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Pub. Sec. 3.3(b)(1)

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CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE AGENCY

WASHINGTON, D.C. 20505

OFFICE OF THE DIRECTOR

15 April 1970

MEMORANDUM FOR: The Honorable Henry A. Kissinger  
Assistant to the President for  
National Security Affairs

SUBJECT: Delivery of Arms and Ammunition  
to the Cambodian Government

1. This memorandum responds to a request from General Haig for a plan for the delivery of arms and ammunition to the Cambodian Government. In the light of decisions taken at the WSAG Meeting of 14 April to supply captured AK-47 weapons, we are outlining below alternative plans which might be implemented if the captured AK-47 route proves not adequate or feasible.

2. The Cambodian Army and its Weapons Supply:

The Cambodian Army (FARK) has a troop strength of 50,000 men including 10,000 reservists who were recalled to active duty in March 1970. The Army is organized into 55 infantry and commando battalions with the average strength of 380 men in each battalion. The Army has in addition nine one-half brigades (Demi-Brigade) of various sizes.

3. This regular Army is supplemented by an estimated 50,000 militia which includes 30,000 home guards, 15,000 provincial guards, 6,000 police and 5,000 members of the National Youth Movement. This militia is under the command control of the Cambodian Army.

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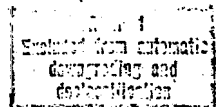
E.O. 12958, as amended, Sect 3.5

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By CIM

NARA Date 31 Mar 2009

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4. The Cambodian Army has been supplied military aid by both Communist and non-Communist countries. In recent years it has attempted to equip the standard Cambodian infantry battalion with the 7.62mm Communist-manufactured family of weapons. This round is not compatible with the 7.62mm bullet used in NATO equipment. Moreover, the ammunition clip is not interchangeable. The basic weapon of each battalion is the AK-47 assault rifle. The battalion generally has 150 rifles. In addition, each battalion has 40 pistols, 120 carbines, 18 light machineguns, 3 heavy machineguns, 5 mortars, 3 recoilless rifles and 7 rocket launchers.

5. We have sensitive documentary intelligence listing the inventory of Communist-supplied weapons currently held in Cambodian warehouses under FARK control. (See Attachment A) This currently stored equipment could equip almost 43 Cambodian Army infantry battalions. The Cambodians have also received weapons and ammunition from the Free World. This equipment was supplied by the United States until 1963 and by the French who have continued a military assistance program. Attachment B lists such materiel currently in Cambodian warehouses. We have, however, no idea of its condition. If in good condition, this materiel would equip up to 30 Cambodian Army battalions. A major problem facing the Cambodians is the continued supply of ammunition for either of its family of weapons. Cambodia has no capability to manufacture ammunition. On the basis of our current information, however, it would seem that the Cambodian Army is capable of considerable expansion simply by the use of stocks of weapons held in their warehouses.

6. Alternative Means of Covertly Supplying Weapons to the Cambodian Army:

If the United States wishes to supply covertly weapons and ammunition to the Cambodians in addition to what can be provided by use of captured Communist weapons, there appear

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to be two immediate options open to us. These are to work out an arrangement with the Indonesian Government to supply the Communist family of weapons drawn from Indonesian stocks or to provide direct covert support from Free World weapons drawn from American stockpiles.

7. We believe the Indonesian Government currently has 10 to 15,000 AK-47's. We do not know the condition of this equipment or whether there is available a continuing supply of ammunition and clips. The Indonesian Government is thinking of assisting the Cambodians. The Cambodian Government has asked for arms assistance from Indonesia. The Indonesians would like to see the Cambodian Government maintain its public neutral stance and would want to supply arms to Cambodia covertly. The Indonesians have sufficient civil and military airlift to make an initial delivery of weapons to Cambodia. Subsequent weapons deliveries could be made by ship. [REDACTED] feels that the Indonesian Government would like to undertake this assistance program to Cambodia but in all probability would expect the United States to replace these arms probably with NATO-type weapons. CIA could undertake immediately to negotiate with the Indonesian Government on a covert basis for delivery of such weapons to Cambodia.

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8. The most promising alternative to the Indonesian proposal is the covert supply of weapons to Cambodia through CIA facilities. Such weaponry is now being made available to the Laotian Government. If our storage facilities [REDACTED] were used, CIA could stage the weapons delivery without enlarging current facilities. The Agency has 1,000 man weapons-pack in which the basic weapon is the U. S. M-2 carbine. We can make 10 such weapons packs available within the next three weeks and transport them [REDACTED] if given sufficient airlift priority. Each pack could equip three Cambodian battalions.

[REDACTED] We also believe CIA could move the equipment covertly to Cambodia using CIA-controlled aircraft. A continuing supply of ammunition and clips is insured with this equipment.

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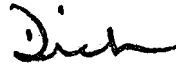
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9. Before either of these alternatives is considered we recommend that further talks be held with the Cambodians to determine the extent to which they really need military aid. We believe they should be encouraged to survey the equipment now available to them in storage. If desired, however, we stand ready to move ahead with either or both of the alternatives outlined above.



Richard Helms  
Director

Attachments: 2

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Attachment A

**Cambodia: Inventory of Communist-Supplied Weapons and Ammunition a/  
1969**

Type of Weapon	Number of Weapons		Number of Rounds of Ammunition
	In Use	In Warehouse	
Howitzer 122mm	--	24	3,699
Antitank artillery 82mm (recoilless)	16	20	640
Field artillery 76mm	40	28	11,109
Antitank artillery 75mm (recoilless)	257	5	14,322
Antitank artillery 57mm	2	3	2,855
Antiaircraft artillery 100mm	8	--	4,000
Antiaircraft artillery 85mm	8	--	6,000
Antiaircraft artillery 37mm	84	28	119,581
Mortar 120mm	--	5	6,971
Mortar 82mm	423	47	90,446
Mortar 60mm	353	11	23,006
Rocket launcher 82mm	11	51	10,362
Rocket launcher 40mm	369	52	21,890
Antiaircraft machinegun 14.5mm	24	--	67,566
Antiaircraft machinegun 12.7mm	164	14	1,397,880
Heavy machinegun 7.62mm	342	52	3,792,551
Light machinegun 7.62mm	1,986	65	
Carbines Type-53 (M1944) 7.62mm	426	219	30,828,250
Assault rifles and Type 56 carbines 7.62mm	23,955	15,226	
Machine pistols and automatic pistols 7.62mm	15,833	1,429	531,210

a. Weapons data are as of September 1969. The inventory of ammunition, as of the end of 1969, includes only ammunition available in depots.

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Attachment B

per sec 3.3 (b)(1)

Cambodia: Inventory of Selected Free World-Supplied Weapons and Ammunition a/  
1969

Type of Weapon	Number of Weapons		Number of Rounds of Ammunition <sup>b/</sup>
	In Use	In Warehouse	
Howitzer 105mm	18	4	5,217
Field gun 25 pounder (87.6mm)	5	--	8,011
Field artillery 75mm	35	5	21,297
75mm guns on light tanks	29	--	
75mm guns on armored cars	7	--	
Antitank gun 57mm	102	--	7,157
37mm guns on armored cars	56	--	6,135
Antiaircraft artillery 20mm	28	2	13,078
Antiaircraft machinegun 50 caliber (12.7mm)	24	--	72,322
Heavy machinegun 12.7mm	291	37	
Mortar 120mm	7	--	2,306
Mortar 4.2 inch (107mm)	6	5	5,596
Mortar 81mm	161	39	17,989
Mortar 60mm	201	65	28,030
60mm mortar on armored cars	2	--	
Rocket launcher (3.5 inch)	246	197	3,471
Rocket launcher (2.36 inch)	229	211	24,569
9mm: revolvers, automatic pistols, and machine pistols	4,437	295	1,788,498
8mm: revolvers, rifles, heavy machineguns	1,019	420	4,582,821

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Cambodia: Inventory of Selected Free World-Supplied Weapons and Ammunition a/  
1969  
(Continued)

Type of Weapon	Number of Weapons		Number of Rounds, of Ammunition <sup>b/</sup>
	In Use	In Warehouse	
7.92mm rifle	2,137	126	591,284
7.7mm rifle	20,834	118	422,855
7.62mm: rifles, carbines, light machineguns, heavy machineguns, AA machineguns on armored cars	31,529	9,406	6,006,613
7.5mm: rifles, light and heavy machineguns	16,884	1,434	1,344,880
7.65mm automatic pistols	278	103	6,941
7.65mm machine pistols	1,704	1	386,814
.45 caliber automatic pistols, sub- machineguns	7,678	2,744	139,441

- a. Weapons data are as of September 1969. The inventory of ammunition, as of the end of 1969, includes only ammunition available in depots.
- b. Ammunition of a specific caliber may not be interchangeable among the weapons of the same caliber.

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