

ROUTINE

## Intelligence Information Cable

IN 174177

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CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE AGENCY  
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CIT [REDACTED]

DIST 22 FEBRUARY 1974

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COUNTRY CAMBODIA

DOI 1973-MID FEBRUARY 1974

SUBJECT KHMER COMMUNIST CONSCRIPTION OF MONKS IN  
KIRIROM AND KOMPONG SPEU PROVINCES OF SOUTH-  
WESTERN CAMBODIA

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SOURCE [REDACTED]

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1. KHMER COMMUNIST (KC) PRESSURE AND RESTRICTIONS ON THE

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AUTHORITY RAC- MekongBY dac NLF, DATE 11/8/01

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MONKS OF KOMPONG SPEU AND KIRIROM PROVINCES OF WESTERN CAMBODIA STEADILY MOUNTED IN 1973 AND CULMINATED IN A FORCED CONSCRIPTION IN FEBRUARY 1974.

2. UNTIL APRIL 1973 RESTRICTIONS ON THE BUDDHIST MONKS WAS MINIMAL. ON 22 APRIL 1973, HOWEVER, THE KC BEGAN ORDERING THE CONSOLIDATION OF MONKS FROM SEVERAL PAGODAS INTO ONE PAGODA UNTIL BY THE END OF 1973 ALL THE MONKS IN THE KC CONTROLLED AREA HAD BEEN CONSOLIDATED INTO EIGHT PAGODAS. ABOUT 300 MONKS WERE INVOLVED. INITIALLY, WHILE THE DISPLACED MONKS WERE BUILDING THEIR NEW HOUSES, VILLAGERS WERE PERMITTED TO FEED THE MONKS. BY DECEMBER 1973, HOWEVER, VILLAGERS WERE NO LONGER PERMITTED TO DO SO AND THE MONKS HAD TO RAISE THEIR OWN FOOD. AT THE SAME TIME THEY WERE ORDERED TO BUILD A ROAD FROM TOEK LUNG (VT 450910) TO PHUM TBENG (VT 392856). THIS ROAD WAS ALLEGEDLY INTENDED FOR USE BY KC TRUCKS. ANOTHER TASK ASSIGNED TO THE MONKS WAS THE DIGGING OF GRAVES FOR KC SOLDIERS KILLED BY THE CAMBODIAN ARMY (FANK).

3. ON 22 JANUARY 1974 T A KOL, THE SENIOR MONK AT THE ENG SEREI PAGODA WAS INSTRUCTED TO WRITE A LETTER TO ALL THE OTHER PAGODAS IN THE AREA ORDERING ALL MONKS TO APPEAR FOR A MEETING

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