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DEPARTMENT OF STATE

13 MAR 1973

Memorandum of Conversation

DATE: March 6, 1973
3:00 p.m.

SUBJECT: Call by Ambassador Anand on Mr. Hummel

PARTICIPANTS:

H.E. Anand Panyarachun, Thai Ambassador to the United States
Arthur W. Hummel, Jr., Deputy Assistant Secretary, EA
Alf E. Bergesen, Country Officer for Thailand, EA/TB

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Ambassador Anand had two specific items to take up. When Dr. Kissinger visited Bangkok, the Prime Minister asked that he be briefed on Dr. Kissinger's ensuing visit to Peking, and Dr. Kissinger agreed to have this done. Anand inquired whether a report on that visit had been sent to Bangkok. Anand also said that in any case he would like to be briefed on the Peking discussions, perhaps by a member of the White House staff. Mr. Hummel said he would follow up on this, and would inform Anand whether a report had reached the Prime Minister.

Anand wished to inform us of the private visit of Princess Rambhai Barni and her party of four. She is the widow of King Rama VII who abdicated shortly after the 1932 revolution in Thailand. The Princess will be in Washington from April 15 to April 19 or 20, staying at the Thai Embassy Residence. Anand thought it would be a nice idea if she could be received for tea or informal luncheon by Mrs. Nixon. There would also be perhaps some question of her security. Anand said the Princess, who is

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(Drafting Office and Officer)

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in her early 60's, speaks excellent English and is in fine health. Mr. Hummel said we would look into this.

Military and Economic Assistance -- Mr. Hummel told Anand that military and economic assistance levels had been fixed for FY 1973 by a Continuing Resolution Authority which precluded a request by the administration for additional funding and had the effect of holding it at the present rather unsatisfactory level. Mr. Hummel said that these levels did not represent a policy, but rather simply an action taken by the Congress. He told Anand that the RTG had just been informed of the level and had expressed disappointment. The USG will be requesting larger amounts of funds for the upcoming FY 74.

With respect to the proposed Thai mission to Washington, Anand said that he had told the Foreign Ministry while in Bangkok that he thought it inappropriate at this time. He thought it would be the equivalent of a begging mission.

SEATO -- Mr. Hummel said that we regarded Ministerial-level participation at the next SEATO Council meeting specifically from Australia and New Zealand as most important and for this reason the SEATO Reps in Bangkok had agreed to postpone the meeting until UNGA time, in September. Although no commitment had been made by those countries, we believed it would be possible to have minister-level representation at that time. Anand said that Thailand, too, wished to have the highest level of representation possible. However Australia and New Zealand might view SEATO, the Thai felt a meeting would be necessary to thrash out what the problems are and whether there are remedies for weaknesses. We have no wish to dramatize things. Mr. Hummel commented that Anand would no doubt find it interesting to talk to the Australian Ambassador here. He felt that Whitlam was in the process of adjusting to the realities of Australia's foreign responsibilities as well as to ALP party policy.

With respect to the military advisers meeting, we were suggesting postponement also until the fall. Anand said there were two problems arising from postponement of the SEATO Council: the organization's budget and guidance for military planning.

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Burma -- In response to Anand's inquiry about the state of US relations with Burma after the release of the helicopter crew and passengers, Mr. Hummel noted that this incident had followed a pattern he had observed on several occasions during his tenure in Rangoon. The initial reaction on the Burmese side was one of good will, with a rapid resolution clearly desired by the GUB. Then other elements, leftist or otherwise unfriendly to the United States, would seek to stir up trouble and launch rumors which fed the ever-present suspicions of the Burmese. The final stage after this situation had simmered for a while was a crisp resolution, usually by Ne Win himself.

Mr. Hummel noted in connection with the police helicopter incident that we would like to see -- everyone would -- better Thai/Burmese relations. The Burmese reaction to the cease-fire in Vietnam was favorable and their mention of a meeting of Southeast Asian countries especially noteworthy. However, he read the Burmese reaction to mean that unless North Vietnam were included, Burma would not be interested. Anand commented that the Thai would also like to see North Vietnam included.

Cambodia -- In response to a question Mr. Hummel said no improvement is visible in the situation in Cambodia. Neither In Tam nor Sirik Matak were in the government and the situation on the insurgent side was confused by the existence of different groups whose contacts one with the other were a mystery. The role of the DRV in all this was uncertain.

Anand said he had seen Jean Soulier (previously French DCM in Bangkok) in Paris who said that the Quai was rather evenly divided over whether Sihanouk could or could not return to power. Under these circumstances, there was no French policy toward Cambodia.

Mr. Hummel said that though he could not perceive the outlines, his personal guess is that some peculiarly Khmer solution would emerge, because of the desire of unity felt by all Khmers.