P.L. APIAS
CAMBODIA

TELEGRAM

Foreign Service of the United States of America

OUTGOING ~~XXXXXXXXXX~~ Amembassy PHNOM PENH

UNCLASSIFIED

Charge: Classification Control: 10/332

Date: 10/18/60

SENT TO: SECSTATE WASHINGTON 434

RPTD INFO: Cincpac POLAD 120

POUCH BANGKOK, SAIGON, VIENTIANE

DEPT POUCH: LONDON, PARIS.

- 7 NOV 1960

JCG DNB [illegible] JR JSR

ELM JTR [illegible] JFM

Press Oct 18 printed text of Sihanouk message to Queen stating that following treatment in France he would visit Czechoslovakia, USSR, Mongolia and CPR on invitation Chiefs of State. Added that although trip "long, fatiguing and arduous" during winter, considered it useful strengthen friendship with powers "who have always accorded Cambodia great esteem and aid". Will return Cambodia Dec 17 or 18.

	ACT.	INF.
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Received E & C Section

Date 23 NOV 1960

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350 Rel Officials - Cambodia

10-18-60

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JCMonjo:gma

Oct 18, 1960

FORM FS 413P
3-1-55

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AIRGRAM

Foreign Service of the United States of America

OUTGOING

8-116

Distr:
AMB
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Pol 2
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SEATO
Attaches

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Classification

PAGE 1 OF 1 PAGES

Date Sent: October 13, 1960

FROM: AMEMBASSY BANGKOK

TO: SECSTATE

NO: G-116

RPTD INFO: PHNOM PENH G-34, VIENTIANE G-18, SAIGON G-27,

CINCPAC/POLAD G-22

KIATTISAK Oct 12 carried fol article titled "Sihanouk Changes Attitude, Fears Red Menace":

Foreign radio broadcast said Sihanouk cabled Cambodian parliament asking permission resign as Chief of State. Resignation stemmed from calumny against prince by pro-Commies in Cambodia. In resigning Sihanouk also had desire bring about new general elections.

Informed sources revealed after outbreak Commie inspired troubles in Laos Sihanouk became aware great danger which would inevitably spread slowly to Cambodia should Laos fall into Commie grasp. This prompted Sihanouk try persuade foreign countries take interest in turning Laos into buffer state between Commie and Free World in order prevent Commies from getting closer to Cambodia. However, this Sihanouk proposal considered by Commies serious obstacle to spread their doctrine and proposed domination Southeast Asia, and consequently Cambodian Commie sympathizers ordered step up attacks on Sihanouk. Commies resented even more Sihanouk decision open talks with Thailand for purpose reviving friendly relations inasmuch as Commies planned cause disunity among nations, especially between Cambodia and Thailand.

Sihanouk changed attitude and turned Thailand for compromise because he foresaw if Laos fell to Commies, Cambodia unable avoid being menaced by Commies. Only Thailand capable deterring Commie armed aggression because she backed by SEATO forces which strong enough crush Red army. On other hand, Thai Gvt expressed most friendly attitude and delighted do away with dispute with neighboring country. Therefore, if Sihanouk has not yet changed friendly attitude shown toward Thai delegation before departing from US, it expected negotiations between two nations will produce results.

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Oct 13, 1960

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350 Rep Rep - Cambodia

10-13-60

FORM DS-1025
5-15-58

DEPARTMENT OF STATE

FOREIGN SERVICE POLITICAL REPORTING APPRAISAL

Security Classification of Appraisal
UNCLASSIFIED

TO *(Post)*
Amembassy BANGKOK

DATE OF APPRAISAL
August 5, 1960

DESPATCH NUMBER
19

DATED
July 15, 1960

SUBJECT
Thai Press Comment on Cambodia

AUTHOR
JSRoy

CONTRIBUTORS

These comments do not necessarily represent the views of all agencies concerned. Nothing in this document should be construed as instructional material or as altering outstanding instructions:

REPORT WOULD HAVE BEEN OF GREATER VALUE TO US IF IT HAD:

- ☐ Drawn conclusions and made recommendations
- ☐ Adequately presented conflicting viewpoints
- ☐ Indicated and evaluated sources of information
- ☐ Been received earlier
- ☐ Been more thorough
- ☐ Been more concise and better organized

REPORT IS COMMENDABLE FOR ITS:

- ☒ Timeliness
- ☐ Display of alertness and initiative
- ☐ Display of resourcefulness
- ☐ Thoroughness
- ☒ Comprehensiveness
- ☐ Clarity
- ☐ Good organization
- ☐ Interpretation and Analysis
- ☐ Objectivity
- ☐ Conclusions or recommendations
- ☒ Contributions to basic or current intelligence needs
- ☐ Use of other United States field sources of information

COMMENT:

This despatch on Thai press comment on relations with Cambodia is informative and useful as background. Its usefulness would have been enhanced by a brief summary analysis, either classified or unclassified.

	ACT.	INF.
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ACTION NOTE		

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(Security Classification)

FOREIGN SERVICE DESPATCH

19
DESP. NO.

FROM : AmEmbassy, BANGKOK

TO : THE DEPARTMENT OF STATE, WASHINGTON.

July 15, 1960
DATE

REF :

DECLASSIFIED
Authority NND 949832

SUBJECT: Thai Press Comment on Cambodia

350 Pol Affairs - Cambodia

During the period June 28 - July 11, 1960, several items concerning Cambodia appeared in the Thai press, including a number of critical editorials. On June 29, CHAO THAI published an editorial entitled "Sihanouk Plays 'Frantic Khmer' Song" which denied alleged Cambodian charges that the Thai government was teaching school children a song emphasizing Thai sovereignty over Khao Phra Viharn. CHAO THAI stated that as soon as Prince SIHANOUK became Chief of State and got an inkling that the Cambodian claim to Khao Phra Viharn might not be successful, he ordered a Phnom Penh "mouthpiece" to broadcast a statement in the Thai and Laotian languages critical of Thailand.

This statement, CHAO THAI reported, began with the allegation that the Thai government had composed a song to be sung by school children and students which emphasized Thailand's sovereignty over Khao Phra Viharn. The statement also accused Thailand of trying to defame Cambodia. Next, Sihanouk said that Thailand should consider various kindnesses, e.g., in ancient times Cambodia granted asylum to Thai migrants from China and Cambodian armies were able to save Thailand from destruction when the latter was engaged in a war with Burma. However, CHAO THAI noted, contrary to the above allegations, the well-known facts remained that whenever Thailand was engaged in a war, Cambodia would seize the opportunity to invade Thai territory and capture Thai citizens. Since King Naresuan could not endure this Cambodian conduct, he ordered Phraya Lawaek (the Cambodian King) beheaded and then sprinkled his own feet with the blood of the beheaded foe.

Sihanouk further charged, CHAO THAI continued, that the Thai government tried by unfair means to occupy Khao Phra Viharn, which was built by a Cambodian King. In this connection, Sihanouk referred to the Thai-French treaty made several years ago. The Thai people, the prince stated, were not willing to contribute their money to the Khao Phra Viharn Case fund organized by the government, because they realized that the ancient place should belong to Cambodia.

In fact, said CHAO THAI, the Thai government had never persuaded the students and school children to sing the song as was alleged by Sihanouk's mouthpiece. Likewise, the contributions concerned were made by the people

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willingly for they knew that what the prince did was merely intended to gain popularity with the Cambodian people. In his dealing with Thailand, the prince was often out of temper and did things hastily without paying any regard to facts or to right and wrong. Since the Cambodian claim was filed in the World Court, the Thai government and people have been waiting calmly for the judgment of the court without mentioning anything about the affairs of the prince. That he was again unable to keep his temper is something which deserves study in order to determine his temperment, CHAO THAI concluded.

On July 1, SIAM NIKORN carried a news item under the heading: "Sarit Sends Message to Sihanouk Congratulating Him on Being Chief of State." This item noted a Foreign Ministry report concerning the Khao Phra Viharn case which estimated that both sides would meet in the World Court at the beginning of 1961 and that it would take several years to wind up the case. A Cabinet meeting which considered this report decided to let the Thai government representatives and lawyers procede with the matter. The Foreign Ministry and the committee in charge of the Khao Phra Viharn case would consider how to handle expenses.

SIAM NIKORN also quoted Prime Minister SARIT as stating that when the Khao Phra Viharn case reached the World Court stage, it would be tried in the usual way. Moreover, the Foreign Ministry should find an appropriate method to tighten friendly relations and achieve a good understanding with Cambodia.

At the same time, SIAM NIKORN reported, in his capacity as head of the Thai government, Sarit sent a message to Prince Sihanouk congratulating him on having been supported by the people to be Chief of State. (This report was incorrect, since the message was actually sent by the Princess Mother acting as regent.)

In an editorial entitled "Radio Cambodia's Audacity," KIATTISAK, on July 1, echoed the CHAO THAI editorial of June 29 (see above).

KIATTISAK began by reporting that Radio Cambodia had again charged the Thai government with composing a song which would lead the youth to believe that Khao Phra Viharn was owned by Thailand, and which claimed also that most Thai sympathized with Cambodia since they considered that the ancient place rightfully belonged to Cambodia. Next, Radio Cambodia recalled all the past kindnesses shown to Thailand and hinted that Thailand was an ingrate.

KIATTISAK noted that Radio Cambodia had renewed its provocation and resumed the indecent radio plays only after the Cambodian leader finished the demagogic referendum. Also, it broadcast the charges against Thailand

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simultaneously with the news that Chou En-lai had sent a message to Prince Sihanouk stressing the close friendly ties between Cambodia and Red China.

The words employed by Radio Cambodia were as rude as those uttered by important Communist leaders, said KIATTISAK. Nevertheless, the Thai government is not interested in replying to a stupid person. We are given to understand that Cambodia started threatening Thailand this time because it was encouraged by the receipt of Chou's message. It might also have acted under Chou's orders or for the purpose of currying favor with Red China.

Sihanouk might have been worried that because of Thailand's objections filed in the World Court, the Court might throw out the nonsensical case which was submitted by a crank. He might have feared also that he and his followers would be humiliated by the Cambodian people if the case were a flop. Since Sihanouk was so bold as to refer the case to the court, KIATTISAK advised, he should wait calmly for the result of the court's trial instead of trying to create trouble just because he is afraid he might be the loser.

The Cambodian allegation, said KIATTISAK, that most of the Thai refused to contribute money to the Khao Phra Viharn case fund because they did not desire to support a minority group which wanted to serve some aliens is simply a lie. If both Sihanouk and his followers continue to base their propaganda on lies, Cambodia will become a slave of Red China much sooner.

In the past, Thailand and Cambodia were like allies and thus they were bound to help each other. It is true that Thailand received help from Cambodia, but it is also true that Thailand gave a lot of help to Cambodia, and that Cambodia was treacherous. Cambodia itself became a slave of France after it was free from Thailand, and its loss of independence was after all due to the same kind of stupidity as is shown by the present Cambodian administrator.

The reason that Cambodia has recalled all the past kindnesses done for this country is because Cambodia has an inferiority complex resulting from its feeling that Thailand is more prosperous than Cambodia. Moreover, Cambodia's activities during the past two or three years indicate that the Cambodian administration has been under the control of a man with an inferiority complex who tries to threaten neighboring nations in order to cover up this inferiority.

Cambodia has been employing, KIATTISAK concluded, the most stupid methods to show its greatness, and by these methods has permitted the spread of Red Chinese influence. It runs the risk of becoming the slave of Red China merely because it wants to be feared by neighboring countries. We feel

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concerned that Cambodia will finally find it difficult to avoid ruin as a result of the action of this stupid individual.

On July 5 KIATTISAK continued its attack in an editorial entitled "Thai-Cambodian Relations," which analysed Sihanouk's position in Cambodia as Chief of State. KIATTISAK noted that Foreign Minister THANAT had denied Cambodia's charges that Thailand had aggressive designs on it, explaining that Thailand is not interested in aggression and that national development is its only objective.

It is extraordinary, KIATTISAK stated, that Sihanouk has frequently issued groundless charges, or to be exact, lies, against Thailand and South Vietnam. There must be a catch somewhere or else he would have remained in peace and upheld friendship above anything else. It is possible that Sihanouk's charges were made for political reasons.

The post of Chief of State held by Sihanouk is the strangest as well as the newest in the democratic world, KIATTISAK declared. He refused to become king but instead established himself as Chief of State, which is a position inferior to but with more power than that of a king. It cannot be said that he is the President since occasionally he acts like a king. He cannot be called a premier because Cambodia already has a premier, who, however, does not have any power and is merely a puppet set up by Sihanouk. In short, we so far know only that Sihanouk is Chief of State, but under the democratic system the post of Chief of State is legally and practically meaningless. The existence of such a post seems rather strange, even stranger than the birth of the new independent nations in Africa.

According to KIATTISAK, the post of Chief of State was probably introduced in Cambodia because Sihanouk had been inspired by the fact that most of the neutralist nations were without kings. If Cambodia still had a king it could not feel at ease in following a neutral policy and in associating with the Communists. On the other hand, Sihanouk dared not abolish the monarchy completely because he is also of royal blood, and secondly, because he can now become a king again anytime that the need arises for this change in policy. In addition, Sihanouk wanted to retain all the administrative power, so that he could carry out internal and external political affairs without having to get the approval of anyone.

Continuing in this vein, KIATTISAK charged that since Sihanouk had become Chief of State, he has to show off his importance. The first step taken in this direction was to tell lies and accuse Thailand of having aggressive designs on Cambodia, even though the fact remains that Thailand is confronted with infiltration by the Communists, who are trying to undermine public peace. It is our understanding that in making the above charges Sihanouk has become a tool of the Communist and the charges were intended to

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cover up Communist infiltration and subversion in Thailand and to cause misunderstanding among the other countries in the world as well. When Sihanouk becomes so close to the Communists that he abandons his kingly pride so as to be in a position to give greater cooperation to the Communists, he can then be employed as a Communist tool in propaganda and disruptive activities. Therefore, Thailand must be on guard against disruptive activities originating in Cambodia, for Cambodia is very close to this country.

In closing, KIATTISAK declared that not only the people of the world but also the Cambodians themselves were baffled by Sihanouk's methods of administration and whether such methods would last depended on Sihanouk's fate. As stated by Abraham Lincoln, you can fool some of the people some of the time but you cannot fool all of the people all of the time. Likewise, in the case of Sihanouk and his people, Sihanouk can fool some of his people some of the time but he cannot fool all of the Cambodians all of the time.

KIATTISAK continued its accusations against Cambodia on July 8 with its third editorial in little more than a week entitled "Cambodia Again Tells Lies to the World." At last, KIATTISAK declared, the truth has emerged, revealing that Cambodia's threat to break away from the West and join the Communist bloc, as played up by the Cambodian press and radio, is merely a design to obtain modern weapons for the protection of Cambodia against, according to Cambodian radio, possible aggression by Thailand. This false charge has been refuted by Foreign Minister Thanat, who at the same time pointed out that anything going on in Thailand could not be concealed from the observation of representatives of various UN agencies in this country.

Cambodia's attitude, KIATTISAK stated, has led us to understand that Cambodia's adoption of a neutral policy under Prince Sihanouk was designed to provide it with the opportunity to be closely associated with the Communist bloc. As a result of this association, Cambodia is now becoming a Communist state in earnest. Also, Sihanouk has decided to abandon the throne in favor of the post of Chief of State, as the existence of a king would be a big obstacle to Cambodia's becoming Communist.

So that Cambodia's objective of becoming a friend of the Communist bloc and of receiving aid from it could fully be achieved, Cambodia has found it necessary to break away from the West. But it has needed an excuse to offer for its defection. However, since it had not yet found one, it decided to incite the Cambodian press and radio to carry out false propaganda to the effect that Cambodia had to turn to the Communist bloc because it needed modern weapons to defend itself against aggression from Thailand.

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No. 19 - July 15, 1960

From Bangkok

This method of obtaining political gains by telling lies and laying blame on others is now out of date, said KIATTISAK. Nevertheless, Cambodia has employed it on several occasions. The Cambodian government would have known that the utterances of the Cambodian press and radio were merely lies and nonsense had it made an inquiry with its representative in Thailand.

No one would object to Cambodia's decision to break away from the West in order to become a fast friend of the Communists, but its action in issuing false accusations against Thailand cannot be ignored and we have to reply to it. We also feel very delighted that Cambodia has now declared openly that it is a Communist satellite, KIATTISAK concluded. This is better than first fooling this party and then that party as it is doing at present.

Finally, SIAM NIKORN on July 11 reported that a Chinese who was being deported by the Thai government, known as TANG PAK or CHIT KITPHANIT, had decided to go to Phnom Penh to stay with his son, Nai SONGSAK Kitphanit, who was a big man in Cambodia, since the authorities in Taiwan had not approved his request to go there. According to SIAM NIKORN, Tang Pak was at present contacting the Cambodian government on this matter.

For the Charge d'Affaires a.i.:

Douglas N. Batson
First Secretary of Embassy

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