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FROM : Amembassy BELGRADE DATE: December 13, 1973
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SUBJECT : TAGS: PFOR YO TH

SUBJ: Sanong NISALAK, Thai Ambassador to Yugoslavia

REF :

Enclosed is a Memorandum of Conversation between Ambassador Toon and the new Ambassador of Thailand to Yugoslavia, Sanong NISALAK. The conversation reveals substantial biographic information on Nisalak.

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Sanong NISALAK, Ambassador of Thailand

November 21, 1973

Ambassador Sanong Nisalak paid a courtesy call on me today at 1130.

A career naval officer, the Ambassador graduated from the Thai Naval Academy in 1942 and served continuously in the Thai Navy until his appointment in 1971 as Taipei as Ambassador. His Naval service included assignments to surface craft, Naval aviation, and the Thai Marine Corps. He was a skipper of a frigate which saw combat during the Korean War and became Commander of the Thai Marine Corps after the coup d'etat of 1951. After a two-year stint with the Thai Marines he was sent to Washington as Thai Naval Attache and subsequently became the head of the Thai Naval Intelligence in which capacity he was given the rank of Admiral.

Pointing out that he is the second Thai Ambassador to be assigned to Eastern Europe (the other being in Moscow), the Ambassador said that about a year ago the Thai Government adopted a decision to broaden its relations with the Communist world and it was in pursuance of this decision that the Thais decided to appoint a resident Ambassador to Yugoslavia. The Ambassador expects to be accredited to Romania and Hungary — with which Thailand now has diplomatic relations — with the Thai Ambassador in Moscow being accredited to Poland.

The Ambassador is married and has a thirteen-year old daughter who is enrolled in the International School in Belgrade. He and his family are temporarily housed in the Hotel Yugoslavia. He expects to be given a chance to bid for the former Chilean Ambassador's residence if the Malaysian Ambassador, who has first priority, should turn it down. The offer of this residence of course is contingent upon the willingness or ability of the Yugoslav authorities to oust the former Chilean Ambassador who is squatting on the premises. The Thai Chancery is temporarily located in the residence of the former Thai Charge in the suburbs of Belgrade but will be relocated to the center of the city when the Direkcija produces an apartment which it has promised. The Ambassador has two Thai officers on his staff and may possibly add one more.

The Ambassador admitted that he knows very little about this part of the world and asked if we could supply him with some informational materials on Yugoslavia and Tito's separate road to socialism. He also expressed interest in joining the American Club, pointing out that while he and his family were in Taipei, they had access to all American facilities and were thus thoroughly Americanized.



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I promised to send him a kit of informational materials as well as applications for membership in the American Club.

The Ambassador was a close friend of Ambassador McConaughy's in Taipei and brought with him a letter of introduction from McConaughy. The Ambassador is a keen golfer and claims a handicap of 17.

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