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16/21 July 38

18930

DEPARTMENT OF STATE

DIVISION OF FAR EASTERN AFFAIRS

September 13, 1938.

MMH

Bangkok's Despatch No. 228,
August 15, 1938

Political Report for July

The following items of interest may be pointed out in the attached despatch:

(1) During the July sessions of the National Assembly bills were passed for the reorganization of the Ministry of Defense, placing the General Staff of the Army, the Navy and the Air Force under the Minister of Defense, and for the repeal of the Act for Safeguarding the Constitution. This last act provided for the imprisonment of persons who had participated in the 1933 rebellion.

(2) A contract has been awarded to the firm of Christiani and Nielsen (Siam) Limited for work on the project of developing the port of Bangkok.

(3) Customs revenues were approximately 2,500,000 baht lower for the year 1937-38 than for the year 1936-37, although they were greatly in excess of the totals for the years 1933-34, 1934-35 and 1935-36.

(4) The principal export from Siam, rice, increased over 300,000 metric tons during the period January 1 to June 15, 1938, as compared with the same period in 1937.

(5)

THE ... AMERICA
15, 1938.
LEGAL ADVISER OCT 24 1938
DEPARTMENT OF STATE
PROTOCOL
Excerpts as marked FR to Peiping
Department of State
ASIA
MERCE
OCT 10 1938
ON P + M I D as marked.
NOV 3 - 1938
Division of FAR EASTERN AFFAIRS AUG 30 1938 Department of State
OFFICE OF THE ADVISER ON INTERNATIONAL ECONOMIC AFFAIRS OCT 19 1938 DEPARTMENT OF STATE
892.00 P.R./112
FILED
F/A

Sir:

1/ From: I have the honor to transmit herewith the Political Report of the Legation for the month of July 1938.

J. Holbrook Chapman
Chargé d'Affaires a.i.

Respectfully yours,

American Legation,
Bangkok, Siam.

J. Holbrook Chapman
Chargé d'Affaires, a.i.

Enclosure:

Date of completion: August 17, 1938.
Date of mailing: (air mail).

1. Political Report for July 1938.

800-Siam

JHC/tse

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By MJP NARA Date 5/1/96

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DEPARTMENT OF STATE

DIVISION OF FAR EASTERN AFFAIRS

(5) The heavy influx of Chinese immigrants continues to be a cause of grave concern to Siamese officials. Over 5,000 Chinese from southern China are reported to have arrived at Bangkok during June. No definite action has as yet been taken in regard to the matter. However, Luang Vichitr Vadakarn, a member of the Council of Ministers without portfolio, lauded the principal German leaders and their policy in expelling the Jews from German territory and, as the Legation points out, "left the inference to be drawn that it might be advisable for Siam to proceed in like manner against the Chinese who reside and work in Siam." Exception was taken to this speech by various members of the National Assembly, as well as local Chinese.

(6) In regard to Siamese-Japanese relations the following points are of interest: The Japanese Foreign Minister and other officials attended on July 22 a ceremony on the occasion of the reception of a gift from Siam to Japan of the ashes of Guatama Buddha; a new Japanese Naval Attaché with the rank of captain has arrived in Bangkok; it is possible that Mitsubishi interests have acquired tin mining leases in Japan and confirmation has been obtained of the report of a Japanese project for the cultivation of cotton, presumably near Bangkok.

892.00 P.R./112

FE:Spencer:HES

September 16, 1938.
THE
F AMERICA
15, 1938.
LEGAL ADVISER
OCT 24 1938
DEPARTMENT OF STATE
PROTOCOL
Excerpts as marked to Peiping
TREASURY
COMMERCE
OCT 10 1938
ONI + M.I.D. as marked.
NOV 3 - 1938
Division of FAR EASTERN AFFAIRS
AUG 30 1938
Department of State
OFFICE OF THE ADVISER ON INTERNATIONAL ECONOMIC AFFAIRS
OCT 19 1938
DEPARTMENT OF STATE
892.00 P.R./112
DEC 14 1938
FILED
F/A

Sir:

1/ From: I have the honor to transmit herewith the Political Report of the Legation for the month of July 1938.

Respectfully yours,

J. Holbrook Chapman
Chargé d'Affaires a.i.

American Legation,
Bangkok, Siam.

Date of completion: August 15, 1938.

Date of mailing: (air mail) August 17, 1938.

Enclosure:

1. Political Report for July 1938.

800-Siam

JHC/tse

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Authority State Letter 11/2
By MJD NARA Date 5/1/96

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18930

LEGATION OF THE UNITED STATES OF AMERICA

Bangkok, August 15, 1938.

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DEPARTMENT OF STATE
1938 AUG 30 AM 9 24

LEGAL ADVISER
OCT 24 1938
DEPARTMENT OF STATE

PROTOCOL
OCT 1938
Department of State

No. 89

No. 228

DIVISION OF
COMMUNICATIONS
AND RECORDS

Subject: Political Report for July.

Excerpts as marked to Peiping

For Distribution-Check | Yes | No
Grade For | To Mld In U.S.A. | ✓ |

ONI + M.I.D. as marked.

TREASURY
COMMERCE
OCT 10 1938
NOV 3 - 1938

892.00 P.R. notes

TREATY DIVISION
OCT 26 1938
DEPARTMENT OF STATE

OCT 4 1938
RECORDING DESK
FILE - C.

JULY 1938

Copy Transmitted by The
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To Peiping
10/19/38

Division of
FAR EASTERN AFFAIRS
AUG 30 1938
Department of State

OFFICE OF THE ADVISER ON
INTERNATIONAL ECONOMIC AFFAIRS
OCT 19 1938
DEPARTMENT OF STATE

DEPARTMENT OF STATE
SEP 16 1938
SECRETARY'S
DIVISION OF STATE

892.00 P.R./112

The Honorable

The Secretary of State,

Washington.

Sir:

1/ From: I have the honor to transmit herewith the Political Report of the Legation for the month of July 1938.

Respectfully yours,

J. Holbrook Chapman
Chargé d'Affaires a.i.

American Legation,
Bangkok, Siam.

J. Holbrook Chapman
Chargé d'Affaires, a.i.

Enclosure:

1. Political Report for July 1938.

Date of completion: Date of mailing, (air mail): August 17, 1938.

800-Siam

JHC/tse

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Authority State Letter 11/72
By MBD NARA Date 5/1/96

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No. 87

POLITICAL REPORT

JULY 1938

From: J. Holbrook Chapman
J. Holbrook Chapman,
Chargé d'Affaires a.i.

American Legation,
Bangkok, Siam.

Date of completion: August 16, 1938.

Date of mailing,
(air mail): August 17, 1938.

DECLASSIFIED
Authority State Ltr 11/2
By MJD NARA Date 5/1/96

REPRODUCED AT THE NATIONAL ARCHIVES

Bangkok Monthly Political Report, July 1938.

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* * * * * * * * Shigeji Chudoh, who left

Japanese Naval Attache

previous

on May 10,

1938.

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By MJD NARA Date 5/1/96

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I. POLITICAL RELATIONS WITH THE UNITED STATES.

Nothing to report.

II. POLITICAL RELATIONS WITH OTHER COUNTRIES.

Siam-Portugal Treaty

The new Treaty of Freindship, Commerce and Navigation between Siam and Portugal was signed at Lisbon on July 2, 1938. An official notification of July 4th states that the right of evocation contained in the old treaty was abandoned by Portugal on July 2nd through an exchange of notes at Lisbon on that date.

792.942

New Japanese Military Attache

Lieutenant Colonel Jiro Saito, who replaces Lieutenant Colonel H. Tamura as Japanese Military Attache in Siam (please see Monthly Political Report for June regarding appointment), arrived at Bangkok to assume his duties on July 24th.

WI + MID
701.9492

Gift of Ashes of Guatama Buddha from Siam to Japan

A Rengo despatch from Tokyo dated July 23rd states that a ceremony took place there on July 22nd attended by Foreign Minister Ugaki, Education Minister Araki, the Siamese Minister Phya Sri Sena, as well as other Japanese officials and representatives of various Buddhist sects to receive the ashes of Guatama Buddha, a gift from Siam to Japan, which had been carried to Japan by the retiring Japanese Naval Attache, Commander Kwanyei Chudoh, who left Bangkok on June 5th to return to Japan.

New Japanese Naval Attache

Captain S. Torigoe is the new Japanese Naval Attache who succeeded Commander Chudoh, mentioned in the previous paragraph. Captain Torigoe arrived in Bangkok on May 10, 1938,

MID
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1938, to take up his duties, although little publicity was given to the fact. The appointment of such a high ranking officer for the position seems significant, in view of the considerable number of Japanese-built ships that have been added to the Siamese Navy.

III.

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III. INTERNAL POLITICAL ACTIVITIES.

Visit of the King to Siam

The visit of the King to Siam scheduled according to press reports for November of this year (Please see Monthly Political Report for June 1938), continued to be a topic of lively interest in the local newspapers during July. The Council of Ministers is reported to have appointed a Committee to make arrangements for the King's reception and the program to be followed during his visit. Numerous members of the royal family who have been residing abroad since the 1932 revolution are reported to be planning to to return to Bangkok for the festivities, including H. R. H. Prince Chula Chakrabongse and H. H. Prince Birabongse. These two princes visited Siam in November and December 1937 (Please see Monthly Political Reports for those two months). Prince Bira is noted particularly for his automobile racing activities in Europe.

Speech of Luang Vichitr Vadakarn

Luang Vichitr Vadakarn, a member of the Council of Ministers without portfolio, who acts as Director General of the Department of Fine Arts, Ministry of Public Instruction, delivered an address at the Chulalongkorn University on July 15th on the subject of "Austria and the Anschluss", in which he drew a comparison between the activities of the Jews in Germany and Austria and the Chinese in Siam. He lauded the principal German leaders and their policy in expelling the Jews from Germany territory, and left the inference to be drawn that it might be advisable for Siam to proceed in like manner against the Chinese who reside and work in Siam.

Exception

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Exception was taken to the speech by various members of the National Assembly, as well as local Chinese, and urgent questions were asked of the Government by Assembly members as to its attitude toward the opinions expressed by Luang Vichitr. Although the case at first appeared to be one which might result in serious embarrassment for the Government, pressure seems to have been brought to bear on the more vocal members of the opposition, and most of them were silenced by the explanation that the Government would not be responsible for Luang Vichitr's private views expressed in what was supposed to be a historical lecture. At the close of the month the issue had simmered down but still had not been finally closed.

Additions to the Siamese Navy

The Sri Ayudhaya, a Japanese-built gun boat of the "pocket battleship" type, arrived at Bangkok on July 20th, and together with six Japanese-made seaplanes and four submarines (mentioned in the May and June Monthly Political Reports), were "annointed" by the Council of Regency in the course of elaborate ceremonies on that day.

892.34

The specifications of the Sri Ayudhaya, as reported in the local press, are as follows: Displacement - 2,200 tons, length 77 meters, width 13 meters, depth 6 meters, draft 4-1/2 meters, speed 16-1/2 knots, engines - two 2,600 H. P. diesel motors. Main armament - four 8-inch guns, mounted in pairs in two turrets fore and aft. Secondary armament four 3-inch anti-aircraft guns amidship. The cost of the vessel is said to have been Baht 2,500,000 (about U.S. $1,118,750) including armament.

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A sister ship, the Dhonburi, is reported to be nearing completion in Japan and a group of Siamese officers to man her and bring the vessel to Siam left Bangkok on the Bangkok Maru on August 3rd bound for Kobe.

Release of Political Prisoners

Press reports during July stated that over one hundred political prisoners, in two groups, had been released upon

Siamese "National-Day"

oath. A notification of the Council of Ministers, issued on July 18, 1938, announced that June 24th henceforth will be the Siamese "National Day". (Please see despatch No. 222 of August 11, 1938).

June 24, 1932, was the date upon which the coup d'etat, resulting in the present form of government, occurred. Heretofore June 27th, the anniversary of the day upon which a Provisional Constitution was granted to the Siamese people by the King, has been celebrated.

Council of Ministers

It was reported early in July that Luang Dhamrong Navasvasti, Minister of Interior, had submitted his resignation on grounds of ill health. An official communique of the Government Publicity Bureau (Bangkok Times, July 7th) stated that the Council of Ministers discussed the matter on July 6th and unanimously decided not to accept the resignation. Luang Dhamrong was granted sixty days additional sick leave as from July 6th.

According to a notification issued by the Council of Regency dated July 8, 1938, Police Major Luang Javeng Sahdisongramm and Phya Sajja Bhiromya were appointed as members of the Council of Ministers without portfolio. (Please see despatch No. 225 of August 11, 1938). Major Luang Javeng has been appointed by the Council of Ministers as Acting Minister of Interior for the duration of Luang

Dhamrong's

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By MBP NARA Date 5/1/96
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Dhamrong's absence on sick leave.

The Assembly

Release of Political Prisoners

Press reports during July stated that over one hundred political prisoners, in two groups, had been released upon completion of courses of instruction and after taking an oath of fidelity to the King and the Constitution. One remaining group of prisoners held in connection with the 1933 rebellion, said to number about 80, will be released toward the end of August 1938, according to press reports.

892.00

IV.

The following two bills of importance were passed without debate during three readings and will become law in due course:

(1) A bill for the reorganization of the Ministry of Defence to place the General Staff of the Army, the Navy and the Air Force under the [illegible] (Session of July 14th).

(2) A bill for the repeal of the Act for Safeguarding [illegible] (Session of July 28th).

A third bill concerning Siamese ships and shipping, introduced at the session of the Assembly of August 4th, was accepted [illegible] and read for the first time, and referred to a committee.

The Act for the Suppression of Political Associations was passed in one day [illegible] by political refugees [illegible], and to be under its provisions [illegible] interrogated in the 1933 Rebellion were [illegible] Government authority felt [illegible] necessity for such a drastic law had passed and [illegible] when the bill was introduced into the Assembly it was duly passed.

V.

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IV. COURSE OF LEGISLATION.

The Assembly

The National Assembly held eight sessions during July. The questions raised covered a wide range of subjects, but few were of importance except one concerning a question of confidence in the Minister of Education over the policy of suspending students from schools because of non-payment of school fees, which was dropped after a heated debate, and another over the speech of Luang Vichitr which has been dealt with under Section III preceeding.

The following two bills of importance were passed with little debate through three readings and will become law in due course:

(1) A bill for the reorganization of the Ministry of Defense to place the General Staff of the Army, the Navy and the Air Force under the Minister of Defense. (Session of July 16th).

(2) A bill for the repeal of the Act for Safeguarding the Constitution. (Session of July 26th).

A third bill governing Siamese ships and shipping, introduced and sponsored by the Ministry of Economic Affairs, was accepted in principle, passed through its first reading, and sent to committee.

The Act for Safeguarding the Constitution was passed in November 1933 (please refer to the Monthly Political Report for that month), and it was under its provisions that persons who participated in the 1933 Rebellion were arrested and imprisoned. The Government evidently felt that the necessity for such a drastic law had passed and raised no objections when the bill was introduced into the Assembly for action and subsequently passed.

V.

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V. GOVERNMENT FINANCE.

Treasury Balance on June 30th.

The Treasury Balance on June 30th, as given in the Government Gazette of August 1st, stood as follows:

	Baht	Compared with the end of May 1938	
In Siam	20,426,861	Minus	2,494,523
Abroad	36,808,747	Plus	2,951,032
Total	57,235,608	Net Increase	456,509

The Customs Year B.E. 2480 (1937-8)

The annual report of the Director General of Customs for the year B.E. 2480 (April 1, 1937 to March 31, 1938) which was issued in July, shows the following gross revenues for the year. The 1936-37 figures are given for purposes of comparison.

Line of Revenue	B.E. 2480 (1937-38) Baht	B.E. 2479 (1936-37) Baht
Import duties	29,1[illegible],057	31,[illegible],676
Export duties [illegible]	5,310,550	5,850,134
Duties [illegible] charges	19[illegible]	207,[illegible]
Tonnage duties	[illegible]	17,050
Excise duties	[illegible]	4,44[illegible]
Miscellaneous	[illegible]	340,456
Total gross revenue	[illegible]	42,01[illegible],320

although

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By MJP NARA Date 7/1/96
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VI. GENERAL ECONOMIC AND FINANCIAL CONDITIONS.

Development of the Port of Bangkok

The following details of the contract awarded to the firm of Christiani and Nielsen (Siam) Ltd., for work on the project of developing the port of Bangkok (Please see Monthly Political Report for June 1938), appeared in the Bangkok Times of July 28th.

The work to be completed includes a quay wall on the river front 1700 meters long, the construction of a motor boat basin, and foundations and floors for warehouses and transit sheds. The depth of water at the quay wall is to be 10 meters at low water. The contract was signed on July 4th. The contracted amount for the work is Bhat 3,100,000 (about U.S. $1,387,250). Work is to commence within three months of the signing of the contract and is to be completed within a period of 46 months.

The Customs year B. E. 2480 (1937-38)

The annual report of the Director General of Customs for the Siamese year B. E. 2480 (April 1, 1937 to March 31, 1938), which was issued in July, shows the following gross revenues for the year. The 1936-37 figures are given for purpose of comparison.

Kind of Revenue	B.E. 2480 (1937-38) Baht	B.E. 2479 (1936-37) Baht
Import duties	29,120,057	31,773,676
Export duties (Rice and rubber)	3,818,330	5,220,134
Customs fees and charges	198,496	207,787
Forest Royalties	18,956	17,030
Tin Royalties	5,987,430	4,446,235
Other fees and dues	376,167	348,456
Total revenues	39,519,438	42,013,320

Although

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Although the 1937-38 customs revenues were somewhat below those for the preceeding year, they were still much in excess of the totals for the 1933-34, 1934-35 and 1935-36 fiscal years. The decline in customs revenues was due to smaller import duties on general merchandise, and reduced export duties on rice, the latter decrease being the result of a decline in rice exports because of the poor harvest in 1936. Increased tin royalties resulting from larger tin production during the year made up some but not all of the loss

Of the total revenues collected, Baht 29,700,000 or 75 percent was collected at the port of Bangkok.

Gross Customs revenues represented about 36 percent of the Siamese Government's total income from all sources. Operation expenses of the Customs Department totaled only Baht 779,442, or 1.97 percent of the amount collected in revenue.

The Rice Market

According to a statement of the Department of Commerce on July 16th (Bangkok Times, July 25th), a total of 783,402 metric tons of rice were exported from Siam during the period January 1 to June 15, 1938, compared with 475,161 tons for the same period of 1937, or an increase of 308,241 metric tons. The destinations of these shipments were the following:

	1938 Metric Tons	1937 Metric Tons
Singapore	295,852	195,084
Hongkong	259,174	114,894
China	3,168	3,392
Japan and Formosa	21,478	2,433
Netherlands Indies	2,759	1,510
Cuba	58,540	66,213
West Indies	7,270	3,805
Germany	14,126	3,469
United Kingdom	8,618	12,569
Europe	57,585	23,345
South Africa		

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By MJP NARA Date 7/1/96
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South Africa	13,900	12,360
India	13,568	30,021
Ceylon	14,091	3,089
Other countries	13,273	2,977

VII.

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Authority State Letter 11/2
By MJP NARA Date 5/1/96
REPRODUCED AT THE NATIONAL ARCHIVES

VII. ACTIVITIES OF AMERICAN COMMERCIAL INTERESTS.

Chinese Immigration

Nothing to report.

VIII. ACTIVITIES OF FOREIGN COMMERCIAL INTERESTS.

Japanese Tin Mining Activities

The Bangkok Times of July 25th reprinted a report from the Straits Times (Singapore) to the effect that the "Mitsubishi Mining Company" had "purchased" a tin mine in southern Siam, and that the mine will commence production "Early next year".

The report is inaccurate in that neither Japanese nor any other foreign interests can under the existing treaties and laws purchase land in Siam for mining purposes, but it may be that Mitsubishi interests have leased tin mining properties on the usual royalty basis.

An effort is being made to confirm the truth of the report.

Cotton Growing by Japanese

* * * * * * * * *

The Nation of July 29th contained a report that a group of Japanese about ten in number have commenced the cultivation of cotton in two areas near Nakon Pathom, a town about fifty miles west of Bangkok. The report continues that four hundred Siamese have been engaged as workmen and that the area at present under cultivation is 2,000 rai (1 acre equals 2-1/2 rai) in extent. It is reported that the area under cultivation will later be increased to 30,000 rai.

It has been confirmed that some such project is actually in existence but further details are lacking.

IX.

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Authority State Letter 11/72
By WBD NARA Date 5/1/96
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IX. EMIGRATION AND LABOR MATTERS.

Chinese Immigration

The influx of Chinese immigrants continues to be very heavy. Over 5,000 Chinese from southern China are reported to have arrived at Bangkok during June, and arrivals on a similar scale continued during July.

The Siamese authorities are said to be concerned over the problem of assimilating the extraordinarily large number of Chinese who are coming into the country and there has been talk of limiting the number by some sort of a quota system but so far no definite official action in the matter has been taken.

X. MISCELLANEOUS.

Opium

(Please see despatch No. 208 of July 15, 1938).

Nothing furhter to report.

* * * * * * * * * *

Note: The present value of the baht (or tical), the Siamese unit of currency, is approximately $0.46.

JHC/tse

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Authority State Letter 11/72
By MJP NARA Date 7/1/96

REPRODUCED AT THE NATIONAL ARCHIVES

Despatches forwarded by the American Legation at Bangkok to the Department of State during July 1938.

Number		Date	Subject
193		July 1	Authorization for Third Secretary Seibert to act as Chargé d'Affaires.
194		" 1	Visit to Bangkok of United States Destroyer Squadron Five.
195		" 1	Visits of American naval vessels to Siam and of Siamese naval vessels to the United States.
196	CO	" 4	Diplomatic visa issued, week of June 26-July 2, 1938.
197		" 5	Change in government authority to sign students' credentials.
198	CO	" 5	Siamese Customs notices.
199		" 6	Cipher tables.
200		" 8	Strictly confidential (codes).
201	CO	" 9	Acceptance of Tenders.
202		" 11	Request for copy of Consular Regulations.
203		" 12	Mint Statistics.
204		" 12	Customs Notice.
205		" 12	Request for binding Buckram.
206		" 13	Remittance of receipts.
207		" 15	Exchange of telegrams of felicitation.
208		" 15	Opium - Strictly Confidential.
209		" 18	Appointment of Mr. Sequeira to replace Mr. Esche.
209*		" 26	Return to Bangkok and assumption of charge of Legation.
210	CO	" 26	Nonimmigrant 3(1) visas issued, week of July 17-23, 1938.
211		" 28	Address of the Foreign Minister on July 27, 1938.
212		" 28	Treaty between Siam and Switzerland.
213		" 28	Treaty between Siam and Belgium-Luxemburg.
214		" 29	Reports on Siam by American correspondents.
215		" 30	Press interview of Phya Song Suratij.
216		" 30	Political Report for June.
217		" 30	Opium.

* Duplication.

* * * * * * * *

Telegrams forwarded by the American Legation at Bangkok to the Department of State during July 1938.

18	July	1-3pm	Request for authorization to act as Chargé d'Affaires.
19	"	6-3pm	Strictly Confidential.
20	"	8-3pm	Notification of provisional recognition of Mr. Estes as Vice Consul.
21	"	9-11am	Request for increase in allowance for Legation office improvements.
22	"	18-9am	Arrival and assumption of charge of Mr. Chapman.
23	"	27-5pm	Information requested regarding Mr. Chapman's travel account.

FE:ERS:SMH

D.12.38

* * * * * * * *

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Authority State Ltr, 11/1
By hsp NARA Date 2/1/76
REPRODUCED AT THE NATIONAL ARCHIVES

September 14 1938.

No. 609

To the American Ambassador,

Peiping.

The Secretary of State transmits for the information and files of the Embassy excerpts from despatch No. 228 of August 15, 1938, from the American Legation at Bangkok.

Enclosures:
As above.

892.00 P.R./112

892.00 P.R./112 SEP 14 1938 PM

Copy sent to Chungking.

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9.13.38

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By MJD NARA Date 5/1/96

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Excerpts
from
Bangkok's Political Report
July 1938.

Speech of Luang Vichitr Vadakarn

Luang Vichitr Vadakarn, a member of the Council of Ministers without portfolio, who acts as Director General of the Department of Fine Arts, Ministry of Public Instruction, delivered an address at the Chulalongkorn University on July 15th on the subject of "Austria and the Anschluss", in which he drew a comparison between the activities of the Jews in Germany and Austria and the Chinese in Siam. He lauded the principal German leaders and their policy in expelling the Jews from German territory, and left the inference to be drawn that it might be advisable for Siam to proceed in like manner against the Chinese who reside and work in Siam.

Exception was taken to the speech by various members of the National Assembly, as well as local Chinese, and urgent questions were asked of the Government by Assembly members as to its attitude toward the opinions expressed by Luang Vichitr. Although the case at first appeared to be one which might result in serious embarrassment for the Government, pressure seems to have been brought to bear on the more vocal members of the opposition, and most of them were silenced by the explanation that the Government would not be responsible for Luang Vichitr's private views expressed in what was supposed to be a historical lecture. At the close of the month the issue had simmered down but still had not been finally closed.

Chinese Immigration

The influx of Chinese immigrants continues to be very heavy. Over 5,000 Chinese from southern China are reported to have arrived at Bangkok during June, and arrivals on a similar scale continued during July.

The Siamese authorities are said to be concerned over the problem of assimilating the extraordinarily large number of Chinese who are coming into the country and there has been talk of limiting the number by some sort of a quota system but so far no definite official action in the matter has been taken.