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SECRET

THE WHITE HOUSE

WASHINGTON

August 8, 1969

SECRET ATTACHMENTS

MEMORANDUM FOR MR. WILLIAM B. MACOMBER, JR.
ASSISTANT SECRETARY OF STATE

SUBJECT: Presidential Letters to Prime Minister of Thailand

Pursuant to our discussion, I am returning without further action here the four Presidential letters to the Thai Prime Minister. They should not be made available to Senator Symington, however.

While we hope it will not be required, I am informed by the Counsel's office that we are prepared to invoke Executive privilege, if necessary, on these letters.

Alexander M. Haig
Colonel, U.S. Army
Military Assistant

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Mr. Roland Paul
Committee on Foreign Relations
United States Senate
Room 4304
Washington, D.C.

Dear Mr. Paul:

During your recent discussions with various officers of the Department you and Walter Pincus requested copies of certain documents relating to Thailand. Enclosed with this letter are the texts of four Presidential letters to the Prime Minister of Thailand, as requested.

I hope these materials will be useful to you. If I can be of further assistance, on this or any other matter, please do not hesitate to let me know.

Sincerely,

William B. Macomber, Jr.
Assistant Secretary for
Congressional Relations

Enclosures:
1. State telegram 660 dated 11/9/60 (secret) - Tab C
2. State telegram 1277 dated 2/20/61 (secret) - Tab D
3. State telegram 835 dated 11/25/63 (unclassified) - Tab J
4. State telegram 046292 dated 3/26/69 (confidential) - Tab Q

EA/TB:LRStarbird:ghee7/15/69
Clearances:
EA/TB:JSpear

Clearances (cont)
H- Amb. Torbert
H- Mr. White

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S/S - Mr. John P. Walsh

July 24, 19

EA/TB - Moncrieff J. Spear

Request for S/S and White House Clearance to Release Certain Presidential Letters to the Senate

During recent discussions with various officers of the Department, Messrs. Paul and Pincus requested copies of certain documents relating to Thailand. They are staff members of the Senate Foreign Relations Committee's Subcommittee on United States Security Agreements and Commitments Abroad, which is chaired by Senator Symington.

It is recommended that the Presidential letters requested by Messrs. Pincus and Paul be made available. They are letters to the Thai Prime Minister from Presidents Eisenhower, Kennedy, Johnson and Nixon.

Recommend that you clear the enclosed letter to Senator Symington and that you seek White House clearance to release the four Presidential letters described in it.

Enclosures:
As stated

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VERBATIM TEXT 04424

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PRESIDENTIAL HANDLING

EXDIS

Please deliver following Presidential letter to Prime Minister Sarit Thanarat/ as soon as possible. Notify Department date time delivery. Signed original being pouched.

~~SECRET~~ November 8, 1960

Dear Mr. Prime Minister:

The recent visit of Their Majesties the King and Queen to the United States was a major milestone in the long and happy history of relations between our two countries and I believe it was extraordinarily successful. At that time I had the pleasure of a cordial conversation with His Majesty the King on international developments. The communique issued following this meeting indicated our mutual concern with the vital problems of preserving freedom and independence, achieving lasting peace, and establishing a world order based on international justice. We reasserted our mutual determination to work towards these goals, believing that this would contribute immensely to the progress, prosperity, and welfare of mankind.

His Majesty

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continued military and economic assistance pr[illegible] to
[illegible] firm evidence of our intentions in this respect.
[illegible]arily pleased in this connection to be able to inform
[illegible] although our aid programs are again being decreased in many
[illegible], defense support assistance for Thailand in fiscal year
[illegible] higher than that provided in fiscal year 1960 and a substant-
[illegible] increased level of military assistance is programmed. I know
of Your Excellency's own interest in this subject and trust that
[illegible] will serve to reaffirm the importance which we attach to the
continued strength and stability of Thailand.

To this end, looking to the future, the United States would be prepared to explore with the Royal Thai Government measures to advance economic development in Thailand, combining assistance available from the United States Government with additional steps by your Government to mobilize the resources of Thailand. In this connection, I am impressed with Thailand's favorable prospects for more rapid development and its potential ability to profit from external capital availabilities as emphasis in United States assistance programs shifts from a grant to a loan basis and as the opportunities for private investment in Thailand become increasingly well known.

It is my earnest hope that this initiative, conceived in the spirit of my conversations with His Majesty the King, will serve to illustrate

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Majesty and I likewise noted that the staunch adherence of [illegible] and the United States to the Southeast Asia Treaty Organization [illegible] a mutual determination to preserve the frontiers of the world from aggression and to promote the peaceful objectives by both countries. I took this opportunity to pay tribute to the steadfast partnership of Thailand and the United States in the field and reaffirmed to His Majesty the unwavering determination of the United States fully to honor its treaty commitments undertaken in the cause of collective security.

I wish to assure Your Excellency that the preservation of the independence and integrity of Thailand continues to be a matter of the highest concern and importance to the United States and that Thailand will have the unswerving support of the United States, as an ally and friend, in resisting both Communist aggression and subversion. I entirely agree with Your Excellency's recent statement that we must preserve the strong bond of cordial friendship between our two countries and use our concerted efforts to meet the world crisis as we head through rough and dangerous seas toward safety and security. I consider Thailand a bulwark of free world strength in Asia, whose contribution towards mutual objectives is of such significance that we must strive together to reinforce and sustain its strength and well-being.

Our continuing

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Telegram to Amembassy BANGKOK PRIORITY

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[illegible] the abiding importance which the United States continues [illegible] on its friendship and cooperation with Thailand.

Sincerely,

Dwight D. Eisenhower UNQUOTE

White House desires text this message not (rpt not) become public.

Embassy suggestions per REFTEL taken into account where possible in preparing letter. Should be understood that since letter makes [illegible] FY 61 aid level, other countries, text should not REPEAT not be made public.

Next following telegram, REFTEL 661, provides general guidance for your use in presenting letter to Sarit. In order avoid [illegible] any publicity captioning it Presidential Handling all mention President's name omitted. Delivery letter referred to only as QUOTE your friend Sarit UNQUOTE. In future Embassy messages discussing matters contained therein, where possible avoid mention letter or direct reference this Presidential Handling telegram. In any case where this not possible your message must bear Presidential Handling caption.

EXCLUSIVE PRESIDENTIAL HANDLING

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FROM: Department of State

1961 FEB 23 PM 2

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PRIORITY

TELEGRAM 2562

SENT TO: Ambassador BANGKOK 1277

PRESIDENTIAL HANDLING

Following is text of message from the President to Prime Minister. Advise date and time delivery.

QUOTE

February 28, 1961

Dear Mr. Prime Minister:

At the outset of my term of office I should like to assure Your Excellency of the great satisfaction which we derive from our historic friendship and close partnership with Thailand. We have been greatly encouraged by Thailand's noteworthy progress under your leadership and are mindful of the important contribution which the government and people of Thailand continue to make to the cause of peace and freedom in Asia.

I fully appreciate Your Excellency's deep concern over the events now taking place in Southeast Asia and I wish to assure you that Thailand will have our unswerving support in resisting Communist aggression and subversion. I know of the correspondence between Your Excellency and President Eisenho on this

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Telegram to

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...serious matter and I reaffirm our unchanging conviction ... the preservation of the independence and integrity of Thailand is a matter of the highest importance to the United States. We shall fully honor our obligations to Thailand as an ally and friend.

In the context of our mutual concern with economic and security problems, I hope representatives of our two governments will intensify their joint efforts to seek all appropriate means of furthering the strength and stability of Thailand. I should like to confirm our willingness to explore with your government measures for advancing economic development and mobilizing the resources of Thailand.

My purpose in sending this brief initial message is to let you know of the high value which we continue to place upon our friendship with Thailand, which is built upon an historic foundation of mutual trust. I firmly believe that our close and cordial cooperation in every field of activity remains essential to the realization of our common hopes for the preservation of freedom and the maintenance of peace.

Sincerely,

John F. Kennedy UNQUOTE

OBSERVE PRESIDENTIAL HANDLING.

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Department of State POL 6-1

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ACTION: Amembassy BANGKOK 836

Nov 25 12 16 AM '63

Request Ambassador Martin transmit following message to PM Sarit from President Johnson:

QUOTE: Dear Mr. Prime Minister:

Your Excellency's message of sympathy and condolence was received with deep appreciation. On behalf of the people and Government of the United States and of the family of the late President, I express our heartfelt gratitude. Our loss is great and grievous, as Your Excellency has said. From it, we as allies must take a new resolve to stand firmly together.

For me, your message had a special personal warmth as I recalled our conversations of some two years ago. At that time I told Your Excellency that "America is dedicated to the pursuit of an honorable and lasting peace for all mankind. We are determined to maintain adequate and responsible strength in the Free World. We will honor our commitments for the cause of free We will stand by our friends, none, repeat none, more so than the

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m to Amembassy BANGKOK

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people." Be assured that the Government and people of the States remain steadfast in this resolve. UNQUOTE

END

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