

name was Dap Chhuon, and I were in a conspiracy to murder him and take over the government of Cambodia. And it didn't do any good that I had never met Chhuon and never had any dealings with him, and Cambodia was way outside my bailiwick, but this is the story that's gone on and on and on.

O'BRIEN: Well, there was a little bit of truth to that, wasn't there? some involvement of CIA. . .

LANSDALE: <sup>Dap Chhuon? Yes</sup> <sup>Yeah</sup> Well, he was a national leader and actually had formed the political groupings initially that supported Sihanouk and gave him his political power, <sup>he</sup> ~~he~~ was the organizer; he was the chief political lieutenant of Sihanouk. And then apparently, he felt that Sihanouk was going sour, and he wanted to get the government back into reflecting more the will of the people. . . How far he got, I don't know, but this was really something that was foreign to me at the time. <sup>9</sup> I got sent back into Cambodia afterwards, from Washington, with <sup>of</sup> various military assistance groups <sup>or</sup> or economic groups <sup>of</sup> or presidential commissions <sup>or</sup>

ambassador or something. Some French gal played the role. I've been trying to get a print of that or some way of seeing that movie. <sup>g</sup>I'd love to see it, you know. It sounds great and. . . . [Laughter]

O'BRIEN: <sup>Yes,</sup> Yeah, I hadn't heard about that. Well, that does hit on something, though, in regard to Southeast Asia. As I understand, in that Dap Chhuon incident, <sup>g</sup>that there was an Agency involvement with him, through a guy by the name of <sup>Asian</sup> ~~Nguyen~~, and the Agency does seem to have a kind of free hand in some of these Southeast <sup>Asian</sup> nations <sup>g</sup>and I'm thinking of the [Asian C.] <sup>g</sup>Pope situation in Indonesia as well. Can you see any <sup>brakes</sup> ~~breaks~~ put on them as a result of the change of administrations? <sup>g</sup>How do you react to this sort of activity?

LANSDALE: Well, most of the things that they did that had political consequences of any major size at all, and certainly a thing with <sup>under</sup> Dap Chhuon and also the Pope thing <sup>g</sup>are only <sup>g</sup>taken by the Agency after approval up at topside <sup>g</sup>so as far