Enclosure no. 2 to Despatch no. 6, dated August 26, 1940, from the American Legation at Bangkok, Thailand, on the subject "Prime Minister's Press Conference on August 2".

Source: Bangkok Chronicle, dated August 8, 1940.

Political System After Transition Period Being Closely Studied By Coup Leaders

Various Aspects Of Issue Probed No Decision Yet

Premier's Views On National Problems At Press Parley

The problem of adjusting Thailand's political future, following the expiry of the ten-year transitionary period as stipulated in the State Constitution, is being seriously studied by members of the second category of the National Assembly but any final decision to be taken will be in accord with the consensus of public opinion and calculated to safeguard the orderly progress of the country and the nation.

This statement was made by H.E. the Premier, Major General Luang Phibul Songgram, in his capacity as leader of the coup d'etat members, in the course of the press conference held at the Suan Kularb Palace on Saturday afternoon. The Premier and the Press discussed this as well as a series of other vital issues during the conference, which has now taken on the feature of a frank exchange of views rather than an interview as it used to be.

The Premier said that, though any decision on the Constitutional future during the transitionary period was not of immediate necessity, it was well understood that the problems concerning it should be exhaustively discussed and all shades of opinion should be heard so that the final programme to be drawn upon will be in accordance with the country's needs and desires.

The conference started at about

(Continued

Premier's Press Conference National Problems Discussed

(Continued from Page ..)

Mekhong Frontier formally notified to the National Assembly last Thursday, the latest information he had received was that the French Government at Vichy had already named H. E. the French Minister as the head of the French Delegation. Some officials in French Indo-China were also appointed to be the members of the Delegation and confirmation to this effect was not yet formally handed in at the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, stated the Premier.

A certain editor then pointed out the rather embarrassing provision issued by the Chulalongkorn University for the night classes, forbidding admission to students of other universities and the Premier assured that he would consult the University authorities and, if possible, arrange to modify that particular clause.

He was just informed by the University authorities that about 1,000 persons had already registered for the various courses and he understood that the period for handing in applications will not be extended. Because of the popularity of the night classes he was thinking of opening an afternoon course, particularly for women, who will be trained in nursing and midwifery and preparations are now underway in that direction, stated His Excellency.

Asked about further news concerning His Majesty the King, the Premier stated that it was understood that His Majesty and the Royal Party were in good health and the anxiety [illegible] concluded between Germany and [illegible] recently His Majesty

collected on the imported goods were of course, lower than the estimates but the revenue derived from the duties on exported goods showed a considerable increase and he was sure that the increase would be much higher than the decrease in duty on imported goods.

He was trying his best to urge the various Departments to draft their bills early so that the Government would be able to inform the Assembly of the detailed legislative measures to be passed during the entire session, stated the Premier.

Another conference of the Commissioners in the entire kingdom will be arranged towards the end of the year, stated the Premier, and at present he was trying to adjust the commissioners in their respective changwads so that some result could be obtained after the conference.

His Excellency then informed the

[illegible] regular trips to the beauty shop can easily be all in vain if visits to the dentist are overlooked for too long a period. Glamour and charm can hardly exist without attractive smiles —and unblemished teeth are needed for those.

It is also very apropos, at this point, to remind those of my readers who are mothers that they should keep a vigilant eye on the denture formations of their children—particularly ill-shaped Teeth which grow in unevenly, and consequently protrude or recede to an unattractive degree, or are crowded in the mouth, can provide especially tragic drawbacks to the appearance of girls when they grow up. Orthodontist

...an afternoon course, particularly for women, who will be trained in nursing and midwifery and preparations are now underway in that direction, stated His Excellency.

Asked about further news concerning His Majesty the King, the Premier stated that it was understood that His Majesty and the Royal Party were in good health and the anxiety felt for His ... already relaxed because of the armistice concluded between Germany and France. Quite recently His Majesty had expressed His desire to possess a set of pictures of the various ships of the Royal Navy and His Majesty's wish had already been conveyed to the Royal Navy and the pictures will be sent soon to His Majesty at Lausanne.

Asked about the ships of the Royal Navy built in Italy, the Premier stated that H.E. Luang Sindhu Songgramjai, the Commander-in-Chief of the Royal Navy, will be departing for Europe either in September or October by the Siberian route and he will also be charged to visit Italy. His other business was to observe the general outlook in Europe and also to study the condition of the Thai students now abroad.

Regarding the next A.R.P., the Premier stated that no definite time was fixed yet for the A.R.P. practices but at present the Ministry of Defence was busy arranging the establishment of the A.R.P. Board and he understood that funds will also be sought from the Budget for this purpose.

Asked about the mission of H.E. Luang Kovid Abhaiwongse, His Excellency the Premier stated that the Minister was sent to America to conduct negotiations for the purchase of two more short wave broadcasting sets; one them would be for broadcast to Europe while another will be used for Asia.

The Premier revealed that besides the Budget and the Supplementary Budget, the Government would sponsor the newly revised Press Act, and also the Party Politics Act. Another Bill which is of importance was that proposing control over rice cultivation and its main provision would be to the effect that farmers will be forced to use the seeds to be distributed by the Government for their cultivation so that rice of good quality would be produced throughout the kingdom. If they violate the provisions of the Bill, they will be fined and the fine will be turned in to the Local Improvement Fund.

As regards the budget for the present term, he was convinced that it will not differ greatly with the esti-

...Premier said that, although ... on the Constitutional future ... the transitionary period was not ... immediate necessity, it was well ... that the problems concerning ... therein should be exhaustively ... and all shades of opinion ... so that the final programme ... upon will be in accordance ... the country's needs and desires.

The conference started at about ... p.m., and was attended by about 14 representatives of the local papers. After the discussion of the transitory provisions, one of the press representatives wanted to know whether or not it was true that the Government has now stopped giving loans to the Municipalities and the Premier replied that perhaps that rumour might have been caused by some misunderstanding, because the fact was that the Bangkok Municipality was allowed a loan of about ten million ticals for the reconstruction programme some time back, but the Ministry of Finance recently informed the Bangkok Municipality that the loan will be temporarily suspended in view of the fact that the money, drawn from the fund raised by internal loans, will be required to finance other important projects such as the Thai Maritim... Navigation Co. etc. However, a sum of about one million and a half wou... still be granted to the Municipal... so that they would be able to proc... with their work without interrup... and the suspension of the Loan ... only temporary.

Regarding the Sub-Agreem... concerning the re-adjustment o...