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DEPARTMENT OF STATE

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TO : Department of State

INFO: KUALA LUMPUR

FROM : Amembassy BANGKOK

DATE: September 20, 1970

SUBJECT : Tunku's Visit to Thailand

REF : Kuala Lumpur 2863

SUMMARY: Malaysian Prime Minister Tunku Abdul Rahman concluded on September 15, 1970, a four-day official visit to Thailand. The Tunku utilized his final official visit before stepping down as Prime Minister to reassure the Thai that Malaysia would continue to maintain its present policies, including close and friendly relations with Thailand, under the forthcoming change in leadership. The essentially personal nature of the Tunku's visit was reflected in his small family-oriented official party, a basically ceremonial schedule (a 26-hour visit to Chiang Mai, a Royal audience, recipient of an honorary degree) and by the lack of an official communique to mark the visit. The Tunku did meet formally for an hour with Prime Minister Thanom Kittikachorn and other Thai Government leaders to discuss the continuance of close Thai-Malaysian relations and the security situation in the Thai-Malaysian border area. END SUMMARY

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Making his final official trip abroad as Malaysian Prime Minister, Tunku Abdul Rahman visited Thailand September 12-15 at the invitation of the Thai Government. Upon arrival the Tunku and his official party (which included his wife, four other family members, and his principal private secretary), were met by Thai Prime Minister Thanom Kittikachorn and his wife and escorted almost immediately to Chiang Mai for a 26-hour visit. Returning the following afternoon to Bangkok, the Tunku and his party were guests of honor at a dinner hosted by Prime Minister Thanom (see enclosures 1 and 2 for the

Enclosures:
1. Prime Minister Thanom's speech.
2. The Tunku's responding speech.

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...m's speech and the Tunku's responding speech at the dinner). ...ing of the third day of the visit began with several ceremonial ...es (a wreath laying and signing of Royal books), followed by formal discussions with Prime Minister Thanom and other Thai Government leaders. At noon the Tunku and his wife were granted a Royal audience followed by a luncheon hosted by Their Majesties. Later in the afternoon the Tunku received an honorary degree in political science from Chulalongkorn University and that evening the Malaysian Ambassador to Thailand hosted a reception and dinner. On the morning of September 14 the Tunku gave a press conference and visited the grave of his brother buried in Bangkok before departing for Kuala Lumpur. No communique on the visit was issued.

The formal one-hour meeting between the Tunku and Thai Government leaders headed by Prime Minister Thanom, held on the morning of September 14, was apparently devoted for the most part to a general discussion of future Thai-Malaysian relations and of the security situation in the Thai-Malaysian border area. The Tunku reiterated assurances made earlier in the visit that there would be no change in Malaysia's policy toward Thailand after Tun Abdul Razak assumed leadership. He added that he would remain head of the Alliance Party and that he believed he would be in a position to help tighten relations between Thailand and Malaysia. Thai Deputy Foreign Minister, Major General Sanga Kittikachorn, present at the meeting, later informed the press that problems caused by persons having both Thai and Malaysian nationality living in the border region had been another topic of discussion. According to the Deputy Foreign Minister, the Tunku raised the subject by stating that a number of these dual nationals residing in Thailand had crossed into the northern Malaysian state of Kelantan to vote for Non-Alliance candidates in the last general election. Prime Minister Thanom reportedly replied that these dual nationals were causing various types of trouble in the Thai border provinces; spreading Communist propaganda, stirring up religious animosities between Buddhist and Moslem elements of the population and encouraging Moslem separatist sentiments. The Deputy Foreign Minister reportedly told the press that the Thai and Malaysian Governments might seek to remedy the problem by requiring these dual nationals to choose one or the other nationality or by declaring them citizens of the country in which they have resided for the longest period of time. The Deputy Foreign Minister also revealed that Prime Minister Thanom had requested and obtained the Tunku's assurances that Malaysian authorities would seek energetically to prevent supposed Malaysian citizens of Chinese ancestry intent upon joining up with Communist terrorists from infiltrating into southern Thailand from Malaysia by land or sea.

Receiving his honorary doctorate in political science, the Tunku told his audience, according to press reports, that he deplored university students who embraced violence as a legitimate form of protest, stating that the lessons of history "point to the fact that violence for its own sake never produces lasting results." The Tunku went on, however, to declare that Chulalongkorn University students had "every right" to carry out their recent protest demonstration (see Bangkok 11542) since the issue was directly connected with their university.

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At his press conference the Tunku reportedly again stressed the importance of maintaining close Thai-Malaysian friendship and cooperation, particularly in view of the present security situation in the Thai-Malaysian border area. Commenting on the recently concluded Lusaka Conference of Non-Aligned Nations, the Tunku said that Malaysia had taken part in the conference to promote world peace and that, although the conference had not achieved much, it was good for countries "to get together and discuss matters of mutual interest." He further stressed the fact that Malaysia's participation in the Lusaka Conference would not affect in any way its close friendship with Thailand. Indicating that it was Malaysian policy to remain uninvolved in Cambodian internal affairs, the Tunku stated that the Three Nation Commission of the Djakarta Conference had made no progress in their efforts to bring peace to Cambodia.

COMMENT. The Tunku's visit appears to have been as advertised, basically ceremonial and sentimental in content, with little serious discussion and no important decisions having emerged. The Thai leadership seems to have accepted the Tunku's assurances that Malaysia will continue its policy of close and cordial relations with Thailand under the leadership of Tun Abdul Razak. In this connection the Thai have pointed to the fact that the Tunku will retain his position as head of the Alliance Party and thus will, in the Thai view, be in a position to exert an important influence on governmental policies. For the Thai the visit offered a suitable opportunity to exhibit their affection for the Tunku and to pledge in their turn to maintain the present close relations between the two countries.

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Address of His Excellency the Prime Minister of Thailand
at H.E. dinner in honour of
His Excellency the Prime Minister of Malaysia
on September 13, B.E. 2513 (1970)

Mr. Prime Minister, Tun Sharifah, Highnesses, Excellencies, Ladies and Gentlemen:

It is a distinct privilege and a genuine pleasure for me to extend on behalf of the Thai Government and people to Your Excellency, Tun Sharifah and the other distinguished members of your party a most cordial welcome and to wish you a pleasant and comfortable stay in Thailand.

Mr. Prime Minister, you have not only brought independence to your great nation but have been guiding its affairs and shaping its destiny for the past 13 years. Your far-sighted and inspiring leadership has also contributed to the strengthening of the bonds of friendship between our two countries, which have been further enhanced by close and fruitful contacts both on bilateral and regional basis. Thailand is indeed gratified to see one of its closest neighbours enjoying continuing prosperity under Your Excellency's guidance, and to have had the opportunity of playing a role in promoting better understanding and harmony, as well as meaningful cooperation between Malaysia and its neighbours, thus ensuring greater stability and a brighter future for our region.

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We sincerely regret, therefore, to have learned of your intention to retire from your high office on September 8. Your recent appointment as Secretary-General of the new Islam Organisation signifies not only the fact that all Islam nations have shown the respect for you and faith in you, but also the confidence that you will be in a position to render valuable services for the well-being of all Muslim countries, which in turn could greatly contribute to world peace and to the welfare of man. The honour thus conferred upon your Excellency by the Islamic Community is shared not only by your great nation, but also by the Asian countries which count you as one of Asia's eminent sons.

For its part, the Thai Government remains firm in its conviction that continued close collaboration between Malaysia and Thailand is essential for the stability and progress of our two countries and of Southeast Asia in general, particularly when the region to which both our countries belong and from which we have no way of escaping, is going through a crucial period and facing unprecedented dangers. Nevertheless, our common interests which are predicated on regional cooperation in various fields, or as the Thai Government has often referred to as "political collective defence," form an effective barrier against external threats and a solid foundation for regional peace, security and prosperity. It is a matter of utmost importance, therefore, and indeed of necessity, that nations in this part of the world should work together for mutually beneficial political, social and economic cooperation among them. What we have achieved within the framework of such organizations as ASEAN and ASPAC is only a modest beginning and we must pursue our noble ideals and worthwhile objectives with greater vigour and imagination, as well as with patience and perseverance.

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I am, therefore, confident that, although there will be a change at the helm of the Malaysian state, our two countries will continue to enjoy and to enhance further the existing close and cordial relationship in the spirit of goodwill, mutual understanding and genuine neighbourliness now happily prevailing between them.

Highnesses, Excellencies, Ladies and Gentlemen:

I would like to invite all of you to join with me in a toast for the continued good health of His Excellency the Prime Minister of Malaysia, and to wish him every success in his new responsibilities, for peace with freedom in our region, and for even more beneficial cooperation between our two nations.

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SPEECH BY YAM TUNKU ABDUL RAHMAN
PUTRA AL-HAJ AT DINNER ON SUNDAY 13TH
SEPTEMBER, 1970 IN REPLY TO SPEECH BY
THAI PRIME MINISTER.

Your Excellency, Tun Thanom Kittikachorn,
Hon'ble Ministers,
Your Excellencies, Distinguished Guests,
Ladies and Gentlemen.

Your Excellency, I would like to thank you very much for the kind words you have said about me.

I consider it a great honour that your Excellency, on behalf of the Thai Government, has accorded me and my wife the privilege of being your guests in this beautiful country. I have been to Thailand many times before, in fact I attended school as a boy here and the rich cultural and historical heritage of the country continue to fascinate and impress me deeply. Perhaps because my mother to whom I owe so much for what I am today came from this country.

This visit has a special significance for me because it is my last official visit overseas as Prime Minister of Malaysia. Next week, soon after my return to Malaysia, I shall be relinquishing my post as Prime Minister and my Deputy, Y.A.B. Tun Abdul Razak shall take my place. It is indeed more than satisfying to me that I am able to make my last official visit outside Malaysia to Thailand - one of our closest neighbours and with whom we have been on the best term of friendship since Malaya and then Malaysia was born. It is a friendship which is real and warm and one which must endure for all time - if our country is to survive in peace, happiness and security.

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appreciate very much the co-operation that the Thai Government has rendered us in the years, particularly in our efforts to eradicate the Communist terrorist menace in the Malaysia/Thailand border areas. I need not elaborate here the many other areas of co-operation which Malaysia and Thailand have successfully embarked upon bilaterally and multilaterally in the regional context. Your Excellency, I am confident that you and your colleagues will continue to give your valuable co-operation to the new Government in Malaysia under the leadership of Y.A.B. Tun Abdul Razak whom you and members of your Government know so well.

He has been my friend for all these years and he has been in the Cabinet with me all the 15 years I was Chief Minister and then Prime Minister. I feel I know him well enough to say he shares my views that progress and prosperity can be achieved only through peace and stability. This is tantamount to saying that we obtain it in close co-operation with our neighbours. The new Government in Malaysia will continue to promote the closest of understanding and rapport between Malaysia and other countries in the region, particularly with Thailand.

In ASEAN we already have the framework for regional co-operation. I urge on the members to put in their effort to make it work for peace and understanding within the region would be very much within our grasp once we decide faithfully to work together. Once we begin to consciously and committedly apply ourselves to these things, then I feel that we should be well on our way to attaining all that we aspire for.

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[illegible] I hope to be able to [illegible] this service to the cause of [illegible] goodwill and understanding. As Your Excellency is aware, I shall be taking up responsibilities as Secretary-General of the Muslim Secretariat whose office is located, for the time being, in Malaysia.

Speaking about international goodwill and understanding, I say without hesitation that Thailand and Malaysia have an exemplary record of neighbourly existence, an example which could be followed by others.

My wife and I thank you once again, Your Excellency for having invited us to Thailand and for the elaborate programme you have laid out for us. Yesterday, we had the opportunity of touring your enchanting city of Chiang Mai and we look forward to the rest of the programme for this visit. I thank you especially, Your Excellency, for the honour you have done us by hosting this delightful dinner to-night. I am particularly honoured to be given the privilege of paying my respects to His Majesty the King and Her Majesty the Queen whom I had the pleasure of meeting when Their Majesties paid us a visit some years ago and endeared themselves to the people and have glorified the image of Thailand in our country.

You yourself Mr. Prime Minister and your good lady had also created a wonderful impression in my country when you visited us officially a few years back. The simplicity and friendliness of both you and your charming lady have left an endearing impression in the minds of all our people and I hope the Executive Head of State of Thailand will continue to make such visits from time to time. I can assure you that you will always be welcomed.

It goes without saying that your Cabinet Ministers and High Officials who have visited us from time to time have helped to produce a wonderful [illegible] of this mission of ours. I pray that this [illegible] will continue to [illegible] for all time.

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