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THE WHITE HOUSE
WASHINGTON

April 3, 1975

MR7

MEMO FOR: DON RUMSFELD

FROM: JACK MARSH *jm*

Attached for the President's consideration is the report on Congressional contacts in re the Phnom Penh matter.

Since he had departed before this was completed, please inform Henry.

Thanks.

Jack

Attachment

NOTE: A copy of this memorandum has been made and sent to Secretary Kissinger this evening. DCH 4/3/75 9:30 pm

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Determined by the FBI to be a true and correct copy of the original and
Archival copy made on 4/28/88

By DWR date 4/28/88

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**CONGRESSIONAL LEADERSHIP
CONTACTS - PHNOM PENH
EVACUATION
4/3/75**

House

Albert	cable/China via U. S. Ambassador
Rhodes	cable/China via U. S. Ambassador
O'Neill	cable/Egypt via U. S. Ambassador
Michel	see notes attached
Price	cable/Egypt via U. S. Ambassador
Wilson	cable/Egypt via U. S. Ambassador
Morgan	see notes attached
Broomfield	see notes attached
McFall	see notes attached

Senate

Eastland	see notes attached
Mansfield	see notes attached
Scott, H.	cable/Spain via U. S. Ambassador
Griffin	see notes attached
Byrd, R.	see notes attached
Stennis	see notes attached
Thurmond	see notes attached
Sparkman	see notes attached
Case	unable to reach - travel status

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DRAFT CABLE

FOR THE AMBASSADOR

1. Please inform (Senator _____) (Congressman _____) of the following developments ASAP:
2. BEGIN MESSAGE: The President has authorized our Ambassador in Phnom Penh to begin evacuation of the American staff under our established evacuation plans. Phase One will begin immediately and will reduce down to a bare minimum essential staff those Americans remaining. It will utilize fixed-wing aircraft and the civilian airport. Most US citizens, some third-country nationals and some Khmer will be lifted out under Phase One.
3. Should it become essential--because of security developments in Phnom Penh--to remove the remaining minimum staff, this will be done. You should be aware that this final step could require, in extreme circumstances, the use of helicopters and limited number of Marine security forces to secure landing zones.
4. It is essential that information be held in strictest confidence to prevent any publicity that could jeopardize the lives of the remaining Americans in Phnom Penh. END MESSAGE.
5. Please confirm when message has been delivered.

/s/ John O. Marsh, Jr.
Counsellor to the President

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**THE WHITE HOUSE
WASHINGTON**

April 3, 1975

Notification of Phnom Penh evacuation

Senator Sparkman by Kendall

Time: 4:00 p.m.

Place reached: Alabama

Comment: Certainly a mess. Appears to be a good plan.

W. Kendall

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TALKING NOTES FOR PHONE CONFERENCE WITH HOUSE AND SENATE LEADERS CONCERNING PHNOM PENH EVACUATION

1. The President has authorized our Ambassador in Phnom Penh to begin evacuation of the American staff under our established evacuation plans. Phase One will begin immediately and will reduce down to a bare minimum essential staff those Americans remaining. It will utilize fixed-wing aircraft and the civilian airport. Most US citizens, some third-country nationals, and some Khmer will be lifted out under Phase One.
2. Should it become essential--because of security developments in Phnom Penh--to remove the remaining minimum staff, this will be done. You should be aware that this final step could require, in extreme circumstances, the use of helicopters and limited number of Marine security forces to secure landing zones.
3. It is essential that information be held in strictest confidence to prevent any publicity that could jeopardize the safety of the remaining Americans in Phnom Penh.

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THE WHITE HOUSE
WASHINGTON

April 3, 1975

Notification of Phnom Penh evacuation:

Senator Stennis by Marsh

Time: 7:40 p.m.

Place reached: Alumni Hall, University of Mississippi,
Oxford, Mississippi

Comment: Appreciated the call. He had an understanding and a cooperative attitude. Said he approved of whatever steps the President had to take in this particular regard. Raised question about level ammunition stocks available to South Vietnamese. Mentioned he had planned to hold hearings on this subject Tuesday but may defer pending developments.

NOTES: Efforts to reach Senator Stennis began at approximately 2 p.m., but were unsuccessful during the afternoon until it was learned from his Administrative Assistant his whereabouts in Mississippi. He was reached on the third attempt.

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THE WHITE HOUSE
WASHINGTON

April 3, 1975

MEMORANDUM FOR:

JACK MARSH

THRU:

MAX FRIEDERSDORF *RFW*
VERN LOEN

FROM:

CHARLES LEPPERT, JR. *CLJ*

SUBJECT:

Member Contact and Reaction on
Status in Cambodia

Member contact and reaction on the above subject are attached.

Four reports attached.

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Member: Bill Broomfield

Date: 4/3/75

Time: 2:39 p. m.

Place: Washington, D. C.

Available: Yes - spoke personally w/Member

Message: Read message as status report to Member

Comments: "No comments. President doing proper thing under the circumstances."

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Member: Bob Michel
Date: 4/3/75
Time: 2:43 p. m.
Place: District Office, Peoria, Ill.
Available: Yes - spoke personally w/member
Message: Read message as status report
Comments: "No more than what we could expect."

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Member: Thomas "Doc" Morgan
Date: 4/3/75
Time: 2:59 p. m.
Place: Washington, *D.C. City*
Available: Yes, spoke personally with Member
Message: Read message on status report to Member
Comments: "Doesn't sound very good. Thank you."

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Member: John McFall

Date: 4/3/75

Time: 3:15 p. m.

Place: Yosemite National Park, Calif.

Available: Yes, spoke personally with Member

Message: Read message as status report

Comments: No comments -- Kind of expected that. Spoke of call from Rep. Ed Pattison of N. Y. on his invite to Paris by Society of Friends in N. Y. Asked that we help Pattison. Advised that we would assist Pattison on information that State Dept. has on the proposed Paris meeting.

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THE WHITE HOUSE
WASHINGTON

April 3, 1975

Notification of Phnom Penh evacuation

Senator Thurmond by Kendall

Time: 3:15 p.m.

Place reached: South Carolina

Comment: Hopes President does all he can to help South Vietnam and Cambodia

W. Kendall

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THE WHITE HOUSE
WASHINGTON

April 3, 1975

Notification of Phnom Penh evacuation:

Senator Griffin by Kendall

Time: 7:15 p.m.

Place reached: Las Vegas

Comment: Made no comment on the message, but did not indicate
an adverse position.

NOTE: First attempts to reach Griffin were not successful
because he was in travel status

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THE WHITE HOUSE

WASHINGTON

April 3, 1975

Notification of Phnom Penh evacuation

Senator Eastland by Kendall

Time: 7:35 p.m.

Place reached: Mississippi

Comment: Agrees with it, but said, "Why in the hell don't
we drop the bomb on North Vietnam".

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THE WHITE HOUSE
WASHINGTON

April 3, 1975

Notification of Phnom Penh evacuation

Senator Robert Byrd by Kendall

Time: 7:30 p.m.

Place reached: Washington, D. C.

Comment: This is something that has to be done.

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THE WHITE HOUSE

WASHINGTON

April 3, 1975

Notification of Phnom Penh evacuation

Senator Mansfield by Kendall

Time: 2:30 p.m.

Place reached: Florida

Comment: Little bit leery of use of Marines. Ought to be plenty of time to get out.

W. Kendall

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MEMORANDUM

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THE WHITE HOUSE

WASHINGTON

April 3, 1975

TO: DON RUMSFELD

FROM: JACK MARSH 

Bill Kendall reached Seantor Case tonight at 9:30 re the Phnom Penh matter. You will recall that Case was a principal author of the War Powers Legislation.

In response to the information Kendall gave him, Case responded that the Senate Foreign Relations staff had prepared for the signature of Sparkman and himself, a letter requiring consultation in reference to the evacuation type operations which he, Case, had refused to sign and therefore was abandoned.

Case advised the staff the War Powers Act does not cover rescue operations and therefore Congressional consultation is not necessary. He indicated his approval of the President's plan.

We believe it best not to go public at this time with Case's comment until we can do some further background which we will do first thing tomorrow.

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