THE FOREIGN SERVICE
OF THE
UNITED STATES OF AMERICA

American Embassy,
Bangkok, Thailand,
May 12, 1959.

UNCLASSIFIED

TO: Colonel Hoffman

FROM: The Ambassador

SUBJECT: Attached Memo of Conversation

I would appreciate any background you can give me on the attached Memorandum of Conversation concerning Thai entry into West Point. It has been my understanding that Thai Cadets have over the years been admitted to and graduated from West Point. The problem that has been raised with me here is rather the admission of Thais into Annapolis and the Air Force Academy.

Enclosure: as stated

COM:UAJohnson:bln

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Authority NND948832

420.31 Entry of Thai students into West Point
5-1259
X 55 Memo of Conv.

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FE:SEA:EKocher:gpd

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711.55392/5-159

(39)

DEPARTMENT OF STATE

Memorandum of Conversation

JCG DNB FNB
MT

DATE: 5/1/59

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ACTION/NOTE		

SUBJECT: Proposed Legislation Providing for Thai Entry Into West Point.

PARTICIPANTS: M. C. Jotisi, Chargé d'Affaires ad interim, Embassy of Thailand
Eric Kocher, Director, Office of Southeast Asian Affairs
Rolland H. Bushner, Officer in Charge, Thai Affairs

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The Chargé d'Affaires has been informed that the Defense Department will not support legislation recently proposed by Senator Green (S.J. Res. 24) providing for the entry of Thai military officers into West Point. According to the Senator the Department of Defense objects to such legislation because it has prepared proposed legislation of a general type to provide a more equitable and flexible base for entry into West Point by officers of friendly nations. The Chargé stated that review of Embassy files indicates similar arguments were advanced by the Defense Department against similar legislative proposals in October 1956 and each year thereafter.

The Chargé is very much concerned lest continued use of the same argument for refusal may have an adverse effect upon the Thai authorities at Bangkok. He referred to a statement in one letter from the Defense Department to the effect that the rejection of the Thai request in no way reflected upon Thailand. Notwithstanding such statements, he pointed out, the repeated refusal of the Defense Department to support legislation of the kind requested, and on the present occasion actually presented to Congress, would not be understood by the Thai Government in view of the continued non-passage of the general legislation mentioned above. The difficulty is emphasized by the fact that in 1956 and again in 1958 two officer graduates were sent by the Thai Government to the United States for preparation to enter West Point. All four of these officers are said to be in the United States awaiting the opportunity to enter the United States Military Academy. In addition he understands that each year another officer is selected from the graduating class at the Thai Military Academy to come to the United States for preparation to enter West Point.

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INFORMATION COPY

420.31 Thai
X 358 Entry into Memo of
State Dept.
Conversation
5-1-59