

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
SCHEDULE OF EXECUTIVE ORDER 11652
EXEMPTION CATEGORY 5(b) (1, 3)
AUTOMATICALLY DECLASSIFIED ON Imp. to det.

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DECLASSIFIED
E.O. 12958, Sec. 3.5
NSC Memo, 11/24/98, State Dept. Guidelines
By lt, NARA, Date 11/10/00

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,



Pres/ Long Borets / Ann Sira ✓
15 Nov 73

12:11
12:30

- P You must win your struggle in the US
L B Next w/ 16 African ministers. Democratisation will
P I don't meet you in Cambodia in 53
You ~~was~~ were probably in school.
L B Thank you very much for saying we went
to convey greetings ^{of + respect} of P us, PM + people. Our
people + govt have great admiration for
you Mr P. Your name inspires total
confidence to our people + govt. Each + every
word you have said on Cambodia has
been a source of inspiration + we
and appreciate everything you have said.
Situation in my country is of serious concern.
We expect a new offensive + an economic
and are having inflation, + you are aware
of our diplomatic problems. I spoke of them to
Sey K + he assured me of your support. We
are firmly ^{determined} to overcome these difficulties
though our resources are slim. My Pres
wants me to stress we have followed a course
in your letter to solve our domestic problems
in case our mil. efforts + solve our
prob. then negotiations.
Coming back to econ. problems, we are worried
about fr. exchange fund. Australia + — are
not contributing so we will get less. We hope
for continued contribution by US. Our military
and wish to receive reg. assist. so army can
face any situation.



LB

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

One encouraging development has been # of defectors coming over to us. We keep this quiet as not to jeopardize our efforts. Also clashes between KR & NVA are increasing. Conflicts bet. Sihanouk & KR is getting more acute.

P You have our this great & my support personally. Our problem is ^{drastic} lack of support from Cong. They want us stop bombing which is too hard. We were trying to get and you word. In UN we are w/ you to the limit we will exert whatever influence we can as PRC & others to get a settlement we know it looks difficult. Therefore you, KR, NVA, & Sihanouk cutting across all. We want an insight, per contribution. We want NVA & think you could handle KR by yourselves. Most encouraging thing is you have survived against many predictions - you have survived because you have people w/ you. We can't intervene militarily but we will support w/ info & we can aid, ask our friends - the people - to help. Can help not ^{in your struggle} decided. w/ it you would lose; w/ it you have some chance to win. Basically it is up to you.

