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U.S. Shows Cambodia How to Send Pleas for Funds

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WASHINGTON, Jan. 11—The State Department said today that its technical assistance to Cambodia extended to showing the Government how to send fundraising letters asking other countries for money.

Charles W. Bray 3d, the department spokesman, acknowledged that secret cablegram sent to Emory C. Swank, the United States Ambassador, contained a suggested form letter soliciting funds for Cambodia's for use by Premier Lon Nol in development.

The form letter, as drafted in Washington, left a blank space for the amount of money to be sought in each case.

The cable was made public today by Jack Anderson, the syndicated columnist, who has said that he has received "scores" of secret documents from an unidentified informant. Most of the material he has released so far has related to the recent Indian-Pakistani war.

'Political Approach' Urged

The message as quoted in part by Mr. Anderson, said: "We believe political approach necessary lest finance ministers, who are generally opposed to new aid programs, arrange for an evasive or negative reaction to appeal."

"Department believes high-level political appeal needed to improve chances for success," the message said, according to Mr. Anderson. "Letter from Lon Nol to heads of prospective donor governments could help nail down."

The columnist said the form letter began as follows:

"Excellency: I am writing this note on a personal basis in order to bring to Your Excellency's attention directly the economic problem that we are

now confronted with in the Khmer Republic."

It concluded: "I am asking that your government make a contribution of — to the fund for 1972 at a meeting to be held on Pnompenh."

According to Mr. Anderson, Premier Lon Nol was to fill in the blank with the amounts sought from the countries scheduled to take part at a meeting beginning Friday in the Cambodian capital.

Mr. Bray, who confirmed that the meeting would take place, said that Roderic L. O'Conner, Assistant Administrator for the Agency for International Development, would head the American delegation.

The United States is prepared to pledge half of the \$25-million sought by the Cambodians, Mr. Bray added.

The amounts sought from other countries, Mr. Anderson said, include \$7.5-million from Japan, \$3-million from Australia, \$500,000 from Britain, \$300,000 from New Zealand and \$250,000 each from Indonesia, Malaysia, Singapore, Thailand and the Philippines.

Mr. Anderson asserted that the State Department message said:

"Once letters were sent, we prepared to urge ourt embassies in key countries to make high-level approaches in support of Lon Nol request.

"We understand that Japanese will then move out and actively lobby for participation in E.S.F. [exchange support funds.] We can, on selective basis, do some lobbying here, especially with U.K. and Australia."

Up to now the State Department has declined to comment on Mr. Anderson's published documents. Apparently because of Congressional sensitivity to

American involvement in Cambodia, Mr. Bray was authorized to comment on the message and respond to Mr. Anderson's allegation that the United States was engaged in deception in getting others to aid Cambodia.

Mr. Bray, explaining that the United States was aiding Cambodia in organizing an aid consortium as it has done for Tunisia, Morocco, India and Pakistan, among others, said: "It is in part an attempt to lighten the burden on the United States taxpayers to enlist other countries in assist-

ance."

"We have consistently sought to aid the Cambodians to elicit support in other countries," he said. "We have been open throughout and have kept Congress informed."

The form letter "falls clearly and openly" under that policy, he added, saying: "As part of our technical assistance to the Cambodian Government, and to get the multilateral assistance fund off the ground, the department sent the embassy in Pnompenh a kind of letter it might send to potential donors."