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INDICATE: ☐ COLLECT ☐ CHARGE TO

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31 DEC 68 1930Z

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Info

ACTION: Amembassy BANGKOK PRIORITY

STATE

REF: Bangkok 24837 - Pol Thai-US to PPB 9 US

SUBJ: Anderson Article in Parade Magazine

1. Department appreciates detailed, helpful information in reftel.

2. While recognizing Thai sensitivities to the charges in the Anderson article, we note it has not been raised so far in Department press briefings. This confirms our belief that the press recognizes it as a rehash of earlier stories, not news.

3. Department officers familiar with press matters believe that if Department volunteers a statement, it will simply call attention to the article and give it additional, undesirable circulation. Consequently, we believe the best tactic is to respond only if queried. In this case, we would reply as follows: Question: QUOTE Do you have any comment on the Jack Anderson article in Parade magazine December 29 entitled INNER QTE Are They Robbing Us Blind in Thailand? END INNER QTE

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Drafted by: EA/TB:MJSpeakman:jsb 12/31/68	Tel. Ext. 6853	Telegraphic transmission and classification approved by: EA - G. McMurtrie Godley

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END QTE Answer QUOTE This article repeats a number of charges which have been made and answered in the past./ There is no truth to the report that the King has profiteered in sales of cement in Thailand. (If queried further about these charges, Dept. will use details provided reftel)

END QTE

4. The Embassy should contact MFA as suggested and make the points noted above. XX At its discretion the Embassy may also counsel the MFA that while we deplore this article, we believe that any statement the Ministry might make would probably be picked up and simply call more attention to the article. We believe this is a situation which we are both anxious to avoid.

END

RUSK

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