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Subject copy filed on
Kampuchea (Oct-79) Situation

GRS 530

PRIME MINISTER'S

PERSONAL MESSAGE T1575/79T

SERIAL No.

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FII FCO 291706Z NOV 79

TO IMMEDIATE PEKING

TELEGRAM NUMBER 721 OF 29 NOVEMBER

INFO SAVING TOKYO, WASHINGTON, UKMIS NEW YORK, UKREP BRUSSELS,
UKMIS GENEVA

MY TELEGRAM NO 417 TO BONN: CAMBODIA: DE-RECOGNITION OF POL POT

1. PLEASE DELIVER THE FOLLOWING MESSAGE FROM THE PRIME MINISTER TO
PREMIER HUA GUOFENG:

BEGINS

DURING YOUR VISIT TO BRITAIN I GREATLY VALUED OUR EXCHANGE
OF VIEWS ABOUT INDO-CHINA.

YOU WILL REMEMBER THAT WHEN YOU JOINED ME FOR DINNER AT NO
10 DOWNING STREET, I SAID THAT I HAD BEEN GLAD TO NOTE THAT YOU
HAD CRITICISED SOME OF POL POT'S POLICIES: WE WERE ALSO STRONGLY
OPPOSED TO THEM. I ALSO TOLD YOU THAT OUR CRITERIA FOR RECOGNITION
REQUIRED THAT A GOVERNMENT SHOULD BE IN CONTROL OF THE COUNTRY
CONCERNED AND THAT CLEARLY POL POT'S GOVERNMENT WAS NOT. I MADE
IT PLAIN, HOWEVER, THAT WE HAD ABSOLUTELY NO INTENTION OF
RECOGNISING THE REGIME OF HENG SAMRIN WHICH HAD BEEN INSTALLED BY
THE VIETNAMESE AND DEPENDED ON THEM FOR ITS SURVIVAL.

I KNOW THAT YOUR GOVERNMENT CONTINUES TO RECOGNISE
DEMOCRATIC KAMPUCHEA. HOWEVER THERE ARE OTHER IMPORTANT GOVERNMENTS
WHO ARE FIRMLY OPPOSED TO VIETNAM'S INVASION OF CAMBODIA, WHO
RECOGNISE NONE OF THE PARTIES THERE. WE HAVE NOW DECIDED THAT OUR
CRITERIA REQUIRE US TO BE AMONG THOSE WHO RECOGNISE NEITHER
DEMOCRATIC KAMPUCHEA NOR THE REGIME OF HENG SAMRIN, AND IN THE
SPIRIT OF MUTUAL CONFIDENCE BETWEEN US I THOUGHT I SHOULD TELL
YOU THAT OUR DECISION WILL BE MADE KNOWN IN THE HOUSE OF COMMONS
DURING A DEBATE ITEM ABOUT CAMBODIA, ON 6 DECEMBER.

IN REACHING THIS DECISION I GAVE GREAT WEIGHT TO
THE VIEWS YOU SO CLEARLY EXPRESSED TO ME. BUT THERE IS MUCH
CONCERN IN THIS COUNTRY ABOUT THE INHUMANE POLICIES OF POL POT
AND A DESIRE THAT THE BRITISH GOVERNMENT SHOULD NO LONGER RECOGNISE
HIS GOVERNMENT NOW THAT IT DOES NOT CONTROL ANY MAJOR PART OF
CAMBODIA.

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WE

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WE SHALL MAKE IT PLAIN THAT HENG SAMRIN'S QUOTE REGIME UNQUOTE CANNOT BE REGARDED AS EXERCISING CONTROL IN CAMBODIA INDEPENDENTLY OF THE VIETNAMESE OCCUPATION ARMY. LIKE YOU, WE SHALL CONTINUE TO OPPOSE VIETNAMESE ATTEMPTS TO SECURE INTERNATIONAL ACCEPTANCE FOR HENG SAMRIN. WE HOLD FIRMLY TO THE VIEW THAT THE KHMER PEOPLE ARE ENTITLED TO SELF-DETERMINATION AND TO LIVE IN PEACE UNDER A GOVERNMENT OF THEIR OWN CHOOSING: AS YOU WILL BE AWARE, WE SUPPORTED THE RECENT U N GENERAL ASSEMBLY RESOLUTION CALLING FOR THE WITHDRAWAL OF FOREIGN FORCES IN CAMBODIA.

I SHOULD LIKE TO ADD THAT WE REMAIN VITALLY INTERESTED IN THE MAINTENANCE OF THE INDEPENDENCE AND STABILITY OF THE ASEAN COUNTRIES, ESPECIALLY THAILAND. THE SITUATION ON THE THAI-CAMBODIAN BORDER GIVES CAUSE FOR CONCERN AND WE SHALL CONTINUE TO DO WHAT WE CAN TO SUPPORT THE THAI GOVERNMENT'S EFFORTS TO DEAL WITH THE REFUGEE PROBLEM. WE SHALL ALSO MAINTAIN OUR SUPPORT FOR INTERNATIONAL EFFORTS AIMED AT SECURING A PEACEFUL RESOLUTION OF THE PROBLEMS OF THE REGION.

WITH BEST WISHES.

ENDS.

2. YOU SHOULD DRAW ON MY TEL TO BONN NO 417 AND TO BANGKOK NO 333 AS NECESSARY TO EXPLAIN OUR POSITION TO THE CHINESE IN GREATER DETAIL.

CARRINGTON

[COPIES SENT TO NO 10 DOWNING ST]

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