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WClark, Jr.:NCA
9/25/69

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SecDel/MC/22
September 25, 1969

SECRETARY'S DELEGATION
TO THE
TWENTY-FOURTH SESSION OF THE
UNITED NATIONS GENERAL ASSEMBLY
New York, September, 1969

NODIS REVIEW
Cat. A - Caption removed; transferred to O/FADRC
Cat. B - Transferred to O/FADRC with additional access controlled by S/S
Cat. C - Caption and custody retained by S/S
Reviewed by: Ambassador W. Witman, II
Date: 9/6 1976

MEMORANDUM OF CONVERSATION

DATE: September 23, 1969

TIME: 12:30

PLACE: US MISSION

SUBJECT: Secretary's Bilateral Meeting with Foreign Minister Thanat on September 23, 1969 -- U.S. Force Reduction in Thailand (Part 1 of 6)

PARTICIPANTS:

U.S.: The Secretary
Amb. Yost
Mr. Clark

FOREIGN: FonMin Thanat
Amb. to UN Anand
Amb. Designate to US Sunthorn
Spec. Asst to the FonMin Birobhangse

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Foreign Minister Thanat opened the discussion by greeting Ambassador Yost as an old friend who had opened the U. S. Mission in Thailand in 1945 after World War II. The Secretary told Thanat Thai silk shirts were certainly becoming popular here, as both he and the President had worn shirts they purchased in Bangkok when they played golf at San Clemente recently.

The Secretary turned the conversation to the schedule for the reduction of U. S. troops stationed in Thailand. He said he would like

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to make a slight alteration in the schedule. He said Ambassador Unger had set the date for final reduction at July 30 but we would now like to have the reduction completed by July 1. Thanat asked if the Secretary was referring to the first 2,000 troops, who would be withdrawn before the end of the year, or the total reduction. The Secretary replied he was referring to total reduction and would like to have it completed by June 30 to meet the US fiscal year accounting process. Thanat said this slight advancement in the schedule was acceptable to his government. He went on to say he believed our military in Bangkok had already met and agreed on the schedule. He said the Thai government position would be to leave decision on timing requirements to the US. The Secretary expressed our wish that there be complete consultation between the United States and the Royal Thai Government on troop reductions and also that the Thai government be fully satisfied with the steps taken. Thanat said it was not the RTG intention to force withdrawal of US forces and the pace could be at whatever rate the US thought appropriate. He again said he would leave decisions on this to the US. The Secretary asked if all the steps being taken were fully understood and was assured by Thanat that there were no doubts remaining in his mind. The Secretary assured Thanat of the President's concern there be no misunderstanding and Thanat replied he fully understood and knew both governments were under pressure on this subject.

The Secretary said he understood that appropriate wording for the announcement of US troop reductions in Thailand had been worked out. The US would like to make the announcement soon and would like to have it done simultaneously in Washington and Bangkok. He said the Thai could handle this announcement in Bangkok in any manner they saw fit. Thanat said his government would follow US wishes regarding the announcement of troop reductions and assured the Secretary he had discussed this matter with Prime Minister Thanom prior to his departure for New York and the Prime Minister was in full agreement with the position just stated. The Secretary said he was going to Washington later in the week and would discuss exact timing with the President and tell Thanat of the decision. The Foreign Minister replied he was not under pressure and was willing to make the announcement whenever the US wished.

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