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SOUTH-EAST ASIA DEPARTMENT

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FROM Mr. Whittington
Bangkok

No. 145
Dated 24 July
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Field Marshal P. Pibul Songgram interviewed by U.P. Correspondent Mr. H. Kranson.
Extract from the BANGKOK POST. dated 21st July, 1950 headed Premier Discusses War, A-Bomb, Nehru's Play.
Copied Upon U/C P.L.27.

REFERENCES

MINUTES

U.n(A&E) WKM 2/8 PAD 1/8
F.E.D.
E.R.D. RHC 2/8
I.P.D. JRM 14/8
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P.L. No. 145.
(1012/49/50)

HIS Majesty's C. d'A. at Bangkok
presents his compliments to H.M.P.S.S. for F.A., F.O.,
and has the honour to transmit to him the under-mentioned documents.

British Embassy,
Bangkok.

S 10381/9

24 July, 1950.

Reference to previous correspondence :

Description of Enclosure.

Name and Date.	Subject.
Extract from the BANGKOK POST dated Friday, July 21st., 1950.	Field Marshal P. PIBULSONGGRAM interviewed by U.P. Correspondent Mr. ROBERT BRANSON.

cc to SINGAPORE under P.L. No. 27.

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THE BANGKOK POST, FRIDAY, JULY 21, 1950

Premier Discusses War, A-Bomb, Nehru's Plan

Besides telling United Press Correspondent Robert Branson of the Defense Board's decision a few hours earlier to recommend sending of Thai troops to South Korea (see separate story), Premier Phibun Songkram yesterday afternoon gave written answers to Mr. Branson's questions regarding communism here, possible use of the atomic bomb in Korea, and other matters.

The Premier said the government is waiting for arrival of a United Nations committee reportedly being sent to discuss Thailand's offer to send rice and other material to South Korea.

Mr. Branson reported his other questions and the Premier's answers as follows:

Q. "Have the Korean developments increased the Communist threat in Thailand?"

A. "Slightly. There has been more evidence of Communist activities the past fortnight but we are fully prepared to cope with them".

Q. "Is there any serious immediate Communist threat against your government from within Thailand?"

A. "No."

Q "Do you feel American aid in sufficient quantities could insure Thailand permanently against communism?"

A. "If we receive enough aid in way of arms and equipment, we shall be able to control our borders against anything short of major invasion. But a major invasion could not be successfully resisted without outside equipment and troops. With enough arms we could withstand perhaps three divisions but for anything above that we would need help."

Q. "What American aid specifically and how much does Thailand most need?"

A. "The more the better. The more we can develop the country both militarily and economically the thicker our armor against communism will be".

Q. "Would the U.N. be justified in using atomic bombs in Korea?"

A. "The atomic bomb could not possibly be used in Korea alone. Once used in Korea it would be used elsewhere. Therefore the party who plans to use it must weigh the pros and cons very carefully and not use it except in the greatest emergency".

Q. "Do you agree with Nehru that the Chinese Communists should be seated in the Security Council immediately in order to hasten a peaceful Korean solution.

A. "Seating Communist China on the Security Council would be like seating Marshal Stalin himself." Mr. Branson said the Premier indicated such seating would serve "no useful purpose."

Q. "Will the Korean conflict develope into a third world war?"

A. Depends upon 'the opposition party' within the U.N. and upon the present U.N. military operations".

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