

Indradevi Magazine

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Front Page Cover: His Majesty, King Norodom Sihanouk during a conference on Independence Day of Cambodia, 9th November.

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Due to her immense popularity and prestige both in the United States and around the world, the widow of President John Fitzgerald Kennedy was hailed during her visit to Cambodia in the Sangkum Reastr Niyum era with the presence of countless American journalists, radio presenters, and television reporters, both European, Asian, and Australian. Etc. ... And this is an opportunity for me to show the global media about everything that Sangkum Reastr Niyum has for its nation, its citizens, and Cambodian youth. **Cambodian supports itself.**

For everything related to the national architectural achievements of the Sangkum Reastr Niyum era and our actual progress in all areas of achievements, I also invite Her Excellency, Kennedy, her friends; including the "big crowd" of journalists, radio presenters, and television reporters accompanied by me to visit the Permanent Exhibition Hall of the Sangkum Reastr Niyum Achievement located along the "Bassac River", not far from the Royal Palace.

After the coup by Lon Nol, Sirik Matak, Cheng Heng, In Tam, Sim Var, Trinh Hoanh on March 18, 1970: **Her Excellency** Jacqueline Kennedy still proved that she was indeed a remarkable woman. On my birthday (each year birthday) on October 31st, she has never forgotten (until the day she died of Lymphome B cancer, which is similar to "My" cancer, it is also (Lymphome B)); she sent her handwritten greeting message to me, full of love and deep affection. Her Excellency always kept a vivid memory, full of excitement and gratitude for her stay in Cambodia in November 1967. As well as my most respectful welcome for Her Excellency; and in memory of President John F. Kennedy.

To conclude, I would like to present an excerpt from an article previously published in the magazine "Kambuja" (during the Sangkum Reastr Niyum era) in December 1967 regarding my response to the international press presence in Phnom Penh after Kennedy's historic visit: "Studies related to Her Excellency Kennedy's recent visit. It has been written that Sihanouk saw the United States as the strongest country which could win the war and now, he turned his back on China,

[On Page 2] which he previously believed to be a successful country, was a step towards the Americans who could support him. **They seem to quickly forget that Sihanouk did not like to depend on any state.** In the past, the French, who had made him a king, could confirm this ... (...) We gladly welcome Her Excellency, Kennedy, only because she is a remarkable woman, and we used to admire the beloved former President, who was assassinated. It has been written that we used to be happy with the death of J.F. Kennedy, which is really wrong. Because they also know we arranged to mourn nationwide for three days at that time. In fact, every year we have always regretted the loss of President Kennedy because of his loyalty to libertarianism and respect for his kindness. Press conference in Phnom Penh by President Norodom Sihanouk, excerpted from an article published in December 1967 in the monthly magazine "Kambuja" (Sangkum Reastr Niyum era):

“Cambodians, overwhelmed by Buddhist teachings, have always made a distinction between good and evil. Therefore, nobles and Senators Morse, Fullbright, Mansfield are always welcome in our country. Some journalists described as a "hostile gesture" our exhibition in Phnom Penh about the wreckage of US aircraft and helicopters that were raided by our troops. But they seem to have forgotten that the American aircraft and helicopters dropped bombs, mass shootings, and killed hundreds of our people. We really cannot keep our eyes closed. We have to show our people who always demand to show the evidence that we have defended them. We only shot down a few US aircraft, and far from that, not all of the pilots were killed. For us, one life is worth another ... and the scales between the killer and the victim are not equal. We do not have many anti-aircraft weapons, and now the lives of 20 Cambodians really cannot be exchanged for the life of an American.”

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The journalists asked if His Majesty had requested that Her Excellency Jacqueline Kennedy be an ambassador to the United States.

Answer: "We admire Her Excellency Kennedy, very much. But in the meantime, we do not consider her as an ambassador for the Johnson government. In this case, Cambodia and the United States; must first be reconciled. On the other hand, Cambodia is ready for reconciliation from now, but there are two conditions: **Washington must declare its recognition of our current borders and must not encroach on our airspace by immediately stopping their attacks and incursions into Cambodian territory. Once those two conditions are dealt with, we can exchange ambassadors with each other as soon as possible.**”

Question: "Would Your Majesty feel aggrieved if one day Her Excellency Kennedy remarried?"

Answer: "Our policy is not to interfere in the affairs of other countries. Therefore, it is not at all polite for us to be interested in the private life of her excellency Kennedy. We would like to wish her nothing but happiness.”

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And was inaugurated magnificently by her Kennedy excellency.

Why do you pay special tribute to her excellency, Jacqueline Kennedy?

The reasons why I keep in high esteem Her Excellency, Jacqueline Kennedy, are as follows:

1. The tragic death of her well-known husband, which left Her Excellency traumatized, also saddened me. Because, in the 1960s, President John F. Kennedy and I had bonded: Our

first and last meeting was in the living room of his suite at the Waldorf Astoria (the hotel I stayed with). We both went to the United Nations General Assembly together.

2. I am overwhelmed by the friendly gesture of Her Excellency Jacqueline Kennedy for still being kind to Cambodia despite being the country that rejected all forms of US aids in 1963. Then in 1965, end the diplomatic relations with her Excellency's powerful country. It is a pure gesture and close friendship.

According to the assumptions of some Cambodians and foreigners, Her Excellency Jacqueline Kennedy was secretly assigned by "Washington, DC" to conduct a thorough survey of me to find out if the United States and Cambodia could re-establish the diplomatic relations, or not?

During her stay in Cambodia, Her Excellency Kennedy never dared talking about "politics" with me. She was only interested in the Khmer civilization of the Angkorian period. That is all.

3. I am well aware of the sentiments of the Lon Nol, Siri Matak, Sim Var factions, who are all inclined towards the United States, and they would never forgive me if I did not welcome the widow of their heroic and great Leader, J.F Kennedy, wholeheartedly.

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**Recollections of
Her Excellency Jacqueline Kennedy
In Cambodia, November 1967**

A friendly and historic visit by the widow of the famous President John Fitzgerald Kennedy in Cambodia "of Sihanouk".

The former First Lady of the United States was accompanied by several American friends who were both dignitaries and elites.

I also decided to prepare to welcome Her Excellency Jacqueline Kennedy, the famous, impressive, brilliant, elegant, and most noble one, this is like welcoming the visit of a princess.

In addition, our people and youth agree with me on this. They have gathered in large numbers and expressed great honor on welcoming Her Excellency Kennedy wherever she goes, whether in Phnom Penh city to Siem Reap and Sihanoukville.

At the Royal Palace in Phnom Penh or Siem Reap, Her Excellency stayed in a room which was previously reserved for General De Gaulle of France. My wife (Princess Monique) and I have always accompanied and paid attention to Her Excellency, everywhere we went. At the Royal

Palace in Phnom Penh, my mother (Queen Sisowath Kossomak) always treated Her Excellency as a princess. Both of them (Jacqueline and my mother) always held hands with affection. And they have pure sympathy for each other. My mother presented the Khmer Royal Ballet with great pleasure and pride to Her Excellency, Jacqueline Kennedy. She also showed her beloved great-granddaughter, Princess Soma (daughter of the granddaughter, Princess Buppha Devi). With her advanced skills in Western ballet at such a young age ... and more, she was shown the white elephant of the young Sihanouk (back then, it was alive). The Queen Mother also invited Her Excellency, Kennedy, to give a good banana in the Royal Park to this flourishing white elephant. In Sihanoukville, recent achievements of the Sangkum Reastr Niyum include: a beautiful road that connects the city to Ochheuteal beach has been named "President John Fitzgerald Kennedy".

[Captions]

His Majesty King Sihanouk welcomes the arrival of Her Excellency, Jacqueline Kennedy (photo above). Dining ceremony for Her Excellency, Jacqueline Kennedy (picture below).