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Mike Mansfield 1903-2001

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August 29, 1969

STATEMENT OF SENATOR MIKE MANSFIELD (D., MONTANA)

It has been a most informative, and I believe useful trip. The genesis of my trip was a request by the President some months ago that I visit Cambodia. After his returning from Asia, the President repeated his original request and also asked that I visit other countries in Southeast Asia, those he had visited and some he had not, to ascertain the reactions to this trip. Accordingly, I traveled to Manila, Djakarta, Rangoon, Phnom Penh, Vientiane, Luang Prabang and Hong Kong where the major portions of my private and public reports were prepared. I stopped briefly at the Udorn Air Base in Thailand; Okinawa, where I met with the High Commissioner of the Ryukyu Islands, the Civil Administrator and others; and Yokota in Japan where a refueling stop gave me the opportunity to meet with Ambassador Meyer.

In the course of my trip, I met privately with President Marcos of the Philippines, President Suharto of Indonesia, General Ne Win in Burma, Prince Sihanouk in Cambodia who received me most amicably and designated my visit a state visit, Prime Minister Souvanna Phouma in Vientiane and King Savang Vatthana in Luang Prabang. I also met with other officials in each country, and of course, with our Ambassadors and other members of our missions.

I met with the President ~~on September 27~~ ^{on August} ~~the evening~~ and made a confidential report to him orally and in writing. At a later date, I will be making a public report to the Foreign Relations Committee.

Wherever I went in Southeast Asia, I found the leaders of government generally pleased with the President's new policies enunciated in the course of his Asian trip. In my judgment, these policies represent a needed break with the past and a sound basis for adjusting our relations with Southeast Asian countries to the realities of the present.