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DEPARTMENT OF DEFENSE JOINT CHIEFS OF STAFF MESSAGE CENTER

RTTCZYUW RUEAIIA0914 1462022
ROUTINE
R 262017Z MAY 81

FM CIA

TO DIRNSA DEPT OF STATE
DIA TREASURY DEPT
SECRET SERVICE FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION
DEPT OF JUSTICE WHITE HOUSE SITUATION ROOM
NATIONAL SECURITY COUNCIL STAFF
CIA OFFICE OF CURRENT OPERATIONS
CINCPAC HONOLULU HI CINCPACFLT PEARL HARBOR HI
CDRWESTCOM FT SHAFTER HI COMIPAC HONOLULU HI
CINCPACAF HICKAM AFB HI CIA REP SAC OFFUTT AFB NE
CONSEVENTHFLT

BT

CONFIDENTIAL NOFORN WMINTEL SECTION 1 OF 2
CIA 947637
NSA FOR ZKZK OO DLS DE (FOR NSOC): STATE FOR INR AND SY/TAG; DIA FOR
DIA, SWS, CIA/NMCC; SECRET SERVICE FOR ID; JUSTICE FOR EPC
TDFIR-314/00720-81
DIST: 26 MAY 1981

CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE AGENCY

THIS IS AN INFORMATION REPORT, NOT FINALLY EVALUATED INTELLIGENCE.
REPORT CLASS CONFIDENTIAL WMINTEL-NOFORN

COUNTRY: KAMPUCHEA/VIETNAM/EAST GERMANY/CUBA

SUBJECT: THE FACULTY OF MEDICINE AND HEALTH CONDITIONS IN
PHNOM PENH (DOI: APRIL 1981)

SOURCE: AN OFFICIAL AUSTRALIAN SERVICE FROM THE DEBRIEFING OF
TWO STUDENTS FROM THE FACULTY, AGED 26 AND 27, WHO
WERE STUDYING THIRD YEAR LEVEL. THEY HAD BEEN
ENROLLED IN 1975 BUT WHEN THE FACULTY WAS CLOSED
THEY WERE SENT TO PURSAT PROVINCE TO FARM. THEY
WERE READMITTED AS SECOND YEAR STUDENTS IN JANUARY
1980. THE STUDENTS MADE THEIR WAY FROM PHNOM PENH
BY BICYCLE AND ARRIVED AT THE THAI BORDER ON 27 APRIL
1981.

SUMMARY: THE FACULTIES OF MEDICINE AND PHARMACY IN PHNOM PENH
HAVE A COMBINED ENROLLMENT OF OVER 700 STUDENTS. TWO
VIETNAMESE ADVISORS ARE ASSIGNED TO THE FACULTY OF MEDICINE.
POLITICAL CLASSES ARE HELD WEEKLY AND VIETNAMESE LANGUAGE IS
TAUGHT. THE GENERAL STANDARD OF HEALTH IN PHNOM PENH IS NOT
HIGH. CUBANS, EAST GERMANS AND VIETNAMESE WORK IN THE LOCAL
HOSPITALS, BUT NO RUSSIANS ARE PRESENT. MOST ASSISTANCE TO
THE FACULTY OF MEDICINE HAS COME VIA THE RED CROSS FROM FRANCE.
END SUMMARY.

1. THE FACULTY OF MEDICINE IS CO-LOCATED WITH THE
FACULTY OF PHARMACY IN A TWO STORY BUILDING ON MONIVONG
BOULEVARD (ALSO KNOWN AS BOULEVARD ACHAR MEAN OR SEING NGOC
MINH) NEXT TO DESCARTES HIGH SCHOOL NEAR THE PHNOM PENH
RAILWAY STATION. THE GROUND FLOOR OF THE BUILDING CONSISTS
OF A LECTURE ROOM AND SEVERAL PRACTICAL WORKSHOPS FOR
PHARMACY STUDENTS; THE FIRST FLOOR CONTAINS EIGHT CLASS-
ROOMS (FOUR FOR PHARMACY, FOUR FOR MEDICINE), AND THE
SECOND FLOOR IS A LARGE LECTURE ROOM.

2. THE FACULTY OF MEDICINE WAS CLOSED IN 1975 AND

ACTION DIA O/C(1) DIA(1) (U,P,7)
INFO CJCS:(*) CJCS(3) NIDS(*) SAGA(1) J3:NMCC(*) J5(2)
RJTF:LO(1) SECDEF:(*) SECDEF(7) USDP(15)
ASD:PA&E(1) DI-1(1) NMIC(*) RSS-1(1) SWS(1) AAT-X(1)
DIO(1) VP-A2 FRD(1) DE(1) DB-1A(1) DB-1G(1) DB-2A(1)
DB-4A(1) DB-5(1) DB-1E(1) DB3A(3) DT-1(1)
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REOPENED IN JANUARY 1979. BOTH FACULTIES COMBINED HAVE AN
ENROLLMENT OF OVER 700 STUDENTS. OF THIS NUMBER, SOME 420
ARE STUDYING MEDICINE. MEDICINE IS A SEVEN YEAR COURSE,

THAT FOR PHARMACY IS FIVE YEARS. THE BREAKDOWN OF NUMBERS
OF STUDENTS CURRENTLY IN THE FACULTY OF MEDICINE IS AS
FOLLOWS: (APPROXIMATE FIGURES ONLY)

1ST YEAR	170
2ND YEAR	180
3RD YEAR	60
4TH YEAR	30
5TH YEAR	20
6TH YEAR	20
7TH YEAR	(APPROXIMATELY) 18 STUDENTS GRADUATED SINCE 1980.

3. FOR THE FIRST TWO YEARS, FACULTY OF MEDICINE
STUDENTS CONCENTRATE ON THEORETICAL PRINCIPLES AND EXTEND
THESE TO PRACTICAL WORK DURING THIRD YEAR. THERE IS NO
LABORATORY FOR STUDENTS AT THE FACULTY AND APART FROM
MICROSCOPES FOR SLIDE ANALYSIS, NO EQUIPMENT. THIRD YEAR STUDENTS
AND ABOVE SPEND THEIR MORNINGS WORKING AT LOCAL HOSPITALS
AND RETURN TO CLASSES IN THE AFTERNOON FOR FURTHER LECTURES
ON THEORY. TEACHING HOSPITALS INCLUDE THE FORMER CHINESE
HOSPITAL ON MONIVONG BOULEVARD AND THE 17TH APRIL HOSPITAL
WHICH IS IN FRONT OF PHNOM PENH-UNIVERSITY. STUDENTS MAY
ALSO ATTEND A PEDIATRICS HOSPITAL RUN BY WORLD VISION
WHICH IS ONE OF THE BUSIEST HOSPITALS IN PHNOM PENH. IN
THE HOSPITALS, STUDENTS ARE REQUIRED TO OBSERVE ALL FORMS
OF GENERAL SURGERY AND TO RECEIVE TRAINING IN DIAGNOSIS.
FROM 4TH YEAR ONWARDS, STUDENTS VISIT MATERNITY WARDS AND
GAIN EXPERIENCE IN DELIVERING BABIES.

4. SUBJECTS INCLUDED IN THE 2ND YEAR CURRICULUM ARE:

PHYSICS
PHYSIOLOGY
ANATOMY
HISTOLOGY
SEMIOLOGY

INSTRUCTION IS GIVEN LARGELY IN FRENCH (ESPECIALLY FOR
MEDICAL TERMS) BUT EXPLANATIONS ARE PROVIDED IN THE KHMER
LANGUAGE. MOST TEXTBOOKS ORIGINATE IN FRANCE AND HAVE BEEN
RECEIVED THROUGH INTERNATIONAL ASSISTANCE. THE MAJOR STUDENT
TEXT IS "ANATOMIE" BY CASTAIN AND ROUVIERE. THE FACULTY HAS
A WELL-STOCKED LIBRARY WHICH CAN ACCOMMODATE 100 READERS.

HOURS OF STUDY ARE FROM 7-11 AM, AND 2-6 PM.

5. DEAN OF THE FACULTY OF MEDICINE IS DR. M Y SAMEDY;
HE IS ASSISTED BY DR. T E P THO. B A N CHHAN IS IN CHARGE OF THE
SECRETARIAT AND S E N G LAMNOU HEADS THE SERVICE/PERSONNEL
SECTION. THERE ARE TWO VIETNAMESE ADVISORS ATTACHED TO THE
FACULTY, DR THON (FNU) WHO IS IN CHARGE OF ADMINISTRATION
AND DR. VONG (FNU). A THIRD VIETNAMESE, MR VAN (FNU) TEACHES
THE USE OF MICROSCOPES. HE IS A FRENCH SPEAKER. THERE ARE
SOME 40 STAFF EMPLOYED FOR BOTH FACULTIES, 30 OF WHOM WERE
EMPLOYED BEFORE 1975 AND THE OTHER 10 WHO ARE RECENT GRADUATES
FROM THE FACULTY.

6. MALE AND FEMALE STUDENTS LIVING AWAY FROM HOME ARE
ACCOMMODATED IN THE FORMER DENTAL CLINIC AND IN A FORMER CHURCH
MANSE. THE STUDENTS RECEIVE A SALARY OF 80 RIEL
(FOUR RIEL EQUAL APPROXIMATELY U.S. \$1.000 PER MONTH
LESS AN AMOUNT DEDUCTED FOR RICE RATIONS. STUDENTS LIVING AT
HOME RECEIVE 30 RIEL PER MONTH. ALL STUDENTS ARE PROVIDED
WITH TWO SETS OF CLOTHING ANNUALLY AS WELL AS A MOSQUITO NET.
THOSE LIVING IN HOSTEL ACCOMMODATION ALSO RECEIVE A SLEEPING
MAT. PAPER AND PENS WERE SUPPLIED IN 1980 BUT THIS
YEAR STUDENTS HAVE HAD TO PURCHASE THEIR OWN MATERIALS.
MEDICAL GARMENTS AND EQUIPMENT ARE SUPPLIED FREE OF CHARGE.

7. POLITICAL CLASSES ARE HELD EVERY TUESDAY AFTERNOON

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FOR THREE HOURS. ALL STUDENTS HAVE TO ATTEND THE CLASS.
THE CLASSES ARE CONDUCTED BY
SEK YEN, PRESIDENT OF THE PHNOM PENH POLITICAL SCHOOL AND
DIRECTOR OF ALL POLITICAL SCHOOLS THROUGHOUT KAMPUCHEA.
STUDIES LARGELY CONCERN THE POLITICAL, SOCIAL AND ECONOMIC
SOLIDARITY BETWEEN VIETNAM, LAOS AND KAMPUCHEA. AN EXAMINATION
IS HELD BEFORE THE MEDICAL EXAMINATION AND SUCCESS IN THE
POLITICAL EXAMINATION MUST BE ATTAINED BEFORE STUDENTS ARE
ALLOWED TO SIT FOR THEIR OTHER EXAMS. THE VIETNAMESE LANGUAGE
IS ALSO TAUGHT FOR FOUR HOURS PER WEEK WHEN OTHER CLASSROOMS
ARE VACANT.

8. THE GENERAL STANDARD OF HEALTH IN PHNOM PENH IS NOT
HIGH. THERE IS A PREVALENCE OF DIARRHEA AND DYSENTERY,
WHILE OTHER SERIOUS DISEASES INCLUDE HEPATITIS, MALNUTRITION
AND MALARIA. THERE IS AN AMPLE SUPPLY OF MEDICINES AND DRUGS
AVAILABLE INCLUDING AT HOSPITALS BUT THERE IS A POOR SYSTEM
OF DISTRIBUTION AND MUCH PILFERAGE WHICH SEES THE DRUGS
DIVERTED FOR PRIVATE SALE ON THE BLACK MARKET. CONDITIONS
IN THE HOSPITALS ARE SOUND AND STERILE. EQUIPMENT IS
ADEQUATE BUT MOST HOSPITALS WOULD NOT BE ABLE TO CARRY OUT
MAJOR SURGERY. STUDENTS WHO OBSERVE SURGICAL PROCEDURES
ARE ONLY SIMPLY DRESSED AND ARE REQUIRED TO LAUNDER THEIR
OWN UNIFORMS AND EQUIPMENT.

9. CURRENT SALARY FOR A DOCTOR OR SURGEON IS 110
RIEL PER MONTH. A NURSE RECEIVES 90 RIEL. IN THE PROVINCES,
A DOCTOR CAN EXPECT TO RECEIVE THE SAME SALARY BUT THAT FOR
A NURSE CAN DROP TO BELOW 60 RIEL.

10. THERE ARE CUBANS, EAST GERMANS AND VIETNAMESE
WORKING IN THE HOSPITALS, BUT NO RUSSIANS. THE RUSSIANS
HAVE NOT PROVIDED ANY EQUIPMENT FOR THE FACULTY OF MEDICINE
AND MOST ASSISTANCE (MICROSCOPES AND FUNDING) HAS COME VIA
THE RED CROSS FROM FRANCE.

11. (SOURCE COMMENTS: STUDENTS ARE DISSATISFIED WITH THE
SALARY PAID TO THEM AND THE POOR OR INDIFFERENT STANDARD OF
TEACHING. MOST STUDENTS ARE KEEN TO LEARN AND MANY UTILIZE THE

ACTION DIA O/C(1) DIA(1) (I,M)
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THREE HOUR LUNCH BREAK TO STUDY. HOWEVER, THEIR ENTHUSIASM IS
NOT ALWAYS MATCHED BY THE STAFF WHO ARE FREQUENTLY DILATORY IN
ATTENDANCE OF CLASSES.

MOST STUDENTS ARE POLITICALLY APATHETIC AND SHOW
LITTLE INTEREST IN THEIR POLITICAL STUDIES. THERE IS LITTLE
INDICATION OF ORGANIZED POLITICAL ACTIVITY IN THE FACULTY OF
MEDICINE OTHER THAN THAT ORGANIZED FOR THEM. WHILE MANY
HAVE HEARD OF PRINCE NORODOM
S I H A N O U K'S ACTIVITIES IN ATTEMPTING TO CREATE
A UNITED FRONT, THEY HAVE LITTLE RESPECT FOR SIHANOUK
BECAUSE OF HIS FORMER LINK WITH THE DEMOCRATIC KAMPUCHEA. THE SAME
STUDENTS HAVE HEARD OF S O N SANN BUT WOULD RATHER CONTINUE
THEIR STUDIES THAN BECOME INVOLVED IN POLITICS OR RESISTANCE
ACTIVITIES.)

12. ACQ: AUSTRALIA, MELBOURNE (21MAY1981). FIELD NO. FAM-3303.

13. FIELD DISSEM: EMBASSY AT CANBERRA. SENT TO CINCPAC,
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HONG KONG, BANGKOK, SINGAPORE, GENEVA, PARIS.
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