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DEPARTMENT OF STATE

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Memorandum of Conversation

Authority State 2/9/78, NSC 103/78By gplisp, NARA, Date 1/27/92DATE: November 27, 1963
3:15 p. m.

SUBJECT: United States-Cambodian Relations

PARTICIPANTS:

The President
 Prince Norodom Kantol, Prime Minister of Cambodia
 His Excellency Nong Kimny, Ambassador of Cambodia
 Mr. Roger Hilsman, Assistant Secretary of State for
 Far Eastern Affairs

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The Prince expressed condolences on the death of President Kennedy, and said that Prince Sihanouk had sent him, even though airline connections prevented his attending the religious services, to underline the friendship the government and people of Cambodia hold for the United States.

The President thanked the Prince for his kind thoughts and for the long trip that he had undertaken. The United States was grateful and valued its friendship with Cambodia.

The President asked if the Prince had any matters of substance that he wished to discuss. The Prince said that he had none; that he had come only to express condolences.

The President said that President Kennedy had had a high regard for Prince Sihanouk and that he, President Johnson, shared that regard. The President hoped the friendly relations between the two governments would continue.

One thing, however, the President wished to say and that was concerning the charges of United States complicity in the Khmer Serei plotting. President Kennedy had personally investigated these charges and had found they were baseless. President Kennedy had given Prince Sihanouk his categorical

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denial of any complicity of any United States Government agencies or officers. President Johnson had also asked for a report and had been assured to his satisfaction that there was no complicity on the part of any American Government department or officer, and he, too, categorically denied the charges.

The President said that if the Cambodians had any real evidence of complicity on the part of any American--apart from the false charges of traitors--the United States had a right to see that evidence so it could be investigated. With a smile the President said that there were so many things in the world for which we were responsible that had to be explained to our friends that it was unbearable to have to explain things for which we had no responsibility whatsoever.

Prince Kantol said that he noted President Johnson's statements, and could assure him that they would be given careful study in Cambodia.

The meeting ended with an exchange of pleasantries.

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