FACT SHEET ON CAMBODIA

1945-1950 POST WAR SETTLEMENT--A FRENCH CONTROLLED CAMBODIA
1945 Authority over Cambodia returned to France. Collaborationist Premier Son Ngoc Thanh wins national referendum in independence move. Thanh arrested. Supporters flee to Thailand and form dissident nationalist movement (Khmer Issarak).
1946 Cambodia becomes "autonomous state within French Union"; French retain veto power and control of army, police, finances and judiciary. An anti-French party wins elections but King Sihanouk favors gradual achievement of negotiated independence.
1949 French sign treaty stating will transfer de jure independence to Kingdom of Cambodia providing control over its own army and police except in time of war; but French officially stipulate a continuing state of war.

1950-1956 CAMBODIA BECOMES INDEPENDENT--SIHANOUK ANNOUNCES NEUTRAL FOREIGN POLICY
1950 Sihanouk takes stronger nationalist stance in face of increased Vietminh activity in Cambodia.
1952 Increasing anti-government activity from both communists and non-communists.
1953(Oct-Dec) French finally agree to independence in effort to prevent two-front war in Indochina. Sihanouk begins efforts to oust Vietminh forces; U.S. offers aid.
1954(Dec) Sihanouk announces Cambodia will remain unaligned and will conduct a neutral foreign policy.
1955 Sihanouk abdicates throne; competes in national elections. His party wins overwhelming victory. Bandung Conference understanding between Sihanouk and Communist China for peaceful co-existence and no foreign bases in Cambodia. Sihanouk renounces SEATO protection.

1957-1960 U.S. OPPOSES SIHANOUK CHINA POLICY--FOREIGN ELEMENTS WORK AGAINST SIHANOUK
1958 South Vietnamese army units invade Cambodia border areas. Cambodia appeals to U.S. to restrain Saigon; U.S. refuses. Cambodia proposes diplomatic relations with China. U.S. considers cutting off aid as anti-Sihanouk move. Khmer Serei (Free Cambodia) movement organized reportedly with CIA, Thai and Vietnamese aid. Thai begin anti-Cambodian campaign; Cambodia suspends diplomatic relations with Thailand.
1960 National referendum gives near unanimous support to Sihanouk policies. (Non-communist opposition elements compromised by implication in Bangkok Plot). Sihanouk made Chief of State for life.

1960-1964 SIHANOUK SEeks GUARANTEE OF NEUTRAL CAMBODIA--OUTSIDE INTERFERENCE CONTINUES
1960 Sihanouk calls for international conference on Laos.
1961 At Geneva Conference on Laos, Sihanouk proposes that neutralization of Laos be extended to Cambodia. Saigon persecution of Cambodia minority in Vietnam results in refugees fleeing to Cambodia. Thai accuse Cambodia of giving sanctuary to communist elements which seek to subvert rest of SEA; Cambodia breaks diplomatic relations with Thailand.
1962 Sihanouk calls for new conference in Geneva, this time to extend "international protection" to Cambodia; U.S. non-committal. Sihanouk offers to accept international control in return for recognition of existing borders. South Vietnamese oppose, carry out continued border violations.

1963 Cambodian protest at continued Saigon repression of Vietnamese Buddhists and discrimination against Cambodian minority in Vietnam; diplomatic relations broken. Anti-Sihanouk activity by Khmer Serei resumes at new intensity; includes virulent propaganda from CIA furnished transmitters in Thailand and South Vietnam. Sihanouk cancels U.S. aid agreements; Pentagon reacts by calling for intervention in Cambodia.


1964(Apr) Cambodia recalls its diplomatic mission from Washington. U.S. delegate in UN denies Cambodian charges about continuing U.S. involvement in border violations and states that U.S. is convinced "Vietnam has no aggressive designs toward Cambodia."

1964(Autumn) North Vietnam infiltrates first large force of regular troops through Cambodia into Mekong Delta. U.S. requests negotiations with Cambodia.

1964-1967 U.S.-CAMBODIA RENEW DISCUSSIONS--BORDER VIOLATIONS CONTINUE

1964(Dec) U.S. and Cambodia open talks in Cambodia; disagree over question of border determinations. Cambodia wants recognition of boundaries before international conference takes place. Talks broken off.

1965(Apr) Rusk indicates U.S. would participate in international conference on Cambodian neutrality.

1965(May-Oct) Cambodia severs diplomatic relations with U.S. Border violations continue; U.S. planes attack two Cambodian border villages in May and napalm a third in Oct.

1965(Nov) Sihanouk conditions for renewed U.S. relations: recognition of Cambodian territorial integrity; cessation of military incursion; indemnity for losses to life and property.

1966(Jan) U.S. 14-point peace plan for SEA includes possibility of neutralization. Armed border incursions continue. Rusk announces continued U.S. support for Cambodian neutrality, adds that Hanoi and Vietcong have abused it. UN mediation of Thai-Cambodian border conflict fails; border attacks continue.


1967-1969 LEFTIST AS WELL AS RIGHTIST ELEMENTS PRESSURE SIHANOUK--BORDER INCURSIONS CONTINUE


1967(June) Cambodia establishes diplomatic relations with North Vietnam; offers to renew relations with Thailand if borders recognized.

1967(Jul-Aug) U.S. sponsored Khmer Serei attacks continue into Cambodia and penetrate up to 12 miles.

1967(Sept-Oct) Sihanouk accuses China of imperialism and internal interference in Cambodia and threatens to seek aid from U.S.

1967(Nov) Reconciliation between Cambodia and Peking.

1967(Nov-Dec) U.S. continues refusal to recognize existing borders; it considers this is a matter for negotiations between Cambodia and its neighbors. U.S. upholds border incursions by U.S. army in "hot pursuit".

1968(Jan) Bowles mission to Cambodia; inconclusive in matter of re-establishing diplomatic relations. USSR condemns violation of Cambodian territorial integrity but opposes strengthening of International Control Commission. Sihanouk accuses communist elements of fomenting civil war in northwestern Cambodia.


1968(Sept) U.S. charges use of Cambodia for bases by Vietcong and North Vietnamese forces in northeast Cambodia and Svayrieng provinces has tripled.
1968 (Nov-Dec) Cambodia charges that U.S. air attacks killed 300 Cambodians in border villages. Four captured American flyers released.

1969-1970 SIHANOUK RAPPROCHEMENT WITH U.S.--MILITARY COUP OUSTS SIHANOUK

1969 (Apr) Cambodia offers to reestablish diplomatic relations with U.S. in exchange for recognition of her territorial integrity. U.S. states that it "recognizes and respects sovereignty, independence, neutrality and territorial integrity" of Cambodia. U.S. planes bomb border regions.

1969 (May) Two U.S. helicopters downed in Cambodia; NLF mission in Cambodia raised to Embassy status.


1969 (Aug) Sihanouk alleges 40,000 communist troops in Cambodia.

1969 (Oct) Sihanouk protests U.S. bombing of border provinces.

1970 (Jan) U.S. pays compensation for Cambodian losses resulting from continuing border clashes.

1970 (Mar 11-13) While Sihanouk in Europe, Premier Lon Nol and Cambodian army sanctions the sacking of North Vietnamese and NLF Embassies by Cambodian youths in Phnom Penh; action termed a protest against communist infiltration. Lon Nol's government orders Vietcong and North Vietnamese troops out of Cambodia. Cambodian military reportedly backs continuing demonstrations against NLF and Hanoi.


March 27 South Vietnamese troops launch first major attack against Cambodian sanctuaries with U.S. helicopter

March 28 White House announces American troops may cross border in response to enemy threats

March 29-30 Pro-Sihanouk demonstrations in eastern provinces. North Vietnamese and Vietcong troops move against government forces. Vietnamese residents in Cambodia flee to South Vietnam as result of widespread persecution in eastern provinces.

March 30 Cambodia appeals for UN observers, asks for return of ICC.

April 1 Cambodia says would accept U.S. military aid but not ground troops. France calls for general conference on Indochina.

April 3 New York Times reports that authoritative Nixon Administration sources say Vietcong headquarters was moved in late March from Cambodia to South Vietnam (This is the "headquarters" for the Communist operations in S. Vietnam, or COSVN).

April 9 Cambodian troops withdraw from Parrot's beak area on border abandoning it to virtual Vietcong control. Continuing reports of Vietnamese civilians in Cambodia being massacred.

April 15 All diplomatic missions in Phnom Penh receive official request for arms and equipment for use against communist forces.

April 21 Reports say that Vietnamese communists are in complete control of three Cambodian provinces (with partial control of three others) and are within 15-20 miles of Phnom Penh.

April 22 U.S. agrees to send captured arms from Vietnam to Cambodia. U.S. calls situation in Cambodia a "foreign invasion of a neutral country." South Vietnam sends delegation to Phnom Penh to discuss repatriation of Vietnamese civilians.

April 27 U.S. Senate Foreign Relations Committee states opposition to extension of military aid to Cambodia.

April 30 Nixon authorizes joint U.S.-South Vietnamese attacks into Cambodia to clean out the communist bases. He states that enemy actions in Cambodia "clearly endanger the lives of Americans who are in Vietnam." Merely to send arms, he says, would be ineffectve. He rejects calls for peace at any price, claiming
that the situation is a test of American will and character. (particularly COSVN)

May 2 Military planners say it was feared the Vietcong were planning to take over Cambodia and turn it into a massive supply base/staging area; this would have "outflanked" the U.S. in South Vietnam and "our strategy of Vietnamization would have had very little chance."

May 3 Elaborate underground facilities believed to house COSVN not yet found, although are indications many enemy troops fled recently from Fishhook area. "VC" houses in area burned by South Vietnamese troops.

May 4 Supply cache found in Fishhook area, but few enemy troops and no headquarters. Reconnaissance area extended 30 miles inside Fishhook; U.S. bombing area 60 miles inside Fishhook. U.S. secretly sends 2,000 man Cambodian mercenary unit (which had been part of border mobile strike force led and paid by Green Berets) to Phnom Penh in response to April 20 request of Lon Nol; not accompanied by U.S. or South Vietnamese advisers.

May 5 Large enemy base area, 2 miles long and 1 mile wide, called "The City" found in the Fishhook area; includes storage sheds, bunkers etc.; at same time U.S. officials in Saigon scale down definition of success in Cambodian operation to measure of supplies captured and facilities destroyed. Few now say they expect to find elaborate installations which could definitely be identified as the headquarters for the entire communist military operation in South Vietnam. Other forays into eastern Cambodia are believed inevitable as is postponement of substantial withdrawals of U.S. troops from South Vietnam.

May 6 Nixon states to Congressional committees that U.S. troops will leave Cambodia within 3 to 7 weeks and will not penetrate more than 21 miles without prior congressional approval. Third major allied assault into Cambodia begins. More Khmer mercenaries flown into Phnom Penh; Vietnamese communist troops continue advance on Cambodian capital.

May 7 Total of 50,000 allied troops now committed to Cambodian operation. U.S. launches 2 new assaults.

May 8 White House announces discovery of "most sophisticated base complex" yet found; no verification that it is part of COSVN. White House spokesman says "COSVN is probably a group of men who move around." Saigon announces planned South Vietnamese gunboat flotilla up Mekong to rescue Vietnamese refugees in Phnom Penh.

May 9 Intelligence officers say they are fairly certain "The City" is only a large supply depot and does not contain COSVN; removing the supplies could take weeks or months. Lon Nol government welcomes South Vietnamese flotilla plans. 20,000 Vietnamese reportedly under arrest in Phnom Penh.

May 10 White House terms the Cambodian drive a success as the destruction of enemy bases will prevent widened enemy activity inside South Vietnam; admits COSVN not found. Nixon at press conference says U.S. will begin withdrawal next week. Flotilla of 60 South Vietnamese and 30 U.S. gunboats start up Mekong; 2 new ground assaults across Cambodian border.

May 11 U.S. field commanders say Nixon time limit too short to allow thorough search of seized densely jungled sanctuaries.

May 13 South Vietnamese leaders reiterate plan to continue military operations in Cambodia after U.S. withdrawal. Joint U.S.-South Vietnamese naval blockade of Cambodia begins.

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