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FM BANGKOK
TO IMMEDIATE FCO
TELNO 667
OF 270310Z NOVEMBER 87
INFO IMMEDIATE MOSCOW
INFO PRIORITY HANOI, PARIS, WASHINGTON, PEKING, JAKARTA

GORBACHEV'S VISIT TO BRITAIN.

SUMMARY.

1. IT WOULD BE MOST USEFUL IF A MINUTE OR TWO COULD BE SPENT ON CAMBODIA DURING GORBACHEV'S TRANSIT AND IF I COULD SUBSEQUENTLY TELL THE THAIS THAT THE PROBLEM HAD BEEN RAISED.

THAIS

DETAIL.

2. CAMBODIA IS NOT A MAJOR PROBLEM IN UK/SOVIET RELATIONS. NONETHELESS THE THAIS WERE VERY PLEASED THAT BOTH THE PRIME MINISTER AND YOURSELF WERE ABLE TO RAISE THE ISSUE DURING THE VISIT TO MOSCOW IN MARCH THIS YEAR.

3. THE THAIS WOULD WELCOME IT IF THE OPPORTUNITY OF GORBACHEV'S TRANSIT COULD BE USED TO PUT PRESSURE ON MOSCOW TO WORK HARDER ON THE VIETNAMESE TOWARDS A SETTLEMENT.

4. THE EXPECTED MEETING ON WEDNESDAY, 2 DECEMBER BETWEEN SIHANOUK AND HUN SEN COULD ENCOURAGE INTEREST IN THE PROSPECTS FOR A SETTLEMENT. INDONESIAN FOREIGN MINISTER MOCHTAR IS TODAY QUOTED AS SAYING THAT HE HOPES TO GET A COCKTAIL PARTY GOING IN INDONESIA IN JANUARY IF THE RESULTS OF THE SIHANOUK/HUN SEN MEETING ARE POSITIVE.

5. THE SOVIET APPROACH TO A GENEVA-STYLE CONFERENCE ON CAMBODIA IS PROBABLY CLOSE TO OUR OWN: MOSCOW SUPPORTS THE 8 OCTOBER 1987 DECLARATION OF THE PHNOM PENH REGIME IN FAVOUR OF AN INTERNATIONAL CONFERENCE TO BE CONVENED ONLY AFTER THERE HAVE BEEN TALKS BETWEEN THE CAMBODIAN FACTIONS AND PROVISIONAL AGREEMENT REACHED ON ISSUES OF INTERNATIONAL CONTROL AND SUPERVISION. IN THE SOVIET VIEW, THE MAIN PURPOSE OF A THIRD GENEVA-STYLE CONFERENCE WOULD PRESUMABLY BE TO CONFIRM AND GUARANTEE ARRANGEMENTS PROVISIONALLY AGREED BETWEEN THOSE MOST CLOSELY CONCERNED. PRESUMABLY ALSO WE WOULD NOT OBJECT TO CO-CHAIRING SUCH A CONFERENCE, PROVIDED UNGA RESOLUTIONS AND THE PRINCIPLES IN THE ICK DECLARATION

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ARE TAKEN FULLY INTO ACCOUNT.

6. THERE MAY IN SHORT BE AN OPPORTUNITY SOON FOR IMAGINATIVE DIPLOMACY BY BRITAIN OVER CAMBODIA. I HOPE THAT WE DO NOT LEAVE ALL THE RUNNING TO THE FRENCH. IT MAY ALSO BE WORTH CONSIDERING INFORMAL EXCHANGES WITH THE FRENCH ON THE PROSPECTS FOR, AND THE MODALITIES OF A SETTLEMENT.

7. WHILE BOTH WE AND THE RUSSIANS MAY WELL FEEL THAT IT IS PREMATURE TO TALK OF AN INTERNATIONAL CONFERENCE ON CAMBODIA, I WOULD HOPE THAT WE COULD BE A LITTLE MORE POSITIVE THAN MERELY NOT REJECTING THE IDEA OUT OF HAND.

TONKIN

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