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# WIFE OF THE DEPUTY PRIME MINISTER OF THAILAND

## Swai Charusathira

Pronunciation: KUN-YING (Title)
SAH-WAI CHAN-ROO-SAH-TEE-EN

Should be addressed as: Khunying; or Khunying Swai

Should be referred to as: Khunying Swai; or by her full name, Khunying Swai Charusathira

Khunying (an honorary title for Thai ladies) Swai Charusathira is the wife of the Deputy Prime Minister and Minister of the Interior of Thailand, General Praphat Charusathira. She has been active in social welfare work on behalf of soldiers' families and in other public assistance work, and has received several Thai decorations for her welfare activities.

American sources who have known her describe her as gay, vivacious, and extremely affable but also overweight and unattractive in appearance. She is said to be "difficult for Westerners to get to know." Department of Defense sources have reported that she has used her husband's position to promote family business interests and that she exerts great influence on him.

Khunying Swai was born October 5, 1916 in Thonburi Province not far west of Bangkok. After completing secondary education, she was married to Praphat Charusathira, then a second lieutenant in the infantry, on March 10, 1934. They had six children, two sons and four daughters, but the eldest son was killed in an automobile accident in August 1962. Their second son, Prayuth, is a junior officer in the Thai Army. One of their daughters, Suphaphon, was married to Narong Kittikachorn, eldest son of the Prime Minister, in May 1958.

Khunying Swai reportedly speaks little English.

April 1968

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