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SIRIK MATAK'S LETTER OF APRIL 12 TO AMBASSADOR DEAN

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ACTION SS-25

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 SSO-00 /026 W
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R 130525Z APR 75
FM AMEMBASSY BANGKOK
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 2647

C O N F I D E N T I A L BANGKOK 6265

EXDIS

CAMBODIA B-7

E.O. 11652: GDS
TAGS: PFOR, AEMR, US, CB
SUBJECT: SIRIK MATAK'S LETTER OF APRIL 12 TO AMBASSADOR DEAN

REF: BANGKOK 6258

1. AS MENTIONED IN REFTEL (CAMBODIA B-6), SISOWATH SIRIK MATAK,

HIGH COUNSELOR TO THE PRESIDENT OF THE KHMER REPUBLIC AND ONE OF THE PRINCIPAL FIGURES IN THE EVENTS OF MARCH 18, 1970 WHICH LED TO THE OVERTHROW OF NORODOM SIHANOUK, WAS GIVEN AN OPPORTUNITY BY AMBASSADOR DEAN TO DEPART CAMBODIA ON THE MORNING OF APRIL 12, IN CONNECTION WITH THE EVACUATION OF THE AMERICAN EMBASSY AT PHNOM PENH. HE REPLIED BY SENDING THE FOLLOWING HANDWRITTEN NOTE TO AMBASSADOR DEAN WHILE THE EVACUATION WAS IN PROGRESS:

2. QUOTE. PHNOM PENH 12 APRIL 1975. DEAR EXCELLENCY AND FRIEND, I THANK YOU VERY SINCERELY FOR YOUR LETTER AND FOR YOUR OFFER TO TRANSPORT ME TOWARDS FREEDOM. I CANNOT, ALAS, LEAVE IN SUCH A COWARDLY FASHION. AS FOR YOU, AND IN PARTICULAR FOR YOUR GREAT COUNTRY, I NEVER BELIEVED FOR A MOMENT THAT YOU WOULD HAVE THIS SENTIMENT OF ABANDONING A PEOPLE WHICH HAS CHOSEN LIBERTY. YOU HAVE REFUSED US YOUR PROTECTION, AND WE CAN DO NOTHING ABOUT IT.

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3. YOU LEAVE, AND MY WISH IS THAT YOU AND YOUR COUNTRY WILL FIND HAPPINESS UNDER THIS SKY. BUT, MARK IT WELL, THAT IF I SHALL DIE HERE ON THE SPOT AND IN MY COUNTRY THAT I LOVE, IT IS TOO BAD, BECAUSE WE ALL ARE BORN AND MUST DIE /ONE DAY/. I HAVE ONLY COMMITTED THIS MISTAKE OF BELIEVING IN YOU, /THE AMERICANS/.

4. PLEASE ACCEPT, EXCELLENCY AND DEAR FRIEND, MY FAITHFUL AND FRIENDLY SENTIMENTS. S/ SIRIK MATAK
END QUOTE.
MASTERS

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