

MEMORANDUM

THE WHITE HOUSE
WASHINGTON

~~SECRET/NODIS/XGDS~~

MEMORANDUM OF CONVERSATION

PARTICIPANTS: President Nixon
Long Boret, Minister of Foreign Affairs of the
Khmer Republic
Amb. Um Sim, Cambodian Ambassador
Major General Brent Scowcroft, Deputy Assistant
to the President for National Security Affairs

DATE AND TIME: Thursday, November 15, 1973
12:11 - 12:30 p.m.

PLACE: The Oval Office

The President: You must win your struggle in the UN.

Boret: I have met with sixteen foreign ministers. I am confident we will prevail.

The President: I didn't meet you in Cambodia in 1953; you were probably in school.

Boret: Thank you very much for seeing me. I want to convey greetings and best wishes of our President, Our Prime Minister, and our people. Our people and government have the greatest admiration for you, Mr. President. Your name inspires total confidence in our people and government. Each and every word you have said on Cambodia has been a source of inspiration to us and we appreciate everything you have said.

The situation in my country is of serious concern. We expect a new offensive, and in the economic area we are having inflation, and you are aware of our diplomatic problems. I spoke of them to Secretary Kissinger and he assured me of your support. We are firmly determined to overcome these difficulties though our resources are slim.

CLASSIFIED BY Brent Scowcroft
EXEMPT FROM GENERAL DECLASSIFICATION
EXEMPLE OF EXECUTIVE ORDER 11652
DECLASSIFICATION CATEGORY 5(b) (1, 3)
DECLASSIFIED ON Imp. to def.

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My President wants me to stress we have followed the counsel in your letters to solve our domestic problems, increase our military efforts and solve our problems through negotiations.

Going back to economic problems, we are especially worried about our foreign exchange fund. Australia and _____ are not contributing, so we will get less. We hope for a continued contribution by the United States. In the military sphere we wish to receive the required assistance so the army can face any situation.

We also have recruiting problems, but this situation also prevails with the Khmer Rouge. They take hostages in villages and take the men. If the men don't fight for them, they kill their families. But we are making progress.

One encouraging development has been the number of defectors coming over to us. We keep this quiet so as not to jeopardize our efforts. Also, the number of clashes between the Khmer Rouge and the North Vietnamese is increasing.

The conflicts between Sihanouk and the Khmer Rouge are getting more acute.

The President: You have this government's support and my support personally. Our problem is a drastic one of support from the Congress. They made us stop the bombing, which made it difficult. We are now trying to get the aid you need.

In the UN we are with you to the limit. We will exert whatever influence we can with the Chinese and others to get a settlement. We know it looks difficult. There are your forces, the Khmer Rouge, the North Vietnamese, and Sihanouk cutting across it all. We want an independent and free Cambodia. We want the North Vietnamese out and we think you could handle the Khmer Rouge by yourselves.

The most encouraging thing is you have survived against many predictions. You have survived because you have the people with you. We can't intervene militarily but we will support with military and economic aid, and we will ask our friends like Japan to help.

Our help is not decisive in your struggle. Without it you would lose; with it you have some chance to win. Basically, it is up to you.



Pas/ Long Boats / Am Sun

15 Nov 73

12:11
12:30 P

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and w/ 16 foreign ministers. Don't expect us will
I didn't meet you in Cambodia in 53
you were where you were in school

LB Thank you very much for your message. Went
to convey greetings of Pas, PM & people. Our
people & govt have greatest admiration for
you Mr P. Your moral majesty & total
confidence in our people & govt. Each & every
word you have said on Cambodia has
been a source of inspiration & we
admire everything you have said.

Situation in my country is of serious concern.

We expect a new offensive & the economic
and are having inflation, & you are aware
of our diplomatic problems. I spoke of them to
Seng K & he assured me of your support. We
are firmly determined to overcome these difficulties
though our resources are slim. In Pas
words we stress we have followed a counsel
in your letters to solve our domestic problems
in close consultation, efforts & joint
particular negotiations.

Coming back to econ. problems, we are worried
about foreign exchange fund. Australia & — are
not contributing so we will get less. We hope
for continued contribution by US. On military
aid wish to receive re-assurance so army can
face any situation.



LB Also have recruiting prob, but this situation
also favours us / KR. They take hostages
in villages & kill men. If we don't fight
for them, they kill their families. But we are
making progress.

One reason going ~~difficult~~ has been # of defectors
coming over to us. We keep this quiet as
not to jeopardise our efforts. Also clashes between
KR & NVA are increasing.

Conflict b/w Sihanouk & KR is getting more
acute.

P You have ~~over~~ this govt & my support
personally. Our problem is ~~one~~ ^{of} support
from Eng. They want us to stop ~~working~~ which
is bad. We were trying to get and you
need. In UN we are w/ you & the will
be will exert whatever influence we can
w/ PRC & others to get a settlement. We
know it looks difficult. There are signs,
KR, NVA, & Sihanouk acting across all. We
want an ~~independent~~ ^{neutral} government. We want
NVA & think you could handle KR by
yourselves. Most encouraging thing is
~~you~~ have survived against many
predications - you have survived because
you have people / you. We can't
intervene militarily but we will
support w/ military aid, ask our friends
- like Japan - to help. Can help not
decision - ^{unconquerable} if you would lose, if it you
have some chance to win. Basically it
is up to you.

