

CAMBODIAN RESISTANCE DELEGATION VISIT TO WASHINGTON

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TWO EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE MEMBERS OF SON SANN'S KHMER PEOPLE'S NATIONAL LIBERATION FRONT (KPNLF) DEPART BANGKOK FOR WASHINGTON MARCH 4. CANADA HAS REFUSED TO ADMIT THEM. THEY PLAN TO STOP IN JAPAN ON THE RETURN. IN WASHINGTON THEY HOPE TO CONTACT A SPECTRUM OF KHMER EXPATRIATES, AMERICAN LEGISLATORS, PRESS, AND HUMANITARIAN ORGANIZATIONS AS ARRANGED BY THE WASHINGTON FRONT LEADERSHIP. THEIR GOAL IS TO MEET LOCAL KHMER FRONT ORGANIZATIONS, POSSIBLY PREPARE FOR A SON SANN VISIT, AND LOBBY FOR AMERICAN ASSISTANCE TO THE KPNLF.

KPNLF EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE MEMBER HING KUNTHON PROVIDED US THE FOLLOWING SCHEDULE FOR HIMSELF AND HIS EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE COLLEAGUE IM CHUDETH: DEPART BANGKOK AT 0800 MARCH 4 VIA JL472 FOR TOKYO. AFTER AN OVERNIGHT STAY, PROBABLY AT THE NAKITA AIRPORT HOTEL, THEY WILL DEPART VIA JL006 AT 1000 MARCH 5. ARRIVAL AT NEW YORK JFK AIRPORT AT 1015 SAME DAY (MARCH 5). THEY WILL THEN BOARD AA351 LEAVING FROM LA GUARDIA AT 1320 FOR ARRIVAL (PRESUMABLY AT NATIONAL) AT 1420. KHMER ARE TRAVELING ON A THAI GOVERNMENT "EMERGENCY CERTIFICATE". THEY HAVE U.S. VISAS ON SEPARATE FORM. ACTION REQUESTED: THAT DEPARTMENT NOTIFY STATE DEPARTMENT RECEPTION CENTER AT JFK TO ENSURE NO MIS-UNDERSTANDINGS ON ENTRY.

WHILE IN THE STATES THE PAIR WILL BE UNDER THE CARE OF KPNLF WASHINGTON REP SANGKAR DE LOPEZ. THEY ARE HOPING FOR MEETINGS ON THE HILL, WITH JOURNALISTS AND HUMANITARIAN ORGANIZATIONS AS WELL AS MAKING CONTACT WITH LOCAL KPNLF ORGANIZATIONS IN CALIFORNIA, HOUSTON, TEXAS AND THE DC AREA. WE HAVE GIVEN HING KUNTHON EA/VLK DIRECTOR ANDERSON'S NAME AND OFFICE PHONE AND KUNTHON RECOGNIZED HIM AS AN "ANCIEN DE BANGKOK." THEY WILL BE SEEKING TO PREPARE THE WAY FOR A POSSIBLE SON SANN VISIT, PERHAPS FOLLOWING ON THE KPNLF LEADER'S VISIT TO FRANCE WHICH STARTS MARCH 6, AND MAY PROBE FOR SOME KIND OF AMERICAN COMMITMENT TO THE FRONT. IN THIS CONNECTION KUNTHON SAID HE FOUND THE DEPARTMENT SPOKESMAN'S FEBRUARY 27 REMARKS INTERESTING. THEY WILL LIKELY ALSO SEEK ADDITIONAL AMERICAN PRIVATE SUPPORT IN MONEY OR GOODS.

BOTH IM CHUDETH AND HING KUNTHON ARE IMPORTANT KPNLF FIGURES. IM CHUDETH IS REGARDED AS MORE SENIOR AND IS A POSSIBLE REPLACEMENT FOR, BUT NOT RIVAL TO, DIEN DEL, MILITARY COMMANDER OF KPNLF FORCES. AGE 51, CHUDETH (ALSO SPELLED CHOODETH) IS QUOTE DELEGATE OF THE EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE FOR INTERIOR AFFAIRS; FIRST DEPUTY CHIEF OF STAFF OF THE FANLPK (ARMED FORCES OF NATIONAL LIBERATION OF THE PEOPLE OF KAMPUCHEA);

COMMANDER OF THE KPNLF NORTHERN ZONE UNQUOTE. HE HAS A DIPLOMA IN THAI STUDIES, GRADUATED FROM THE KHMER MILITARY ACADEMY (10TH CLASS), ATTENDED THE NATIONAL INSTITUTE OF JUDICIAL, POLITICAL AND ECONOMIC STUDIES, AND HAS SEVERAL MILITARY SCHOOLS INCLUDING A COURSE AT THE ECOLE MILITAIRE D'ADMINISTRATION, MONTPELLIER, FRANCE. HE ENTERED THE CAMBODIAN ARMY AFTER SERVICE IN THE FOREIGN MINISTRY IN 1950 AND HELD GENERALLY STAFF POSITIONS EXCEPT FOR A THREE-YEAR STINT AS BATTALION COMMANDER IN SVAY RIENG AT THE HEIGHT OF THE VIETNAM WAR, 1965-68. HIS CLOSE RELATIONS TO THE THAI DATE TO A 1971 JOB AS LIAISON TO THE THAI SUPREME COMMAND; HE HAS TIES TO FORMER SIHANOUKIST THAI AMBASSADOR TO CAMBODIA CHANA SMUDSAVANICH. WE WOULD ASSESS CHUDETH TENTATIVELY AS LESS ANTI-SIHANOUK THAN MOST OF THE KPNLF LEADERSHIP. HE SPEAKS PASSABLE ENGLISH AND GOOD FRENCH. HE MAKES HIS POINTS FIRMLY IN CONVERSATION AND SEEMS COMMITTED TO KHMER RESISTANCE FOR THE LONG HAUL. HE FOUGHT ALONG THE BORDER DURING THE POL POT PERIOD AND ONCE TOLD US THAT FOR THE KPNLF AT THIS STAGE, "IF WE SURVIVE, WE WIN."

6. HING KUNTHON IS AMONG THE FEW KPNLF LEADERS WHO LIVED UNDER POL POT. HE JOINED THE KPNLF IN OCTOBER 1979 AFTER ESCAPE FROM HENG SAMRIN'S CAMBODIA. AGE 49, HE IS A STATISTICAL ENGINEER, TRAINED AT THE INSEE IN PARIS AND ALSO HAS A LICENSE IN LAW AND SEVERAL DIPLOMAS IN COMMERCIAL LAW AND ECONOMICS. HE WAS A BANKER FROM HIS RETURN FROM STUDY IN 1957 UNTIL 1975.
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HIS TITLE IS: QUOTE DELEGATE OF THE EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE FOR ECONOMIC, FINANCIAL AND DEVELOPMENT AFFAIRS, REPRESENTATIVE OF THE KPNLF TO THE GENERAL STAFF OF THE FANLPK UNQUOTE. QUIET AND SOFT-SPOKEN KUNTHON IS AT HOME IN FRENCH, BUT HAS NO ENGLISH. HE HAS CONTRIBUTED TO THE KPNLF'S ANALYSIS OF ITS SITUATION AND HE HAS ASSESSED FRONT VULNERABILITIES TO THAI AND CHINESE PRESSURE CANDIDLY IN CONVERSATION WITH US. HE IS SOLID BUT NOT FLASHY, AND HIS EXPERIENCE IN POL POT'S CAMBODIA HAS GIVEN HIM A QUIET PRESENCE THAT MAY OVERCOME THE NEED FOR TRANSLATION IN CONVERSATION WITH AMERICAN INTERLOCUTORS. HING KUNTHON'S WIFE AND CHILDREN LIVE IN MONTREAL AND HE WAS DIS-APPOINTED MARCH 3 TO LEARN THAT THE CANADIAN GOVERNMENT HAS REFUSED PERMISSION FOR HIM TO ENTER CANADA. AS A CONSOLATION, CANADIAN COUNSELOR IN WASHINGTON VON NOSTIZ WILL RECEIVE HIM. THE CANADIAN EMBASSY CLAIMED TO US THAT THE DECISION WAS THAT OF THEIR IMMIGRATION SERVICE, UNMOVED BY FOREIGN OFFICE PLEAS.

7. AFTER AN AS YET UNDETERMINED STAY IN THE STATES THE PAIR WILL RETURN TO THAILAND VIA JAPAN. HING KUNTHON SAID HE HAS INVITATIONS FROM NUMEROUS JAPANESE GROUPS AND PLANS A MINIMUM STAY OF TWO WEEKS THERE. THE ONLY CHANGE OF PLANS COULD OCCUR IF SON SANN CALLS THEM TO PARIS.