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MESSAGE CENTER

Yellow Rain
536
INCOMING
TELEGRAM

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EXDIS
FOR ASSISTANT SECRETARY WOLFOWITZ
DEPT PASS CINCPAC
E.O. 12356: DECL: OADR
TAGS: PREL, MOPS, PARM, ASEAN, SN
SUBJECT: ASEAN AND CW USE
REF: STATE 70118

1. ~~(C)~~ ENTIRE TEXT)

2. ASEAN'S FAILURE TO ENGAGE ITSELF IN THE CW ISSUE INDEED HURTS THE CREDIBILITY OF OUR CASE. IF THE COUNTRIES OF THE REGION ARE NOT CONCERNED ENOUGH TO MAKE AN ISSUE OF IT, OUR OWN EFFORTS IN THE EYES OF THE REST OF THE WORLD SMACK TOO MUCH ONLY OF BIG-POWER CONFRONTATION. THE MOST REVEALING DISCUSSION OF THE ISSUE WE HAVE HAD HERE TOOK PLACE DURING ONE OF DAS O'DONOHUE'S VISITS LAST YEAR WHEN WORKING LEVEL MFA OFFICIALS TOOK THE POSITION THAT THE NON-COMMUNIST KHMER SHOULD WITH USG HELP, TAKE UP THE CUDGELS IN EUROPE AND ELSEWHERE. WE BELIEVE THE KPRLF HAS ON OCCASION REFERRED TO SRV USE OF CW, BUT WE ASSUME WITH LIMITED IMPACT.

3. WE AGREE THAT WE SHOULD PUSH SINGAPORE ON THIS, AND YOUR VISIT NEXT MONTH WILL BE A GOOD OPPORTUNITY FOR A SERIOUS DISCUSSION OF WHAT ASEAN AND THE NON-COMMUNIST KHMER MIGHT DO. WE CAN EXPECT A CERTAIN DEGREE OF CAUTION AS SINGAPORE NOW PULLS IN ITS HORNS AFTER GETTING SO FAR OUT IN FRONT AT THE NAM. BUT I WOULD EXPECT THE GOS TO BE PREPARED TO SUPPORT IF ANOTHER ASEAN TAKES THE LEAD ON INCREASING ASEAN'S INVOLVEMENT.
THAYER
BT

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BY AN NARA DATE 8/20/06 ~~CONFIDENTIAL~~

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