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SECRET

WIFE OF THE PRIME MINISTER OF THAILAND

Chongkol Kittikachorn

Pronunciation: TAHN-PU-YING (Title)
CHAWNG-KON KITTY-KAH-CHAWN

Should be addressed as: Thanpuying Chongkol; or simply by title as Thanpuying. (The Thai Embassy has requested that we do not substitute "Lady" for Thanpuying.)

Should be referred to as: Thanpuying Chongkol; Madame Thanom Kittikachorn; or by full name - Thanpuying Chongkol Kittikachorn.

Thanpuying Chongkol Kittikachorn has been known primarily as a loyal wife and homemaker for her husband, Prime Minister Thanom Kittikachorn. Recently she has also taken an interest in diplomatic affairs, accompanying the Prime Minister on several official visits abroad. In May 1966, the King awarded her the title of Thanpuying, which is conferred only on wives of some prime ministers in recognition of service to the nation.

Americans who have known her personally describe Thanpuying Chongkol as a nice, simple, quiet person who appreciates attention but not too much of it, and who has a limited stock of small talk. Intelligence sources describe her as extremely ambitious for her husband's advancement and partly responsible for persuading him to assume the Prime Ministership on Sarit's death. She was said to have arranged the marriage of their elder son to the daughter of Deputy Prime Minister Praphat to facilitate better relations between Thanom and Praphat, though she herself is not fond of Khunying Swai, Praphat's wife. However, the fact that Khunying Swai is accompanying them on the present tour seems to belie the latter report.

Thanpuying Chongkol was born in 1915 and was married to Thanom Kittikachorn in 1931, three years after he had been graduated from the Royal Thai Military Academy. They have

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two sons, both military officers. The eldest is presently serving with the Thai Air Force in South Vietnam. They also have four daughters, two of whom are accompanying them on the present tour. Their youngest daughter is also in Washington, as she is the wife of the Thai Naval Attache here, Captain Supa Gajaseni.

Captain Supa and his wife have two small children, a boy two years old whose name Supakit was bestowed by the King, but who is still commonly known by his "baby name" "Ningnong", and a girl of one year who has not yet received a name from the King has the "baby name" of "Noongning." An important personal interest of the Prime Minister and Thanpuying Chongkol while in Washington will be to see their two grandchildren for the first time.

EA/TB:CJNelson

April 1968

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