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1950

F

SOUTH EAST ASIA DEPARTMENT.

SIAM

F 10381/15

FROM Chancery. Bangkok.

No. 1029/35/50.

Dated 28/9.

Received in Registry— 2/10.

Transmits Memorandum from Bangkok P.Q. giving information about the despatch of a Siamese consignment to Korea

Copies - Singapore.

REFERENCES

F.O. 10381/14.

MINUTES

FED } Mal. 5/10
U.N. (P&I) } Pien 7/10 } paras 1 (Siamese forces for Korea)
P&S Dept 10/10.
Northern Dept } paras 2 (Soviet offer of arms to Siam)
RLJ 19/X

RLJ 3/10

(Print)

(How disposed of)

(Action completed) 20/10

(Index) Act 3/A/51

38679

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SIAM

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FROM Chancery. Bangkok.

No. 1029/337/50.

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FE.D S.Wal. 5/10

U.N.(PA) Pcm 7/10 paras 6 (Siamese force for Korea)

P.U.S.D. 10/10.

Northern Dept. paras 2 (Soviet offer of arms to Siam)

RLH 19/X

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British Embassy,
Bangkok.

(1029/35/50) INDEXED 28th September, 1950.

SECRET. FS 10381/15

Dear South East Asia Department,

In connection with our telegram No.99 Saving, about Korea, we enclose a copy of a memorandum from the Military Attaché to the War Office, paragraph 6 of which gives the latest information available about the despatch of a Siamese consignment to Korea.

2. We are copying this, with enclosure, to Chancery, Singapore.

Yours ever,
Chancery.

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

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SECRET

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

MA/314/50

26th Sept 1950

Memorandum for:-

The War Office M.I.2(b)
Whitehall,
London S.W.1.

---

1. POLITICAL.

Major General Kun Chamnong Bhumivat, Director of Army Welfare, appears to be in trouble. He left BANGKOK for PENANG ostensibly for a rest. and with the knowledge of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, on 15th Aug. The Police now allege, and the 2nd Bureau confirm, that sufficient evidence has been found to implicate the General in an anti-Government plot. He was arrested in Feb 1950, together with a number of other officers, when General Luang Kach was exiled, but was released for lack of evidence. He has not officially resigned.

General Luang Kach has written to the Premier asking for permission either to return to Siam, or to be allowed to join the U.N.O. forces in Korea.

2. SIAMESE - RUSSO RELATIONS.

So far Army officers refuse to discuss the arrest of Col PORN PORNPIRAPAN, Major SOMPOL POLVADHANA, and Lt SUMIT SAKARI, all of the Territorial Defence Department, for alleged Communist activities. The action of the Deputy Minister of Defence in having them arrested has been censured by some M.P's who intend to raise an inquiry in the Lower House. (See para 5 of my MA/314/50 of 30th Aug 1950) These officers may be innocent, guilty of implication in a Russian plant to discredit the Siamese with the U.K. and U.S.A., or have released true information to the French deuxiene bureau.

3. ERSKINE MISSION.

There has been surprisingly little comment on this in Army circles. There appears to be a general air of disappointment that more extensive and immediate aid was not recommended.

4. SIAMESE - FRENCH RELATIONS.

There has been very little comment in the press on the alleged firing at a Siamese steam launch by French troops on 14th Sept. This is supposed to have taken place at BAN SAM PANG, AMPHUR TABAN about 60 kms from NONGKHAI. It is true that one Siamese was killed and two wounded.

5. EQUIPMENT.

A local British Firm, Messrs D.Couper Johnston, have obtained a contract to supply the Army with 460 Walkie Talkie wireless sets, and batteries, at a c.i.f. cost of £ 38 per set. These sets are

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SECRET

re-conditioned ones, and expected to arrive from the U.K. in batches of a hundred starting in October. I will send further details of the sets. The same firm has also obtained a big order for oil well boring equipment.

The Siamese Army Signal Inspectorate has ordered 500 Walkie Talkie sets from an American Firm in U.S.A. handling army surpluses. These sets are BC 322 and SCR 195 but in what proportions is not known. So far 350 sets have arrived.

While handing over pack saddlery at the Signals Inspectorate, I noticed the following American electrical equipment which had just been unpacked.

(a) One four cylinder air cooled Allied International Co Asco generator, 230 volts, 35.1 amps, for use at the Army Broadcasting Station Bangkok.
(b) Twenty single cylinder air cooled battery charging sets, (Wisconsin Motor Co), 115 volts, 26.1 amps, 6.9 KW, for use at Army wireless stations in the provinces.

6. SIAMESE CONTINGENT FOR KOREA.

The present intention is for the Siamese Mission of sixteen officers headed by Major General M.C. Phisit Diskul, and accompanied by the United States M.A. Bangkok, to proceed by air to Tokyo on 29th Sept, returning to Bangkok on 8th Oct.

One thousand troops are being concentrated in Bangkok on 29th Sept, and it is hoped to despatch them by chartered Danish ship direct to Korea, leaving Bangkok on approximately 15th Oct. These men will not have been re-clothed, re-equipped nor had any training as a unit. This will all have to be carried out in Korea. A suggestion that they should go to Japan for this purpose is reputed to have been refused.

Permission for despatch of the Mission has been requested from Washington but up to the 28th Sept no reply has been received. In fact the Siamese contingent has not yet been accepted in detail.

7. DISCIPLINE.

A raid on the barracks of the 11th Infantry Regiment in Bangkok on 19th Sept, revealed an illicit playing card manufacturing plant. This included three printing presses which together filled a three ton lorry. Initiative appears to be developing.

P.L.M. Wainwright
Colonel.
Military Attache.

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