

## Message Text

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PAGE 01 BANGKO 22268 271129Z  
ACTION EA-12

INFO OCT-01 ADS-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-05 H-01 INR-10  
L-03 NSAE-00 PA-01 SP-02 SS-15 NSCE-00 SSO-00  
ICAE-00 INRE-00 IO-14 HA-05 SR-04 AID-05 /078 W  
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O 271120Z JUN 79

FM AMEMBASSY BANGKOK  
TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 9367

C O N F I D E N T I A L BANGKOK 22268

HW UDORN 152 SENT ACTION BANGKOK 27 JUNE RPTD FOR YOUR  
ACTION

QTE

C O N F I D E N T I A L UDORN 152

E.O. 12065: N/A

TAGS: SREF SHUM PEPR TH CB

SUBJECT: REPATRIATED KHMER REFUGEES

REF: A) UDORN 0150 (B) BANGKOK 21887 (C) VARIOUS TELECONS

1. ON JUNE 25 RELIABLE THAI MILITARY AUTHORITIES REPORTED THAT LARGE NUMBERS OF KHMER REPATRIATED ACROSS TA THAU PASS NEAR PREAH VIHEAR ARE STILL IN THE AREA. DIFFERENT GROUPS OF 200-300 REFUGEES CONTINUE TO APPROACH THAI TROOPS GUARDING THAT AND ADJACENT PASSES AND HAVE BEEN FENDED OFF. UNHCR SOURCES REPORT A RUMOR THAT A FEW REFUGEES MADE IT BACK INTO DETENTION AT THE ARMY CAMP WHICH IS CPM 2122 HEADQUARTERS IN KANTHARALAK BUT WERE QUICKLY REPATRIATED AGAIN. MILITARY SOURCES ADD THAT HENG SAMRIN/VIETNAMESE ELEMENTS ARE SO FAR "UNABLE TO MANAGE" THIS REFUGEE PROBLEM.

2. LOW LEVEL INTELLIGENCE SOURCES SUGGEST, HOWEVER, THAT THE HENG SAMRIN/VIETNAMESE PRESENCE IN THE AREA IS SUBSTANTIAL. THE  
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TOWN OF CHOAM KHSAN, LESS THAN 50 KM FROM THE PASS, IS REPORTEDLY A MAJOR BASE WITH RECENT LARGE-SCALE AMMUNITION DELIVERIES BY TRUCK AND A GARRISON OF OVER 5,000 MEN. THIS COMMAND PRESUMABLY PROVIDED THE INFORMATION HENG SAMRIN RADIO USED TO ACCUSE THE THAIS. WHAT IS LESS SURE IS HOW THESE AUTHORITIES WILL TREAT A PREDOMINANTLY ETHNIC CHINESE POPULATION MANY OF WHOM CLAIM THAT THEY ORIGINALLY FLED CAMBODIA WITH THE ENCOURAGEMENT OF THE NEW REGIME.

3. THOSE FORCED BACK HAVE CLEARLY UNDERGONE A HARROWING EXPERIENCE. A VERY GOOD SOURCE READ ME A SHORT LETTER FROM ONE OF THE THAI TROOPS WHO PARTICIPATED IN THE REFOULEMENT. HE CLAIMED TO HAVE SEEN 2,000 BODIES AS OF JUNE 12 WITH MORE THAN 500 KILLED BY MINES. THAI TROOPS SHOT OTHERS: HE WROTE SPECIFICALLY ABOUT ONE SUCH SOLDIER, A SEUA LUONG (YELLOW TIGER) WHO BOASTED OF KILLING 12 AND TAKING THEIR GOLD AND CLOTHING. OTHER REFUGEES, HE NOTED, DIED FROM LACK OF FOOD.

4. COMMENT: SOME THAI SOLDIERS HAVE ENGAGED IN INDIVIDUAL CRIMINAL BEHAVIOR OF THE SORT COMMON TO ALL ERAS. MORE SERIOUS ARE THE DEATHS FROM MINES WHICH GIVE LIE TO THAI CLAIMS THAT REFUGEES RETURNED TO A "SAFE" AREA. THIS POINT MAY GIVE THE EMBASSY ADDITIONAL LEVERAGE TO ARGUE THAT THAILAND'S REPUTATION CAN ONLY BE REFURBISHED BY A HUMANITARIAN DONATION OF FOOD AND SEED TO THOSE WHO HAVE SUFFERED REPATRIATION.  
CARNEY UNQTE AMBRAMOWITZ

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## Message Attributes

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**Decaption Date:** 01 jan 1960  
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**Disposition Action:** RELEASED  
**Disposition Approved on Date:**  
**Disposition Case Number:** n/a  
**Disposition Comment:** 25 YEAR REVIEW  
**Disposition Date:** 20 Mar 2014  
**Disposition Event:**  
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**Type:** TE  
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