DECLASSIFIED
Authority NWD 969014

CUL 16 THAI
XR POL 7 THAI
XR POL CHICOM-THAI
XR DEF 15 THAI

Department of State **TELEGRAM**

Bangkok 11923
S/S 9/72

SECRET 544

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ACTION EA-14

INFO OCT-01 OMB-01 GAC-01 ACDA-19 E-11 T-03 PM-06 NSC-10
SS-14 RSC-01 PRS-01 USIA-12 CIAE-00 INR-06 NSAE-00
DODE-00 RSR-01 /101 W
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R 230929Z AUG 72
FM AMEMBASSY BANGKOK
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 6240
INFO AMCONSUL HONG KONG

S E C R E T BANGKOK 11923

SUBJECT: PING PONG DIPLOMACY

1. I HAD LUNCHEON MEETING YESTERDAY WITH PRASIT KANCHANAWAT, NEC DEPUTY DIRECTOR FOR FINANCE, ECONOMIC AFFAIRS AND NATIONAL DEVELOPMENT, WHO WILL LEAVE THURSDAY ACCOMPANYING THAI PING PONG TEAM TO PEKING. ALSO PRESENT WAS OSOT KOSIN, HEAD OF BOARD OF EXPORT PROMOTION AND CONFIDANT OF PRASIT'S, AND ON OUR SIDE DCM AND POL COUNSELOR.

2. AS WAS THE CASE WHEN WE DISCUSSED THIS ISSUE WITH GENERAL PRAPHAT (BANGKOK 11153), PRASIT STILL DOES NOT KNOW AT WHAT LEVEL HE WILL BE RECEIVED, OR WHAT TOPICS IF ANY THE CHINESE MAY WISH TO PURSUE WITH HIM. IT IS CLEAR THAT IN PRASIT'S MIND THE MAJOR SUBSTANTIVE PROBLEM IS CHINESE SUPPORT OF THE THAI INSURGENCY, AND IF THE TALKS GET INTO SUBSTANTIVE ISSUES I WOULD EXPECT HIM CERTAINLY TO RAISE THAT ONE. HE DOES NOT EXPECT TRADE TO FIGURE IMPORTANTLY IN THE DISCUSSIONS. HE IS NOT AT ALL SANGUINE ABOUT TRADE PROSPECTS, NOTING THE POOR POTENTIAL FOR THAI EXPORTS TO PRC IN RELATION TO THE VAST ARRAY OF IMPORTS THAT WOULD COME IN FROM PRC UNDER CONDITIONS OF FREE TRADE. HE ALSO NOTED PRC RELUCTANCE TO TRADE ON A GOVERNMENT-TO-GOVERNMENT BASIS, WHICH THAILAND HAS CONSISTENTLY SAID IT WOULD INSIST ON.

3. PRASIT ASKED ME WHAT I THOUGHT HE SHOULD SAY IF THE CHINESE RAISE THE QUESTION OF U.S USE OF BASES IN THAILAND. I SAID IF I WERE HE I WOULD RELATE IT TO NORTH VIETNAMESE AGGRESSION AGAINST

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FORM DS-1652

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