

~~TOP SECRET/SENSITIVE/EYES ONLY~~

RECORD OF PRESIDENT'S MEETING WITH
THE FOREIGN INTELLIGENCE ADVISORY BOARD

DATE: July 18, 1970: 10:45 a.m. -12:15 p.m.

PARTICIPANTS: The President
Board Members:
Chairman, George W. Anderson, Jr.
Members: Gordon Gray
Franklin B. Lincoln, Jr.
(Dr.) Franklin D. Murphy
Robert D. Murphy

Other:
Henry A. Kissinger
B/Gen. Alexander M. Haig
Gerard P. Burke (Exec. Sec. PFIAB)

SUBJECT: Southeast Asia

The members of the PFIAB met with the President to report on their recent visits to Southeast Asia. Following is a summary record of the highlights of the meeting.

Intelligence for Cambodia. The Board members believed there had been no significant improvement in our intelligence capabilities in Cambodia as of their July 5 visit, and the President expressed his displeasure. Dr. Kissinger noted interagency disagreements on the facilities required; he said that local communications had been improved but those between Phnom Penh and the outside were still unresolved due to State's desire to maintain a low-US visibility. The President stated that more COMINT on Cambodia was needed and that Mr. Fred Ladd's arrival in Phnom Penh had greatly improved the reporting from there.

US Personnel in Cambodia. The Board confirmed the President's impression that US Charge Rives was in over his head in Cambodia and that Mr. Ladd was doing an exceptionally good job, although overworked and needing

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WL:jlj 8/6/70

DECLASSIFIED
E.O. 13526, Section 3.5
NLN 03-113/7009, per sec. 3.3(b)(1); ltr. 5/16/2011
By: MLH, NARA; Date: 10/19/2011
[p. 1 of 18]

some help. The President asked Dr. Kissinger to accelerate Ambassador-designate Swank's Senate hearings and get him to Phnom Penh.

Sihanoukville. The President asked the PFIAB to look very carefully into the entire background of the intelligence community's misreading of the importance of Sihanoukville as an entry point for communist supplies in Cambodia. Although the military had consistently maintained that Sihanoukville received a very substantial amount of communist material the civilian agencies persisted in discounting its importance until we had begun our sanctuary operations. CIA had described the flow of materials through Sihanoukville as only a trickle while evidence now indicates that about 70% of communist supplies in Cambodia had been brought in through this port. The President wondered, if such mistakes could be made on a fairly straightforward issue such as this one, how we should judge CIA's assessments of more important developments such as Chinese communist military capabilities. He emphasized again later in the meeting that the Board should give very close attention to the case of Sihanoukville which represented one of the worst records ever compiled by the intelligence community.

CINCPAC Plan for Cambodia. The Board thought that phase I, which is concerned with preserving the southern half of the country, seemed generally practicable although it had some defects, i. e. third country mercenaries rather than Americans should be used as helicopter pilots. The Board could not support phase II which would involve offensive actions in northern Cambodia. Dr. Murphy noted that Admiral McCain's estimate of \$85 million per year for phase I could be substantially on the low side.

Dr. Kissinger explained that the CINCPAC plan was still in the bureaucracy although the WSAG was moving generally in the same direction and was informed about parts of the plan. The problem was to transform the plan into a complete integrated proposal that was useful to the President. The President stated that none of our planning for Cambodia had any clear conceptual base or long-range perspective. He added that he had asked Admiral Moorer to submit a complete plan, that it should include intelligence requirements, and that he must have the proposal soon because of its budgetary aspects. He added that there were ways of making funds available indirectly for Cambodia if Congress is unwilling to supply them directly.

US Air Support in Cambodia. In reply to Admiral Anderson's comment that the US should be as liberal as possible with its air support, the President said he understood fully and was thinking along the same lines. The President later said that he fully agreed with Mr. Gray's view that if the US is to provide tactical air support in Cambodia we should get away from the notion that it can only be in the form of interdiction in support of our own troops.

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Overall Approach to Southeast Asia. Dr. Murphy believed there was no integrated economic/military/political approach to Southeast Asian problems and that a high level government group should examine the region and propose coordinated actions to the President. There was a particular need to explain the Nixon Doctrine and the context of US withdrawals from the area.

SANITIZED

per sec. 3.3(b)(1)

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PFIAB would be to help eradicate subjective judgments from intelligence reports.

Miscellaneous. Several other subjects were touched upon. The President's commented that the Cambodian operations had shown real teamwork at last among the various South Vietnamese forces. The Chairman noted that Vang Pao often risked his personal safety in combat and the President said we should prevent him from doing this in view of his importance to the effort in Laos. The Chairman declared that our knowledge of the intentions of Peking and Hanoi were essentially non-existent; for example, we might be passing over too casually the possibility of Chinese communist volunteers in Southeast Asia. The Chairman also stated that the critical factor in Eastern Asia during the next few years will be the Russian decision about what to do about Chinese nuclear weapons delivery developments. The President agreed with Dr. Murphy that Indonesia was a key country with whom we should maintain a good relationship.

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The President *stated* ~~stressed~~ that more **COMINT** *COMINT* on Cambodia was needed and that Mr. Fred Ladd's arrival in Phnom Penh had greatly improved the reporting from there.

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~~Planning for Cambodia.~~ There was discussion of CINCPAC's ~~plan~~ ^{that the CINCPAC plan} which Dr. Kissinger explained was still in the bureaucracy although the WSAG was moving generally in the same direction and was informed about parts of the plan. The problem was to transform the plan into a complete integrated proposal ^{was} that ~~is~~ useful to the President. The President stated that none of our planning for Cambodia had any clear conceptual base or long-range perspective. ^{He added that} The President said that he had asked Admiral Moorer to submit a complete plan, that ~~it~~ should include intelligence requirements, and that he must have the proposal soon ~~so~~.

(cont'd)

that he knows the details ^{because of its budgetary aspects.} as he moves further into the budget arena.

He added that there were ways of making funds available indirectly for Cambodia if Congress is unwilling to supply them directly.

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Overall Approach to Southeast Asia. Dr./Murphy believed there was no integrated economic/military/political approach to Southeast Asian problems and that a high level government group should examine the region and propose coordinated actions to the President. There was a particular need to explain the Nixon Doctrine and ^{the context of} relate US withdrawals from the area, ~~to the Doctrine.~~

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