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AIRGRAM

20 (Enclosure referred to in POR) 1 Copy for Each End User.

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TO : DEPARTMENT OF STATE — SAH 1*, IGA 2*, O/FSN 1*

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ANALYSIS BRANCH

Action Taken: NOTED

Date of Action 8/21/68

FROM : AmEmbassy, BANKOK — DATE: August 7, 1968

Action Office Symbol: EA/ITB

Name of Officer: C J Nelson

SUBJECT : Study of Insurgency in North Thailand (attached)

REF : Bangkok 7832 of 22 December 1967; Memo of Conversation between Ambassador Unger and His Majesty, 22 December 1967.

POL 23-7 THAI

Attached are the final report of the Mission Working Group on North Thailand and the Policy Guidance to all elements of the Mission which resulted from the study. The Ambassador had wanted such a study earlier and has been briefed carefully on the study. He has approved in detail the policy guidance which has been disseminated to the Mission. Through the medium of these guidelines, we are all attempting to assure that U.S. advice and counsel regarding the North will be consistent and uniform.

The study helps to explain our conviction that U.S. support to Thai expansion of Accelerated Rural Development into additional changwads of the North is a necessity. Also, such relatively inexpensive U.S. assistance as the provision of a radio station to service the tribal areas of North Thailand and the training of tribal-dialect linguists for use at this station are essential elements in our Mission effort to catalyze Royal Thai Government approaches to the insurgency in that region.

The recommendations put forward in this study are minimal and undramatic and reflect Mission appreciation of the fact that U.S. assistance is likely to decline in the immediate future. It is paradoxical that this

Attachments:
1. Final Report, Working Group North Thailand
2. Policy Guidance

Group 3
Downgraded at 12-year intervals, not automatically declassified.

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Drafted by: SA/CI:LMProsser:lr:8/5/68

Contents and Classification Approved by: SA/CI:GKTanham

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diminution of U.S. assistance coincides with an increasing counter-insurgency burden on Thailand. The report indicates that there is a minimum beyond which U.S. assistance should not be reduced if we are to retain any capability to influence decisions or guide Thai attitudes and actions on these matters.

GKT

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