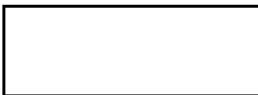


STAT

8 JUL 1970

Senator Robert P. Griffin



SUGGESTED REPLY

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Dear



Thank you for your letter of 19 June 1970 enclosing an article referring to defoliation in Cambodia and to the CIA.

As you may know, CIA does not publicly comment on reports concerning its activities. On the assumption that it would be of interest to you, I am enclosing a pamphlet which spells out the statutes from which this policy flows.

Concerning the inference that CIA was involved in the Cambodian coup, the President in his 30 June 1970 report states "It was the government appointed by Prince Sihanouk and ratified by the Cambodian National Assembly--not a group of usurpers--which overthrew him with the approval of the National Assembly. The United States had neither connection with, nor knowledge of, these events." Senator Mansfield, who has been quite close to the situation in Southeast Asia for some time, had earlier said, according to newspaper reports, that he was certain the CIA did not play any part in Prince Sihanouk's overthrow.

I appreciate your writing to me concerning this matter.