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DIRECTOR INFO SAIGON,

REF: DIRECTOR 177336

Embassy received from Saigon an Info Copy of memo written by Mr. Steven Winship in Pol/Mil Section Saigon.

He met

With Mr. Pfieffer and Mr. Westing on 20 August.

In brief, memo says Pfieffer monopolized 45 minutes of conversation with Diagoge that U.S. government had wilfully violated Cambodian neutrality as typified by herbicide-spraying incident in spring 1969. Said Dept of State had lied to him in past but that his mission was to find truth and inform American people of the part played by CIA in bringing down Sihanouk. He showed letter from Senator Church in which was included statement that Air America responsible for Cambodian defoliation.

Said Senator Mansfield now interested and speculated that Seventh Air Force study mentioned in Senator Church's letter will confirm substance that Air America and CIA did the job. Pfieffer principal interest was not in

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SETTLING CLAIM SUBMITTED BY CAMBODIAN GOVERNMENT BUT TO FIX RESPONSIBILITY ON APPROPRIATE U.S. GOVERNMENT AGENCY.

2. REMAINDER OF MEMO COVERS OTHER NON-RELEVANT SUBJECTS REGARDING ECOLOGICAL DAMAGE IN VIETNAM SUCH AS CONTROLS ON HERBICIDE "ORANGE," "ROME" PLOWING, HEAVY BOMBING, ETC. MR. PFIEFFER WANTS TO COME TO PHNOM PENH BUT AS OF THIS WRITING HAS NOT SHOWN. SINCE WINSHIP POINTED HIM TOWARDS MR. LADD WE WILL KEEP HQS INFORMED IF ANY CONTACT MADE. JUDGING FROM TENOR OF MEMO PROFESSORS PFIEFFER AND WESTING ARE UP-TIGHT ON THE ECOLOGICAL QUESTION AND THE EFFECTS OF THE WAR IN VIETNAM AND, AT THE DIRECTION OF SENSUR CHURCH, THEY ARE CONDUCTING A FULL STUDY OF THE INCIDENT AND EFFECTS OF DEFOICATION QUESTION IN SOUTHEAST ASIA.

PARAGRAPHS 1 OF CHURCH LETTER STATES, "I HAVE BEEN TOLD HOWEVER THAT AIR AMERICA WAS RESPONSIBLE FOR THE CAMBODIAN DEFOICATION. MY SOURCE WAS NOT THE STATE DEPARTMENT, BUT RATHER AN INDIVIDUAL WHO WAS IN A POSITION TO KNOW THE FACTS IN THIS MATTER." HENCE, THERE APPEARS LITTLE DOUBT THAT BOTH MEN ARE TARGETTED ON AIR
CS Comment: *Advised that Mr. Westing, Chairman Biology Department, Windham College and Mr. Pfeiffer, Professor of Zoology at the University of Montana had made visits to Vietnam in connection with an ecological review. Queried Stations if these men had come to their attention and ask for an assessment of their attitudes toward the defoliation problem and, specifically, whether or not either of them had targeted Air America.