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1950

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SOUTH-EAST ASIA DEPARTMENT

SIAM

FS 10381/17

FROM Chancery Bangkok
to S.E. Asia Dept.

No. 1029/47/50
Dated 12 Oct
Received in Registry— 16 Oct

Copies of a report by the British Military Attaché at Bangkok in which reference is made to the Siamese contingent for Korea.
Memo 418/314/50 dated 11th Oct

Copied & sent a telegram.

REFERENCES

FS 10381/16

MINUTES

This is a most discouraging account

FED Secd. 19/10
UN Dept Pem 21/10
PUSD
Offr 23/10

NAI 18/10

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British Embassy,
~~Bangkok.~~
INCLAED

(1029/47/50) 12th October, 1950.

SECRET.

F.O. 1038/16

Dear Department,

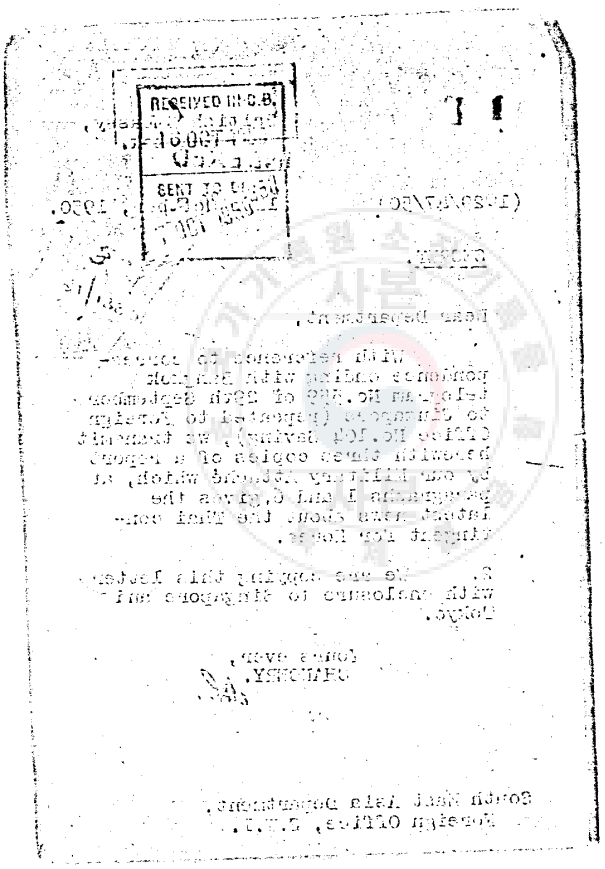
With reference to correspondence ending with Bangkok telegram No.559 of 29th September to Singapore (repeated to Foreign Office No.104 Saving), we transmit herewith three copies of a report by our Military Attaché which, at paragraphs 1 and 6, gives the latest news about the Thai contingent for Korea.

2. We are copying this letter with enclosure to Singapore and Tokyo.

Yours ever,
CHANCERY.

South East Asia Department,
Foreign Office, S.W.1.

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GUARD
DISCREET

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Office of the Military Attache,
British Embassy,
Bangkok,
Siam.

MA/314/50

11th Oct 1950

Memorandum For :-

The War Office M.I.2.(b)
Whitehall,
London S.W.I.

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1. SIAMESE CONTINGENT FOR KOREA.

The Siamese mission headed by Major General M.C. Phisit Diskul, including representatives of the Siamese Army, Navy, Air Force and Red Cross, and accompanied by Col Sheldon (U.S. M.A.) went by air to Tokyo on 29th Sept and returned to Bangkok on 8th Oct. The party spent three days in PUSAN. According to reports General Phisits reception by General McArthur was cordial and everything was "satisfactorily arranged."

An advance party of ten officers and 38 O.R's left Bangkok by P.O.A.S. for Korea on 10th Oct. This same plane will bring back five tons of American winter uniform for the troops who are going. A composite Bn approximately 1180 strong and consisting mainly of the 1st and 2nd Bns of the 21st Inf Regt from LOPBURI and SARABURI respectively will be sent. It is unlikely that more will go, although Colonel Sheldon apparently had to stop General Phisit from talking grandiosely of "the rest of our combat team."

The troops will be re-armed by the Americans on arrival in Korea. They are already concentrated in Bangkok in a new and as yet unused women's hospital, from whence they stroll the streets with their hands in their pockets and boots undone. Training so far has consisted mainly of visits from senior government officials, including the Premier, and much advertised cinema shows and supper parties.

The Government is attempting to charter a passenger ship from the Maersk line to transport the troops to Korea, leaving Bangkok on approximately 20th Oct. This has not yet been arranged, but if it is, the ship will be convoyed by two R.T.N. Corvettes the Bangkapong (ex BURNET) and Prase (ex BETONY) which were sold by the U.K. to the R.T.N. after the 1939 - 45 war. These corvettes will remain under U.N. naval command for Korea.

To summarise, the Siamese, after months of talk hope to be able to send approximately 1200 untrained troops, plus 30 Red Cross personnel to Korea some time in October, if they can get a ship. Financial arrangements are, as the Siamese admit, still chaotic.

2. DISCIPLINE.

Lt Colonels Thien Varnavichai and Thavi Kaengpol both of the Q.M.G's Department are under suspension for corruption and forging documents in connection with the purchases of uniform and equipment.

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