


MEMORANDUM

THE WHITE HOUSE

WASHINGTON

September 24, 1971

MEMORANDUM FOR: LUCY WINCHESTER

FROM: DR. KISSINGER 

SUBJECT: Cambodian Ambassador's Invitation
for Mrs. Nixon to Attend Performance
of Classical Khmer Dancers

At Tab A is a memo from the Department of State conveying the Cambodian Ambassador's invitation to arrange for Mrs. Nixon a special performance by the Classical Khmer Dance Troups during their tour of the country in late November.

We believe that Mrs. Nixon might enjoy seeing the dancers, and it might be a nice touch if she should do so. Of the three alternative arrangements that the Ambassador proposes, a special invitation for Mrs. Nixon to attend a performance at the Kennedy Center might be the most appropriate, but I would appreciate hearing from you as to what arrangement you feel Mrs. Nixon would prefer.



DEPARTMENT OF STATE

Washington, D.C. 20520

September 16, 1971

MEMORANDUM FOR MR. HENRY A. KISSINGER
THE WHITE HOUSE

Subject: Availability of Classical Khmer Dancers
of Cambodia for White House Entertainment

The Khmer Ambassador has advised us that the "Classical Khmer Dancers of Cambodia", scheduled to appear at the Kennedy Center November 19 and 20, will be free the evenings of November 21, 22, and 23 and could perform at the White House one of those evenings if Mrs. Nixon so desires. He said the subject was discussed when Mrs. Sirik Matak and the ladies in her party visited Mrs. Nixon for tea August 11 and that Mrs. Sirik Matak then promised that she would arrange for the dancers to be made available for the pleasure of Mrs. Nixon.

Alternately, the Ambassador has proposed that he would be pleased to invite Mrs. Nixon for one of the performances at the Kennedy Center. A third alternative would be for us to offer the Department auditorium for a private performance of the dancers which could be under the "patronage" of Mrs. Nixon.

The "Classical Khmer Dancers of Cambodia" is the successor title of the former "Royal Cambodian Ballet" which performed in honor of the Nixons on October 30, 1953, when they visited Phnom Penh.

I would appreciate it if you could advise me at your earliest convenience of the wishes of the White House in this matter, since the Cambodian Ambassador is anxious to begin making arrangements.

An informal translation of a memorandum from the Cambodian Embassy is attached, together with a copy of the memorandum in French.

in Nicholas Platt
Theodore L. Eliot, Jr.
Executive Secretary

Attachments:

1. Translation
2. Memorandum in French.

TRANSLATION

MEMORANDUM

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SUBJECT: Special Performance of the Classical Khmer Ballet at Washington

1. The Classical Khmer Ballet, engaged by the Festival of the Third World for a tour of North America, will give two performances at Washington, at the John F. Kennedy Center, the 19 and 20 of November, 1971.

2. The Ambassador of the Khmer Republic would be pleased to be able to offer a special performance of the Ballet to Mrs. Nixon and American dignitaries, either at the White House or in an appropriate auditorium at the Department of State, the 21, 22 or 23 of November.

3. If this is not possible, the Ambassador desires to know if Mrs. Nixon and American dignitaries could be invited to one of the two evenings at the John F. Kennedy Center. If so, the Ambassador will reserve, in the next few days, several rows of seats in a special section of the Opera House of the Center for this purpose.

MEMORANDUM

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OBJET : Représentation spéciale du Ballet Classique Khmer
à Washington

1. - Le Ballet Classique Khmer, engagé par le Festival du Troisième Monde pour une tournée en Amérique du Nord, viendra donner 2 représentations à Washington, au John F. Kennedy Center, les 19 et 20 novembre 1971.
2. - L'Ambassade de la République Khmère serait heureuse de pouvoir donner une représentation spéciale de ce Ballet à Madame Nixon et aux Hautes Personnalités américaines, soit à la Maison Blanche, soit dans une salle appropriée du Département d'Etat, à une date qui pourrait être le 21, ou le 22 ou le 23 novembre.
3. - Si ce projet ne peut être réalisé, l'Ambassadeur souhaite savoir si Madame Nixon et les Hautes Personnalités américaines pourraient être invitées à une des deux soirées au John F. Kennedy Center. En cas d'affirmative, l'Ambassade réservera dans les prochains jours plusieurs rangées de places bien séparées à l'Opéra House de ce centre.