

THE WHITE HOUSE  
WASHINGTON

December 9, 1970

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CWS

MEMORANDUM FOR

Theodore L. Eliot, Jr.  
Executive Secretary  
Department of State

SUBJECT: Trip to Southeast Asia

The President has directed me to visit Cambodia and Vietnam during the period December 13 through 17 for the purpose of making an assessment of the situation. Mr. W. Richard Smyser and Mr. Winston Lord of the National Security Council staff will accompany me along with Lt. David R. Halperin, USN, who will act as my administrative assistant.

It is presently anticipated that the group will arrive at 6:30 a.m. local time on December 13 in Saigon. Mr. Lord, Lt. Halperin and I will proceed immediately to Phnom Penh. Mr. Smyser will remain in Saigon and hopes to see Ambassador Colby that day if possible.

During the visit to Phnom Penh I would like to meet with Prime Minister Lon Nol, Deputy Prime Minister Sirik Matak, and any other Cambodian leaders recommended by Ambassador Swank. I also hope to talk to the Ambassador, DCM, Defense Attache, [redacted] and Mr. Ladd. Since Mr. Ladd is an old friend I would prefer to stay overnight with him if that is convenient and you deem it appropriate. It is anticipated that Embassy Phnom Penh will arrange accommodations for Mr. Lord and Lt. Halperin. The party will leave Phnom Penh late on Monday afternoon, December 14, and fly to Saigon.

During the three day stay in South Vietnam I hope to meet with Ambassador Bunker and General Abrams on the first day if convenient for them, possibly visit III and IV Corps areas on the second day and meet briefly with President Thieu on Thursday, December 17, if possible. I have asked General Pursely to have MACV make arrangements for the South Vietnam portion of the trip, coordinating closely with Embassy Saigon.

Cardinal

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ON-FILE NSC RELEASE  
INSTRUCTIONS APPLY

REFERENCE

102 100/1116

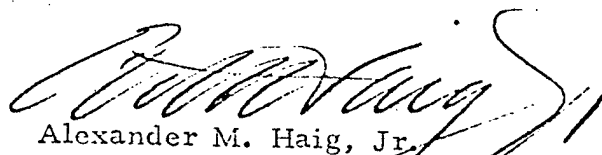
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The party will depart Saigon on the afternoon of Thursday, December 17, stop briefly in Hawaii, and arrive in Washington late Friday, December 18.

Would you please inform Ambassadors Bunker and Swank of the tentative plans. It would be appreciated if Embassy Phnom Penh would proceed with arrangements for the Cambodian portion of the trip, including an interpreter for the meetings with Cambodian officials. It is desired that there be no exposure of the party to the press.



Alexander M. Haig, Jr.  
Brigadier General, U. S. Army  
Deputy Assistant to the President  
for National Security Affairs

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