

Sensitive Registry  
11-795

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The Honorable Carl W. Strom  
American Embassy  
Phnom Penh, Cambodia

Dear Mr. Ambassador:

Many times since my visit with you in Cambodia in June of 1957, and particularly with an increased mention of Cambodia in my daily reading, I have recalled the story of the sacred bull ceremonies, and the bull that didn't eat the rice that year.

The other day my inquisitiveness got the best of me, and I asked our people here what happened to the Cambodian rice crop for 1957. I gather for some time, with the rains delayed, it appeared that the sacred bull was pretty well advised, but with the rains coming in November, the Cambodians had a reasonably average crop and accordingly lifted the embargo and continued to export rice. I don't expect that even with this experience the sacred bull has been discredited.

Best regards to you and Mrs. Strom.

Sincerely,

C. P. Cabell  
General, USAF  
Deputy Director

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