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WASHINGTON CONCERNED OVER CAMBODIAN BROADCAST ALLUDING TO DEATH
OF PRESIDENT KENNEDY

FR New York: NONG KIMNY
TO Phnom Penh: MINAFERES
Msg Nr: 151/DGP/X

10 Dec 63 1146
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I have the honor to inform you that Ambassador YOST, on instructions from the State Department, told me that yesterday morning Radio Cambodia broadcast a bulletin from the Ministry of Information inviting the Cambodian people to celebrate the recent death of "the enemies of Cambodia, DIEM and SARIT." The text of this broadcast stated, "the big boss((A)) of these aggressors has met the same fate. Those who ill-treat Cambodia and scorn our revered leader will not live long and will be destroyed." The transmission announced that leave would be granted to any official wanting to attend this celebration.

Ambassador YOST consequently expressed the serious misgivings of Washington at the allusion to the death of President KENNEDY. The American Government is shocked at hearing the allusion in this "barbaric declaration" and expresses the hope that a public disavowal of the allusion to the death of President KENNEDY may be made.

I replied that I reserve my opinion for the moment, since I do not hold the text of the statement. Nevertheless, I pointed out to Ambassador YOST that His Royal Highness and the Royal Government gave proof of their esteem and respect for President KENNEDY by sending Prime Minister KANTOL to Washington to attend the funeral. I also told him that our people enjoy a long history of culture, civilization and religion. Therefore, I rejected categorically the expression "barbaric declaration" used by

Cambodian

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Ambassador YOST. He informed me that Ambassador SPROUSE will seek an audience with His Royal Highness on this matter. Demarches will be made simultaneously in Phnom Penh and Washington, demonstrating that Washington is shocked by this painful allusion to the former President.

Please cable instructions.

((A)) LE GRAND PATRON in text.

MS 974

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