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THE SECRETARY OF DEFENSE
WASHINGTON, D. C. 20301

September 8, 1973

Folder "Cambodia 400-825 1973"
Honorable Stuart Symington
Acting Chairman, Committee on Armed Services
United States Senate
Washington, D.C. 20510

Pax 65, 78-0001

*Identical 59
letter Sen MacCallan
in Approp.*

Dear Mr. Chairman:

~~(S)~~ The 15 August 1973 termination of combat bombing activities by U.S. military forces in Cambodia, carried out pursuant to Public Law 93-52 of 1 July 1973, has had a serious impact on the conduct of military operations in Cambodia. Since the cessation of U.S. bombing, the Cambodian Armed Forces have sustained constant enemy pressure, and their expenditures of ammunition have increased dramatically.

~~(S)~~ It is anticipated that pressure by the enemy will increase greatly when the dry season starts about mid-October. Meanwhile, the stocks of ammunition held by the Cambodian Armed Forces are being rapidly depleted. For many items, there is only a 15-day in-country supply; and for some, such as 81mm mortar ammunition, the stockage is critically inadequate. If the imperative need for ammunition is not met, the situation could rapidly deteriorate, leading to the defeat of the Cambodian Armed Forces.

~~(S)~~ As you know, large stocks of ground and air munitions are pre-positioned in Thailand, Okinawa and Japan. For example, more than 30,000 short tons of munitions exist in Department of Defense stocks in Thailand--"Pepper Grindor" at Udorn and "Salt Shaker" at Korat. These stocks could be used to fill urgent needs of the Cambodian Armed Forces.

~~(S)~~ While ammunition expenditure by the Cambodian Armed Forces has increased dramatically since termination of bombing by U.S. military forces in Cambodia, U.S. consumption of ammunition has been substantially reduced. It is therefore certainly not in the best interest of the United States to permit the fall of Cambodia for lack of ammunition when her forces are fighting and large U.S. stocks are available which can be used at this time to meet this urgent requirement. For this reason, it is essential that the Department of Defense be permitted to meet Cambodia's needs by issuing from stocks in the theater the ammunition required by Cambodian units engaged with the enemy.

(U) Accordingly, it is proposed that section 701 of the general provisions of H.R. 9206 relating to Military Assistance Service Funded (MASF) programs for Southeast Asia be modified by redesignating the pending language of that section as subsection (a) and by adding a new subsection

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Chief, Records & Declass Div, WHS
Date: AUG 21 2018

SEC DEF CONTR No. 1-3903

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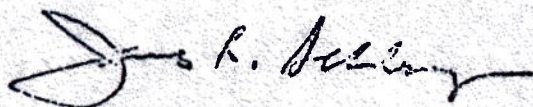
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(b). The new subsection (b) would authorize the President to draw on Department of Defense stocks to alleviate the ammunition shortage in Cambodia if he determines that it is in the national interest to do so, and required by reason of the termination of U.S. combat activities pursuant to P.L. 93-52. The proposed amendment would be operative only through FY 1974, and would limit to \$150 million the value of ammunition which the President may order to be transferred from Department of Defense stocks to the Cambodian Armed Forces. The amendment would also require that any use of this authority to transfer ammunition from Defense stocks be reported quarterly to the Congress, and that such transfers be charged against the dollar amount authorized for MASF by section 701 and made available pursuant to that authority in the Department of Defense Appropriation Act for FY 1974 (i.e., a provision comparable to section 737 of the Department of Defense Appropriation Act, 1973). As drafted, the amendment contemplates that reimbursement to the currently applicable Defense appropriations may be separately authorized and appropriated by the Congress during its consideration of a possible supplement to the foreign assistance legislation. The proposal does not require an increase in the Department of Defense appropriations request for FY 1974.

(U) A draft of the proposed amendment is attached. Your support of this proposal would be greatly appreciated. OMB concurs.

Sincerely,



Attachment
a/s

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Authority: EO 13526
Chief, Records & Declass Div, WHS
Date: AUG 21 2018

Office of the Secretary of Defense
Chief, RDD, ESD, WHS

Date: 21 AUG 2018 Authority: EO 13526 + 5 U.S.C. § 552

Declassify: X Deny in Full: _____

Declassify in Part: _____

Reason: _____

MDR: 18 -M- 1526

[Redesignate section 701 as section 701(a) and add the following new section 701(b)]

(b)(1) During the fiscal year 1974, the President may, if he determines it to be in the United States interest and required by reason of the termination of combat activities by United States military forces in or over or from off the shores of North Vietnam, South Vietnam, Laos or Cambodia, order the transfer of ammunition from the stocks of the Department of Defense to the Armed Forces of Cambodia. Current applicable appropriations of the Department of Defense shall be reimbursed therefor from such supplemental appropriations as may be specifically authorized pursuant to section 10 of Public Law 91-672 and made available for the purpose of military assistance to Cambodia. The value of such orders under this subsection in the fiscal year 1974 shall not exceed \$150,000,000, and shall be charged against the dollar amount contained in subsection (a) of this section and in any provision of law that may be hereafter enacted by the Ninety-third Congress making appropriations available pursuant to said subsection (a).

(2) Within thirty (30) days after the end of each quarter, the Secretary of Defense shall render to Congress a report with respect to the type and value of ammunition furnished pursuant to this section.

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Reviewed Chief, RDD, WHS
IAW EO 13526, Section 3.5
Date: AUG 21 2018

THE SECRETARY OF DEFENSE
WASHINGTON, D. C. 20301

September 8, 1973

Honorable John L. McClellan
Chairman, Committee on Appropriations
United States Senate
Washington, D.C. 20510

DECLASSIFIED IN FULL
Authority: EO 13526
Chief, Records & Declass Div, WHS
Date: AUG 21 2018

Dear Mr. Chairman:

(S) The 15 August 1973 termination of combat bombing activities by U.S. military forces in Cambodia, carried out pursuant to Public Law 93-52 of 1 July 1973, has had a serious impact on the conduct of military operations in Cambodia. Since the cessation of U.S. bombing, the Cambodian Armed Forces have sustained constant enemy pressure, and their expenditures of ammunition have increased dramatically.

(S) It is anticipated that pressure by the enemy will increase greatly when the dry season starts about mid-October. Meanwhile, the stocks of ammunition held by the Cambodian Armed Forces are being rapidly depleted. For many items, there is only a 15-day in-country supply; and for some, such as 81mm mortar ammunition, the stockage is critically inadequate. If the imperative need for ammunition is not met, the situation could rapidly deteriorate, leading to the defeat of the Cambodian Armed Forces.

(S) As you know, large stocks of ground and air munitions are pre-positioned in Thailand, Okinawa and Japan. For example, more than 30,000 short tons of munitions exist in Department of Defense stocks in Thailand--"Pepper Grinder" at Udorn and "Salt Shaker" at Korat. These stocks could be used to fill urgent needs of the Cambodian Armed Forces.

(S) While ammunition expenditure by the Cambodian Armed Forces has increased dramatically since termination of bombing by U.S. military forces in Cambodia, U.S. consumption of ammunition has been substantially reduced. It is therefore certainly not in the best interest of the United States to permit the fall of Cambodia for lack of ammunition when her forces are fighting and large U.S. stocks are available which can be used at this time to meet this urgent requirement. For this reason, it is essential that the Department of Defense be permitted to meet Cambodia's needs by issuing from stocks in the theater the ammunition required by Cambodian units engaged with the enemy.

(U) Accordingly, it is proposed that section 701 of the general provisions of H.R. 9286 relating to Military Assistance Service Funded (MASF) programs for Southeast Asia be modified by redesignating the pending language of that section as subsection (a) and by adding a new subsection

SEC DEF CONTR No. I-3903

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The quality of the following
image(s) is consistent with the
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Note: The source document(s) is severely
faded.

THE SECRETARY OF DEFENSE
WASHINGTON, D. C. 20301

September 8, 1973

Honorable Stuart Symington
Acting Chairman, Committee on Armed Services
United States Senate
Washington, D.C. 20510

Folder 4, Box H-094, USAC
Mtg, NS Institutional Files,
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Dear Mr. Chairman:

(b) The 15 August 1973 termination of combat bombing activities by U.S. military forces in Cambodia, carried out pursuant to Public Law 93-52 of 1 July 1973, has had a serious impact on the conduct of military operations in Cambodia. Since the cessation of U.S. bombing, the Cambodian Armed Forces have sustained constant enemy pressure, and their expenditures of ammunition have increased dramatically.

(c) It is anticipated that pressure by the enemy will increase greatly when the dry season starts about mid-October. Meanwhile, the stocks of ammunition held by the Cambodian Armed Forces are being rapidly depleted. For many items, there is only a 15-day in-country supply; and for some, such as 81mm mortar ammunition, the stockage is critically inadequate. If the imperative need for ammunition is not met, the situation could rapidly deteriorate, leading to the defeat of the Cambodian Armed Forces.

(d) As you know, large stocks of ground and air munitions are pre-positioned in Thailand, Okinawa and Japan. For example, more than 30,000 short tons of munitions exist in Department of Defense stocks in Thailand--"Pepper Grinder" at Udorn and "Salt Shaker" at Korat. These stocks could be used to fill urgent needs of the Cambodian Armed Forces.

(e) While ammunition expenditure by the Cambodian Armed Forces has increased dramatically since termination of bombing by U.S. military forces in Cambodia, U.S. consumption of ammunition has been substantially reduced. It is therefore certainly not in the best interest of the United States to permit the fall of Cambodia for lack of ammunition when her forces are fighting and large U.S. stocks are available which can be used at this time to meet this urgent requirement. For this reason, it is essential that the Department of Defense be permitted to meet Cambodia's needs by issuing from stocks in the theater the ammunition required by Cambodian units engaged with the enemy.

(U) Accordingly, it is proposed that section 701 of the general provisions of H.R. 9206 relating to Military Assistance Service Funded (MASF) programs for Southeast Asia be modified by redesignating the pending language of that section as subsection (a) and by adding a new subsection

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(b). The new subsection (b) would authorize the President to draw on Department of Defense stocks to ~~alleviate the ammunition shortage~~ in Cambodia if he determines that it is in the national interest to do so, and required by reason of the termination of U.S. combat activities pursuant to P.L. 93-52. The proposed amendment would be operative only through FY 1974, and would limit to \$150 million the value of ammunition which the President may order to be transferred from Department of Defense stocks to the Cambodian Armed Forces. The amendment would also require that any use of this authority to transfer ammunition from Defense stocks be reported quarterly to the Congress, and that such transfers be charged against the dollar amount authorized for WAF by section 701 and made available pursuant to that authority in the Department of Defense Appropriation Act for FY 1974 (i.e., a provision comparable to section 737 of the Department of Defense Appropriation Act, 1973). As drafted, the amendment contemplates that reimbursement to the currently applicable Defense appropriations may be separately authorized and appropriated by the Congress during its consideration of a possible supplement to the foreign assistance legislation. The proposal does not require an increase in the Department of Defense appropriations request for FY 1974.

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By: 