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THE WHITE HOUSE
WASHINGTON

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November 10, 1969

MEMORANDUM FOR: Mr. Theodore L. Eliot, Jr.
Executive Secretary
Department of State

SUBJECT: Release of Presidential Correspondence on Thailand to Senate Foreign Relations Committee

The Counsel to the President concurs in the recommendation contained in your memorandum of November 8, 1969 on the above subject. The Presidential correspondence may not be released to the Committee, but the substance, as reflected in your proposed draft statement, is approved for release to the Committee.

Alexander M. Haig
Brigadier General, U. S. Army
Military Assistant

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From President Eisenhower to Prime Minister Sarit - November 8, 1960

Mr. Prime Minister:

The recent visit of Their Majesties the King and Queen to the United States was a major milestone in the long and happy history of relations between our two countries and I believe it was extraordinarily successful. At that time I had the pleasure of a cordial conversation with His Majesty the King on international developments. The communique issued following this meeting indicated our mutual concern with the vital problems of preserving freedom and independence, achieving lasting peace, and establishing a world order based on international justice. We reasserted our mutual determination to work towards these goals, believing that this would contribute immensely to the progress, prosperity, and welfare of mankind.

His Majesty and I likewise noted that the staunch adherence of Thailand and the United States to the Southeast Asia Treaty Organization demonstrates a mutual determination to preserve the frontiers of the free world from aggression and to promote the peaceful objectives shared by both countries. I took this opportunity to pay tribute to the steadfast partnership of Thailand and the United States in all fields and reaffirmed to His Majesty the unwavering determination of the United States fully to honor its treaty commitments undertaken in the cause of collective security.

I wish to assure Your Excellency that the preservation of the independence and integrity of Thailand continues to be a matter of the highest concern and importance to the United States and that Thailand will have the unswering support of the United States, as an ally and friend, in resisting both Communist aggression and subversion. I entirely agree with Your Excellency's recent statement that we must preserve the strong bond of cordial friendship between our two countries and use our concerted efforts to meet the world crisis as we head through rough and dangerous seas toward safety and security. I consider Thailand a bulwark of free world strength in Asia, whose contribution towards mutual objectives is of such significance that we must strive together to reinforce and sustain its strength and well-being.

Our continuing military and economic assistance programs to Thailand constitute firm evidence of our intentions in this respect. I am particularly pleased in this connection to be able to inform you that although our aid programs are again being decreased in many countries, defense support assistance for Thailand in fiscal year 1961 is higher than that provided in fiscal year 1960 and a substantially increased level of military assistance is programmed. I know of Your Excellency's own interest

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in this subject and trust that this will serve to reaffirm the importance which we attach to the continued strength and stability of Thailand.

To this end, looking to the future, the United States would be prepared to explore with the Royal Thai Government measures for advancing economic development in Thailand, combining assistance available from the United States Government with additional steps by your Government to mobilize the resources of Thailand. In this connection, I am impressed with Thailand's favorable prospects for more rapid development and its potential ability to profit from external capital availabilities as emphasis in United States assistance programs shifts from a grant to a loan basis and as the opportunities for private investment in Thailand become increasingly well known.

It is my earnest hope that this initiative, conceived in the spirit of my conversations with His Majesty the King, will serve to illustrate the abiding importance which the United States continues to place on its friendship and cooperation with Thailand.

Sincerely,

Dwight D. Eisenhower

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Letter from President Kennedy to Prime Minister Sarit - February 28, 1961

Dear Mr. Prime Minister:

At the outset of my term of office I should like to assure Your Excellency of the great satisfaction which we derive from our historic friendship and close partnership with Thailand. We have been greatly encouraged by Thailand's noteworthy progress under your leadership and are mindful of the important contribution which the government and people of Thailand continue to make to the cause of peace and freedom in Asia.

I fully appreciate Your Excellency's deep concern over the events now taking place in Southeast Asia and I wish to assure you that Thailand will have our unswerving support in resisting Communist aggression and subversion. I know of the correspondence between Your Excellency and President Eisenhower on this serious matter and I reaffirm our unchanging conviction that the preservation of this independence and integrity of Thailand is a matter of the highest importance to the United States. We shall fully honor our obligations to Thailand as an ally and friend.

In the context of our mutual concern with economic and security problems, I hope representatives of our two governments will intensify their joint efforts to seek all appropriate means of furthering the strength and stability of Thailand. I should like to confirm our willingness to explore with your government measures for advancing economic development and mobilizing the resources of Thailand.

My purpose in sending this brief initial message is to let you know of the high value which we continue to place upon our friendship with Thailand, which is built upon an historic foundation of mutual trust. I firmly believe that our close and cordial cooperation in every field of activity remains essential to the realization of our common hopes for the preservation of freedom and the maintenance of peace.

Sincerely,

John F. Kennedy

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Letter from President Kennedy to Prime Minister Sarit - March 5, 1962

Dear Mr. Prime Minister:

The visit to Washington just concluded by your Foreign Minister, His Excellency Thanat Khoman, provided a most welcome opportunity for renewed discussion of problems in Southeast Asia in the light of developments since his visit of last October. We are particularly glad to have these periodic exchanges at frequent intervals in view of the great importance of Southeast Asia to the security of the United States and the Free World.

The Foreign Minister gave us a clear and complete expression of Thailand's concern for its security and its determination to resist the Communist threat. We share this concern and this determination. The independence and territorial integrity of Thailand are of the greatest importance to the United States.

The communique issued by the Foreign Minister and the Secretary of State fully reflects my own position and that of the United States on our security relationships and our concern for the well-being and progress of Thailand.

With warm personal regards,

Sincerely,

John F. Kennedy

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Letter from President Johnson to Prime Minister Thanom - June 18, 1964

Dear Mr. Prime Minister:

I thank you for your kind letter of May 25, which was received for me by Secretary Rusk at his meeting last week with Mr. Bunchana Atthakor, Deputy Minister of National Development in your cabinet.

I know the concern that you must feel for your nation and its people at this time of crisis in Southeast Asia. I am closely aware of the problems presented to your country by this crisis, and particularly by events in Laos.

In your letter, Mr. Prime Minister, you referred to America's defense commitments in various parts of the world. America's defense commitment to Thailand is clear, and as I said when we met in Bangkok in 1961, "America keeps its commitments."

We regard Communist advances in Laos as a threat to the security of the United States as well as that of Thailand. In accordance with this concept, I have authorized Ambassador Martin to open consultations with you looking toward joint Thai-US military planning of measures to be taken in the event of a Communist drive toward the borders of Thailand. I understand joint planning meetings will begin in Bangkok this week. We must be prepared to act promptly and effectively to check such a drive as necessary.

At the same time, we must overlook no opportunity for a peaceful settlement which preserves the interests of our two nations. For this reason we are willing to undertake consultations such as those in which we are mutually engaged in Vientiane, and we would be willing to see convened consultations such as those recently proposed by the Poles. We believe, however, that Communist acceptance of the preconditions laid down by Prime Minister Souvanna Phouma of Laos must precede any convention of a conference on Laos such as that held in Geneva in 1962.

Our willingness to keep the door open to negotiations must not be mistaken either by our friends or our enemies as reflecting any wavering of our resolve. It does reflect truly our purpose, which is peace. But the Americans who have died to check the spread of Communism in the Far East, those who even now are dying for that cause, provide the most eloquent testimony of our determination that peace shall not be bought at the cost of freedom.

Lyndon B. Johnson

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r from President Johnson to Prime Minister Sarit - November 25, 1963

ear Mr. Prime Minister:

Your Excellency's message of sympathy and condolence was received with deep appreciation. On behalf of the people and Government of the United States and of the family of the late President, I express our heartfelt gratitude. Our loss is great and grievous, as Your Excellency has said. From it, we as allies must take a new resolve to stand firmly together.

For me, your message had a special personal warmth as I recalled our conversations of some two years ago. At that time I told Your Excellency that "America is dedicated to the pursuit of an honorable and lasting peace for all mankind. We are determined to maintain adequate and responsible strength in the Free World. We will honor our commitments for the cause of freedom. We will stand by our friends, none, repeat none, more so than the Thai people." Be assured that the Government and people of the United States remain steadfast in this resolve.

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from President Nixon to Prime Minister Thanat - March 1969

ar Mr. Prime Minister:

Congratulations and sincere good wishes on your designation by His Majesty as Prime Minister. Under your continued leadership, I am confident that Thailand will sustain the remarkable rate of development it has experienced in past years, and will remain firm in the defense of freedom.

I want to reaffirm to you, at the outset of this Administration, that the United States will continue to support Thailand and its resistance to Communist aggression and subversion. We fully intend to honor our SEATO obligation.

Secretary Rogers will report to me on his conversations with you and your colleagues when he returns from the May SEATO Council meeting in Bangkok. This meeting will provide an excellent opportunity for you and the Secretary to review in depth the various issues of mutual concern. It will, as well, be a most welcome occasion for our two new governments to reaffirm the close ties between our countries that are so essential to the maintenance of freedom in East Asia.

Sincerely,

Richard Nixon

His Excellency
Thanat Khoman
Minister of Foreign Affairs
of the Kingdom of Thailand
Bangkok.

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Minister Thanom's Letter to President Johnson - May 25, 1964

I am taking the opportunity of the visit to the United States of my colleague, Mr. Bunchana Atthakor, Deputy Minister for National Development, and Director-General of the Department of Technical and Economic Cooperation, upon the kind invitation of the Rockefeller Foundation to convey to you my personal greetings and best wishes.

The commitments that your Government has made to various parts of the world today is a truly remarkable example of noble determination to promote world peace. Such commitments have, on innumerable occasions, invariably checked and diverted imminent danger from various trouble spots of the world. I am confident that under your able leadership and indefatigable effort the conviction the United States has so steadfastly held will finally materialize.

Please be assured, Mr. President, of my personal friendship and esteemed consideration.

/s/ T. Kittikachorn

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July 25, 1969

Col. Al Haig
The White House

Your concurrence is requested to make available to Senator Symington the cited Presidential letters.

John P. Walsh
Acting Executive Secretary

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