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PINT, PINS, PFOR, MOPS, CB, ECON

SUBJ: KHMER REPORT - APRIL 9, 1974

GENERAL

1. THE ENEMY STEPPED UP ITS ATTACKS AGAINST THE COASTAL CITY OF KAMPOT THIS WEEK, BUT FANK REINFORCEMENTS AND THE EFFECTIVE USE OF AIR ASSETS APPEARED TO BE CONTAINING THE ENEMY DRIVE AS THE REPORTING PERIOD ENDED. ENEMY ACTIVITIES ALSO INCREASED IN THE PHNOM PENH AREA, FORCING THE GKR TO ABANDON EFFORTS TO RETAKE THE HISTORICAL CENTER OF OUDONG. DEVELOPMENTS ON THE POLITICAL SCENE WERE ENCOURAGING AS THE TRANSITION FROM THE HIGH POLITICAL COUNCIL TO THE EXECUTIVE COUNCIL PROCEEDED SMOOTHLY AND WITHOUT CABINET DROP-OUTS AND A NATIONAL CONGRESS OF TEACHERS SHIED AWAY FROM FURTHER STRIKES. PRICES, HOWEVER, SPURTED UPWARD IN ADVANCE OF NEW YEAR CELEBRATIONS AND CONTINUATION OF THIS TREND WOULD SPELL FUTURE POLITICAL TROUBLE. THE GRUNK/FUNK SPOTLIGHT REMAINED ON KHIEU SAMPHAN AS HE JOURNEYED TO PYONGYANG FOR THE SAME LAVISH ROUND OF WELCOME BANQUETS AND RALLIES HE RECEIVED IN HANOI AND PEKING.

POLITICAL (INTERNAL)

2. THE TRANSITION FROM THE HIGH POLITICAL COUNCIL TO THE EXECUTIVE COUNCIL PROCEEDED SMOOTHLY. THE THREE CHENG  
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HENG-AFFILIATED MINISTERS WHO RESIGNED AT THE DISSOLUTION OF THE HIGH POLITICAL COUNCIL BOWED TO LON NOL'S REQUEST TO STAY ON. ON APRIL 3 PARLIAMENT VOTED TO EXPRESS ITS "GREAT SATISFACTION" WITH THE DISSOLUTION OF THE HIGH POLITICAL COUNCIL AND AT THE SAME TIME DEMANDED THAT ALL STATE INSTITUTIONS STRICTLY ADHERE TO THE CONSTITUTION.

3. IN A ONE-DAY NATIONAL CONGRESS APRIL 5, TEACHERS

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DECIDED TO REMAIN IN THEIR CLASSROOMS FOR THE REMAINDER OF THE SCHOOL YEAR BUT TO REDUCE THE NUMBER OF HOURS IN THE BASIC WORK WEEK. TEACHERS' CONSENSUS WAS THAT THEIR STRIKE HAD CAUSED RESENTMENT AND WAS NOT EFFECTIVE, A POINT WHICH EVEN RADICALS STRESSED. COMMENT: THE GKR MUST NOW FIND WAYS TO PAY MORE OVERTIME OR ACCEPT SHORTER SCHOOL HOURS BUT A HEAD-ON CONFRONTATION WITH TEACHERS HAS BEEN AVERTED. WE EXPECT RADICALS TO REGROUP WHILE SEARCHING FOR NEW TACTICS AND ANTICIPATE THAT THE GOVERNMENT WILL HEAR FROM THEM AGAIN.

4. CONTINUING A SLOWLY INCREASING PRO-GOVERNMENT ACTIVISM FROM THE SANGHA, THE SUPREME PATRIARCH OF THE LARGEST BUDDHIST SECT (MOHANIKAY) BROADCAST AN OPEN LETTER TO LEADERS OF THE KHMER ROUGE AND KHMER RUMDOS APPEALING FOR PEACE AND RECONCILIATION. HIS EMINENCE TOOK THE KC TO TASK FOR THE DESTRUCTION OF OUDONG WITH ITS MANY PAGODAS AND CULTURAL TREASURES AND POINTED OUT THAT THEY ARE SERVING NORTH VIETNAMESE GENOCIDAL, EXPANSIONIST GOALS BY CONTINUING TO KILL INNOCENT FELLOW COUNTRYMEN. HE APPEALED TO THE KC TO SHOW COMPASSION BY ALLOWING VILLAGERS TO RETURN TO THEIR NATIVE LAND, AND MONKS AND LAYMENT TO RETURN TO OUDONG. HE URGED THE KHMER ROUGE AND KHMER RUMDOH LEADERSHIP TO DRIVE THE VC/NVA FROM CAMBODIA AND RETURN TO THE NATIONAL COMMUNITY TO HELP BUILD A PEACEFUL AND PROSPEROUS REPUBLIC.

POLITICAL (EXTERNAL)

5. AMBASSADOR DEAN PRESENTED HIS CREDENTIALS ON APRIL 3.

6. AT THE ECAFE CONFERENCE IN COLOMBO, THE CREDENTIALS COMMITTEE NOTED THE RESERVATIONS OF THE PRC AND MONGOLIA CONCERNING THE GKR, GVN AND ROKG, BUT CONCLUDED THAT "ALL CONFIDENTIAL

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CREDENTIALS ARE IN ORDER".

7. GKR FOREIGN MINISTER KEUKY LIM RETURNED TO PHNOM PENH APRIL 3 FROM HIS TWO WEEK TRIP TO LAOS AND THE ASEAN COUNTRIES (SEE PREVIOUS KHMER REPORTS). THE FOREIGN MINISTER TOLD THE PRESS ON SEVERAL OCCASIONS THAT WITH THE END OF THE DRY SEASON THE POSSIBILITIES FOR GKR-KC NEGOTIATIONS WILL BE SOMEWHAT IMPROVED. LIM'S TRIP WENT SMOOTHLY, ALTHOUGH A FEW OFFICIALS OF THE COUNTRIES HE VISITED HAVE COMMENTED UNFAVORABLY ON HIS INEXPERIENCE, AND APPARENT YOUTH.

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ACTION EA-14

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L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-07 PA-04 RSC-01 PRS-01 SP-03 SS-20

DPW-01 IO-14 AID-20 DRC-01 OMB-01 /146 W

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P R 091135Z APR 74

FM AMEMBASSY PHNOM PENH

TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 5700

INFO AMEMBASSY BANGKOK

AMEMBASSY CANBERRA

AMEMBASSY COPENHAGEN

AMEMBASSY JAKARTA

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 COMUSSAG  
 III MAF  
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8. THE MINISTRY OF FOREIGN AFFAIRS ANNOUNCED RECENTLY THAT THE GKR "REAFFIRMS ITS SOVEREIGNTY OVER ITS CONTINENTAL SHELF" AND WARNED OIL COMPANIES AGAINST TAKING ACTION ON THIS PORTION OF THE SHELF WITHOUT PRIOR GKR AUTHORIZATION.

GRUNK/FUNK

9. THE GRUNK/FUNK "DELEGATION FROM THE INTERIOR" HEADED BY KHIEU SAMPHAN WAS GIVEN TOP DRAWER TREATMENT BY THE CHINESE DURING ITS APRIL 1-5 VISIT TO PEKING (SEE LAST WEEK'S KHMER REPORT). THE DELEGATION WAS TREATED TO A MASS RALLY AND MEETINGS WITH MAO (SIHANOUK WAS PRESENT) AND CHOU-EN-LAI (SIHANOUK WAS EXCLUDED). FOR HIS PART, KHIEU SAMPHAN PRAISED THE PRC IN GLOWING TERMS, CALLING IT "OUR MOST RELIABLE AND SOLID REAR AREA." THROUGHOUT THE VISIT, SIHANOUK WAS TREATED SOMEWHAT CAVALIERLY, LENDING WEIGHT TO SPECULATION THAT HE HAS SLIPPED IN THE EYES OF THE CHINESE. THE PRINCE DID GIVE A RECEPTION APRIL 3 FOR THE DELEGATION AT WHICH HE AIRD AGAIN HIS THEME THAT GRUNK "WILL NEVER AGREE TO NEGOTIATE, MUCH LESS RECONCILE", WITH THE LON NOL GOVERNMENT. (INTERESTINGLY, KHIEU SAMPHAN HAS NOT TAKEN UP THIS THEME THUS FAR ON THE TRIP, DEMANDING INSTEAD THAT THE U.S. WITHDRAW FROM CAMBODIA SO THAT THE KHMER CAN SETTLE THEIR OWN PROBLEMS.)

10. UPON THE COMPLETION OF THE PRC VISIT, THE DELEGATION LEFT FOR PYONGYANG ON APRIL 5 WHERE IT ALSO GOT A WARM, HIGH CONFIDENTIAL

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LEVEL RECEPTION AND WAS PROMISED "MIGHT AND MAIN" SUPPORT BY THE NORTH KOREANS. THE GROUP RETURNED TO PEKING APRIL 8. THERE IS AS YET NO CONFIRMATION OF REPORTS THAT KHIEU SAMPHAN AND ENTOURAGE WILL EXTEND THEIR TRIP TO OTHER CAPITALS (PARIS AND MOSCOW HAVE BEEN MENTIONED).

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11. THE OTHER SIDE'S INTERNAL PROPAGANDA WAS PREDICTABLY GLEEFUL ABOUT THE HANOI-PEKING VISITS, SAYING THAT GRUNK/FUNK "IS FLYING HIGH OVER THE INTERNATIONAL SCENE" AND CLAIMING GREAT SUCCESSES FOR THE DELEGATION. THE RADIO CONTINUED ALSO TO FOCUS ON OUDONG, CLAIMING THAT DEVELOPMENTS THERE SHOW THAT THE "KHMERIZATION" OF THE WAR BY THE U.S. HAS COLLAPSED AND ALLEGING THAT THE EMBASSY "WAS FURIOUS AT THE CLIQUE OF RUNNING DOGS" FOR FAILING TO RECAPTURE THE CITY. THE RADIO ALSO ALLEGED THAT 80,000 PERSONS CAME TO THE "LIBERATED ZONE" FROM OUDONG AND ELSEWHERE BETWEEN MARCH 14-18.

12. ANOTHER FUNK BROADCAST (ECHOED BY MOSCOW AND PEKING RADIOS) JEERED AT THE DISSOLUTION OF THE HIGH POLITICAL COUNCIL AND ALLEGED IN THIS REGARD THAT AMBASSADOR DEAN, "A CHIEFTAIN OF THE CIA ARRIVED RECENTLY IN CAMBODIA MERELY TO ATTEND THE FUNERALS OF HIS LACKEYS...". IN OTHER THEMES, THE RADIO RAILED AGAINST A "FAKE RADIO STATION RUN BY THE CIA", SAID THAT FUNK, WILL SOON BORADCAST THE "FIRST LIST OF U.S. IMPERIALIST MILITARY ADVISORS" AND ATTACKED AS FRAUDULENT THE RECENT RALLYING TO THE GKR OF LARGE GROUPS OF KHMER RUMODOH.

13. GRUNK AND THE ORGANIZING COMMITTEE OF THE ASIAN TABLE TENNIS CHAMPIONSHIPS IN TOKYO WERE UNABLE TO SETTLE THEIR DIFFERENCES (SEE LAST WEEK'S KHMER REPORT), AND THE GRUNK PADDLERS DID NOT PARTICIPATE.

14. SIHANOUK SENT WARM MESSAGES DURING THE WEEK TO THE USSR'S PODGORNYY AND TO PRC LEADERS, THANING THEM FOR THEIR CONGRATULATORY MESSAGES ON THE OCCASION OF THE MARCH 23 ANNIVERSARY OF FUNK AND THE CPNLAF.

15. GRUNK/FUNK HAS DESIGNATED SIEN AN, ITS AMBASSADOR TO THE DRV/PRG, TO TAKE ON THE ADDITIONAL TASK OF REPRESENTATIVE "EXTRAORDINARY AND PLENIPOTENTIARY" TO THE LPF  
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CENTRAL COMMITTEE (SEE MARCH 26 KHMER REPORT).

16. ANOTHER DEFECTOR TO GRUNK/FUNK HAS SURFACED IN FRANCE, PEN POUM, DESCRIBED AS A FORMER NATIONAL ASSEMBLY DEPUTY, IS THE SEVENTH "PROMINENT" KHMER REPORTED BY THE GRUNK/FUNK PROPAGANDA MEDIA TO HAVE RALLIED IN EUROPE TO THEIR CAUSE.

ECONOMIC

17. RETAIL PRICES IN PHNOM PENH MARKETS CONTINUE TO CLIMB RAPIDLY FOR CERTAIN COMMODITIES, ALTHOUGH THERE ARE ALSO MODEST DECLINES FOR OTHERS. DURING THE WEEK ENDING APRIL 8, RICE PRICES ROSE BY 23 0/0 FOR TOP QUALITY, LOCAL RICE. SIG-

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NIFICANT INCREASES WEE ALSO REGISTERED FOR OCEAN FISH (30 0/0), DUCK (10 0/0), CHICKEN (6 0/0), GREEN BANANAS (10 0/0), PUMPKIN (14 0/0), AND COTTON AND CHARCOAL (6 0/0). HOWEVER, DURING THE SAME WEEK, PRICES WERE DOWN SLIGHTLY FOR FRESH WATER FISH. LOCAL POTATOES, CUCUMBERS, MANIOC, AND LOCAL CARROTS. IT IS EXPECTED THAT PRICES WILL CONTINUE TO RISE SIGNIFICANTLY FOR A NUMBER OF COMMODITIES PRIOR TO THE APRIL 13-15 KHMER NEW YEAR CELEBRATION.

18. THE BLACK MARKET EXCAHNGE RATE ROSE BY 25 0/0 DURING THE PAST WEEK AND NOW STANDS AT 790 RIELS PER DOLLAR. (OFFICIAL RATE IS 377 RIELS TO ONE DOLLAR).

19. ON APRIL 8 THE AMBASSADOR SIGNED AN AGREEMENT WITH THE GKR PROVIDING AN ADDITIONAL \$19.6 MILLION FOR THE COMMODITY IMPORT PROGRAM, BRINGING THE TOTAL FOR FY 74 TO \$71.6 MILLION. AT THE SAME TIME THE 9TH AMENDMENT TO THE JULY 25, 1973 PL 480 AGREEMENT WAS SIGNED, PROVIDING \$100 THOUSAND FOR THE IMPORTATION OF 700 TONS OF VEGETABLE OIL.

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ACTION EA-14

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DPW-01 IO-14 AID-20 DRC-01 OMB-01 /146 W

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P R 091135Z APR 74  
FM AMEMBASSY PHNOM PENH  
TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 5701  
INFO AMEMBASSY BANGKOK  
AMEMBASSY CANBERRA  
AMEMBASSY COPENHAGEN  
AMEMBASSY JAKARTA  
AMCONSUL HONG KONG  
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AMEMBASSY PARIS  
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 AMEMBASSY SEOUL  
 AMEMBASSY SINGAPORE  
 USIA WASHDC  
 AMEMBASSY TOKYO  
 AMCONSUL UDORN  
 AMEMBASSY VIENTIANE  
 AMEMBASSY WELLINGTON  
 USMISSION USUN  
 AMCONSUL CAN THO  
 AMCONSUL BIEN HOA  
 AMEMBASSY TAIPEI  
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 CINCUSARPAC  
 DIA WASHDC  
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CGFMFPAC  
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 7TH PSYOPS  
 COMUSSAG  
 III MAF  
 CINCPACAF

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20. RICE STOCKS IN PHNOM PENH ON APRIL 7 WERE 37,136 METRIC TONS, A 57-DAY SUPPLY AT THE OFFICIAL DISTRIBUTION RATE OF 650 MT PER DAY. AVERAGE DAILY DISTRIBUTION FOR THE PERIOD WAS 713.4 MT. THIS INCREASE OVER THE 607 MT AVERAGE FOR THE PRECEDING WEEK IS PROBABLY AT LEAST PARTLY DUE TO THE FACT THAT THE KHMER ARE BUYING HEAVILY IN PREPARATION FOR THE NEW YEAR CELEBRATIONS. DURING THE REPORTING PERIOD, ONE MEKONG CONVOY ARRIVED, ON APRIL 3, CARRYING 4,304 MT OF RICE.

21. ON APRIL 6 BIDS WERE RECEIVED BY TELA KHMER FROM SHELL, CALTEX AND SUMMIT FOR DELIVERY OF PETROLEUM FUELS TO THE KHMER REPUBLIC FOR THE PERIOD JUNE 1, 1974 TO MAY 31, 1975. THE QUANTITIES OFFERED ARE ADEQUATE TO SUPPLY ALL FORE-

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SEEABLE BASIC REQUIREMENTS DURING THE NEXT YEAR.

MILITARY

22. AT KAMPOT FANK SUFFERED SERIES OF REVERSALS AS THE KC FORCED TERRITORIAL FORCES ON THE WEST BACK TO WITHIN 1 1/2 KM OF THE CITY, PRESSURED NAVAL INFANTRY FORCES INTO COLLAPSE ALONG THE RIVER CORRIDOR TO THE GULF OF SIAM, DESTROYED OR DAMAGED 6 OF 14 105MM HOWITZERS WITH WELL-PLACED ROUADS INTO FRIENDLY AMMUNITION, AND SANK A SMALL NAVAL CRAFT. DESPITE INITIAL ENEMY SUCCESSES, INTENSE AIR AND FRIENDLY ARTILLERY SUPPORT COMBINED WITH

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SEVERAL SHARP ENGAGEMENTS BY FANK'S 20 TH AND 12 TH BRIGADES, TOOK THEIR TOLL OF TIRING ENEMY FORCES. AT WEEK'S END ABOUT 500 RE-INFORCEMENTS FROM THE CAPABLE AND UBIQUITIOUS 28 TH BRIGADE LANDED ON THE ISLAND SOUTH OF THE CITY AND MADE IT INTO KAMPOT BY FOOT. THE GOAL-LINE STAND COUPLED WITH THE ARRIVAL OF REINFORCEMENTS BOLSTERED MORALE AMONG THE 4,500 DEFENDING TROOPS. A SUSTAINED MAJOR EFFORT WILL BE REQUIRED TO HOLD KAMPOT. BUT PROSPECTS FOR SUCCSSS ARE SOMEWHAT BETTER THAN THEY WERE A FEW DAYS AGO.

23. ACTION AROUND PHNOM PENH INCREASED THIS WEEK. ENEMY FORCES OPENED A NEW FRONT NORTH OF PHNOM PENH ATTACKING 5TH BRIGADE AND 7TH DIVISION POSITIONS. GROUND ATTACKS CONTINUED ON THE MEKONG'S EAST BANK. ALONG THE BASSAC 7 TO 10 KM SOUTH OF THE CAPITAL SEVERAL FRIENDLY POSITIONS WITHDREW WITH HEAVY LOSSES.

24. THE KC KEPT UP PRESSURE IN THE OUDONG/LOVEK AREA NORTH OF PHNOM PENH. FANK SUSPTENDED THE OPERATION TO RETAKE OUDONG AND IS NOW PLANNING TO EXTRACT THE 80TH BRIGADE FROM ITS BEACHHEAD TO AUGMENT RESERVES IN PHNOM PENH.

25. ROUTES 4 AND 5 REMAIN CLOSED. ON THE OTHER HAND, NOT A SHOT WAS FIRED AT THE MEKONG CONVOY TO PHNOM PENH FROM SOUTH VIET NAM ON APRIL 3, NOT AT THE RETURN CONVOY TWO DAYS LATER.  
DEAN

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**To:** STATE  
**Type:** TE  
**Markings:** Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 30 JUN 2005

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