Australian Government | NATIONAL ARCHIVES OF AUSTRALIA
Your story, our history

These copies are provided for research or study purposes. Before making use of the material for other purposes (for example publication) you should familiarise yourself with any copyright obligations.

NAA: A1838, 3010/10/6 PART 1

Series number: A1838

Control symbol: 3010/10/6 PART 1

Barcode: 586809

Number of pages: 376

Thailand - Australian Representation [3.75 cm]

DEPARTMENT OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS

File No. 3010/10/6

SUBJECT: THAILAND.

AUSTRALIAN REPRESENTATION

RECORDED **SECRET.**

RELATED PAPERS		FORMER PAPERS LATER PAPERS
FILE No.	SUBJECT	ARCHIVAL ACTION
1602/2	STATUS OF MISSION BANGKOK	R.P.

Folio No.	Referred to	Date	Clearing Officer's Initial	Date Cleared	Folio No.	Referred to	Date	Clearing Officer's Initial	Date Cleared	Folio No.	Referred to	Date	Clearing Officer's Initial	Date Cleared
	G-HARVEY	9/11												
	P/M	1/11/911												

CLOSED

CLOSED

File No.

KEY PAPERS ON FILE

(e.g. Cabinet papers, Policy matters, &c.)

FOLIO No.	SOURCE	DATE	DETAILS

3010 / 10 / 6

PT. NO. 1

FILE CLOSED

THIS PART OPENED ON .....

THIS PART CLOSED ON 22.10.1968

SUBSEQUENT CORRESPONDENCE ON FILE R2

20971/68—1

A1838/280

3010/10/6 PART 1

Australian Archives

DO NOT REMOVE

This acid-free mask contains 10 folios with the date range [redacted]68

The contents of the mask are:

☐ Exempt from public access under paragraph(s) ..... of the *Archives Act* 1983. You have a statutory right to seek a review of the exemption.

☑ Not in the open period as defined by the *Archives Act* 1983.

Date mask applied: 11/8/94

NAS 1061 (NOV 1991)

NO ACCESS

3010/10/6

355

DEPARTMENT OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS

INWARD CABLEGRAM

CONFIDENTIAL

JE

I.74253

DATED: 9TH NOVEMBER, 1967.
1645 LT

FROM:

REC'D: 9TH NOVEMBER, 1967.
2136 LT

AUSTRALIAN EMBASSY,
BANGKOK.

1567. CONFIDENTIAL.

NEW CHANCERY.

DESIGN PROGRAMME WILL COMMENCE ON FURNITURE NEXT WEEK. AND WE HOPE TO BE IN POSITION TO PROVIDE THREE INTERIOR DESIGNS AND QUOTATIONS BY FIRST WEEK DECEMBER.

FIRST STAGE OF PARTITIONING (FOURTH FLOOR) SHOULD BE COMPLETED BY JANUARY AND WE PROPOSE TO BYPASS 5TH UNTIL 6TH FLOOR IS COMPLETED.
ON PRESENT SCHEDULE THIS WOULD MEAN ALL EA STAFF SHOULD BE LOCATED IN NEW CHANCERY BY END OF JANUARY WITH TRADE/ANIB TO FOLLOW APPROXIMATELY MID FEBRUARY.

PLEASE PROGRAMME INSTALLATION PABX FOR COMMENCEMENT FIRST WEEK JANUARY 1968. WIRING IN COMMUNICATIONS AREA SHOULD BE COMMENCED AROUND SAME TIME.

WE WILL KEEP YOU INFORMED.

E.A.

10TH NOVEMBER, 1967.

→ M.. R. Jarrom
M.. North.
Curtin.

SEC FAS(1) SEA SAS(MS) STAFF PERS FIN PROP@ EX COMMS

CONFIDENTIAL

3010/10/6
354

DEPARTMENT OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS

INWARD CABLEGRAM

SC: I..64605

FROM: DATED: 2ND OCTOBER, 1967
1515 LT

AUSTRALIAN EMBASSY,
BANGKOK. REC'D: 2ND OCTOBER, 1967
2104 LT

1355 UNCLASSIFIED.

OUR TELEGRAM 1320

AMBASSADOR RETURNED TO BANGKOK FROM THE SOUTH 1615 HOURS SATURDAY 30TH SEPTEMBER.

MIN. AND DEPT E.A.
P.M.'S

2ND OCTOBER, 1967

SEC DEP SEC FAS(1) SEA M @ FAS(2) FAS(4) SAS(MS)
STAFF PERS FIN

Mr North.

3010/10/6
353

DEPARTMENT OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS

INWARD CABLEGRAM

PEF

I.64845

FROM:

Dated: 3rd October, 1967
0910

Rec'd: 3rd October, 1967
1452

Australian Embassy,
BANGKOK.

1363. RESTRICTED.

For Department of Air.

Your PS799 and our 1321.

Please confirm that movement to Thailand will not take place pending clarification of proposal.

2. Ambassador has not yet been consulted and has no knowledge of any requirement to station RAAF personnel except in Ubon and Bangkok.

3. We should need to know the reasons for the proposal and the nature of the duties contemplated.

AIR(T/T)
P.M.'s

4th October, 1967

FAS(1) SEA M&I M DL

RESTRICTED RESTRICTED RESTRICTED RESTRICTE

3010/10/6
352

DEPARTMENT OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS

INWARD CABLEGRAM

FH: I.62960

FROM: Dated: 25th September, 1967.
1615 LT

Australian Embassy,
BANGKOK. Rec'd: 26th September, 1967.
0030 LT

1320. UNCLASSIFIED.

Ambassador departed 0800 hours for scheduled trip to Southern Thailand 25th September.

He will return to Bangkok 1615 hours 30th September.

MIN. AND DEPT. OF E.A.
P.M. 'S. 26th September, 1967.

SEC DEP SEC FAS(1) SEA M@ FAS(2) FAS(3) FAS(4)
SAS(MS) STAFF PERS FIN

3010/10/6

351

DEPARTMENT OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS

INWARD CABLEGRAM

JE

I.47774

DATED: 20TH JULY, 1967.
1535 LT

FROM.

REC'D: 20TH JULY, 1967,
1853 LT

AUSTRALIAN EMBASSY,
BANGKOK.

1004. RESTRICTED. PRIORITY.

TRADE COMMISSIONER'S OFFICE
FOR TRADE

YOUR 1246
WHILE MAXWELL CONTINUES TO MAKE PROGRESS, IT WILL CLEARLY BE SOME CONSIDERABLE TIME BEFORE HE WILL BE FIT FOR WORK.
MEANWHILE, BURRILL IS UNDER GREAT PRESSURE AND STRAIN AND IS ALSO NOT AT ALL WELL.
THE WORK OF THE TRADE OFFICE IS THEREFORE FALLING BEHIND, AND ONLY THE MOST URGENT MATTERS CAN BE ATTENDED TO - THE VOLUME OF VISITORS IS ALSO ADDING TO THE BURDEN.
THE NEED FOR ASSISTANCE IS THUS PARTICULARLY URGENT.
I HAVE YOUR CABLE TO SAIGON CONCERNING RANK, AND HOPE THAT HE CAN ARRIVE HERE AT THE EARLIEST POSSIBLE MOMENT.

LOOMES

T. & I.
P.M.S

21ST JULY, 1967.

SEC FAS(1) SEA M SAS(MS) STAFF PERS

RESTRICTED RESTRICTED RESTRICT

3010/10/6
350

Dear John,

Sorry to burden you with this matter, but Professor Bain has requested us to forward a parcel to the Embassy to be picked up by a Thai colleague. His request is rather strange, but in view of his services in Thailand I felt we should oblige.

.... I attach a copy of his letter to me which might give you a lead on the person to whom the parcel is consigned.

Yours sincerely,

(R.M. North)

John Brook, Esq.,
First Secretary,
Australian Embassy,
BANGKOK.

The University of Sydney

8 June.

Dear Mr North,

This afternoon I am posting a parcel of 4 records addressed to you. Actually it is a parcel within a parcel with a piece of Masonite to ensure safe transit to Canberra. This can be discarded for subsequent transportation to Bangkok.

I shall write to Veena's Hideaway, Korat asking them to collect the records at our Embassy in Bangkok.

I am very grateful for your help. Yours sincerely Bob Bain

348

AUSTRALIAN EMBASSY
BANGKOK

In reply quote No. 3/1/169

Memorandum No. 845

13th June, 1967.

DEPARTMENT OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS
19 JUN 1967
CANBERRA

The Secretary,
Department of External Affairs,
CANBERRA

Commission - D.A. Beattie, Esq.

Receipt is acknowledged of your memorandum 552 of 30th May (file 3010/10/6) enclosing the Consular Commission for Mr. D.A. Beattie.

D.A. Beattie

(D.A. Beattie)
Second Secretary

PR 185

70

347

AUSTRALIAN EMBASSY
BANGKOK

In reply quote No. 3/1/169

Memorandum No. 788

DEPARTMENT OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS
3010/10/6
- 7 JUN 1967
CANBERRA

1st June, 1967.

The Secretary,
Department of External Affairs,
CANBERRA

APPOINTMENT OF CONSUL, THAILAND

Reference is made to your memorandum 718 of 14th July, 1966 and to my memorandum 22 of 5th January, 1967.

2. We have received a further enquiry from the Foreign Office concerning the issue of a Commission to Mr. D.A. Beattie.

3. Due to the delay in receipt of the Commission, it was not possible to include the name of the Australian Consul in the January Consular List and the Foreign Office is hopeful that it can be included in the July issue of the Diplomatic and Consular List.

4. As it is almost a year since we were informed that the Commission was being prepared, it would be appreciated if arrangements could be made for the Commission to be forwarded as soon as possible.

D.A. Beattie

(D.A. Beattie)
Second Secretary

PROTOCOL

→ C&P (for attention Mr Pueblyn) I think this is almost ready but when a year's delay

Mr Collis

F.

346
552

3010/10/6

30th May, 1967.

Australian Embassy,
BANGKOK.

....

Please find enclosed in this bag the Consular Commission for D.A. Beattie Esquire.

2. I should be grateful if you would acknowledge receipt of this document.

(F. B. Hall)
for the Secretary

sent 1/6/67.

345

DEPARTMENT OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS,
CANBERRA.

In reply quote No.

12th May, 1967.

The Secretary,
Prime Minister's Department,
CANBERRA, A.C.T.

EXEQUATURS AND COMMISSIONS

I forward herewith the following Exequaturs and Commissions -

Exequaturs:

Mogens Juhl
Constantine Belegris
Thomas A. de Hart
Robert Perez de Lasala
Lodewijk Gustaaf Gelpke

Commissions:

Dand Archibald Beattie
John Henny Allen Hoyle

2. It would be appreciated if the Great Seal of the Commonwealth could be placed on those documents.

(G. T. Pretyman)
for the Secretary

20th April, 1967.

Dear Sir,

I foward herewith the following Exequaturs and Commissions:

Exequaturs — Robert Perez de Lasala Esquire
Thomas A. de Hart Esquire
Mogens Juhl Esquire
Lodewijk Gustaaf Gelpke Esquire
Constantine Belegris Esquire

Commissions — John Henry Allen Hoyle
David Archibald Beattie

It would be appreciated if you could move His Excellency the Governor-General to sign these documents.

G.T. Pretyman
(for the Secretary)

The Official Secretary to His Excellency
The Governor-General of the Commonwealth of Australia,
Government House,
CANBERRA. A.C.T.

3#3

1515/1/20/6

13th April, 1967.

Exequaturs and Commissions

MISS BROWN

Attached are the following Exequaturs and Commissions:

Exequaturs

Robert Pérez de Lasala Esquire
Thomas A. de Hart Esquire
Mogens Juhl Esquire
Lodewijk Gustaaf Gelpke Esquire
Constantine Belegris Esquire
[illegible]

Commissions:

John Henry Allen Hoyle
David Archibald Beattie.

It would be appreciated if you could arrange for the Minister to sign these documents.

(G.T. Pretyman)

Consular Commission

Thailand

Consul

Bangkok

throughout the Kingdom of Thailand

David Alexander Beattie

Consul

21st April 1967

sixteenth

341

AUSTRALIAN EMBASSY,
BANGKOK

EXTERNAL AFFAIRS
11 JAN 1967
Indexed by

In reply quote No. 3/1/169
Memorandum No. 22

5th January, 1967

The Secretary,
Department of External Affairs,
CANBERRA ... A.C.T.

Appointment of Consul, Thailand

I refer to your memorandum 718 (3010/10/6) of 14th July 1966 concerning the issue of a Commission to Mr D.A. Beattie at this Embassy.

2. The Ministry of Foreign Affairs, who are at present preparing a new Diplomatic and Consular List, have recently asked whether they may see the Commission. I have explained to the Ministry that there is often a delay in the receipt of Commissions but that it should reach Bangkok in the near future.

3. Glad of your advice that Commission can be expected shortly.

D.A. Beattie

(D.A. Beattie)
Second Secretary

→ C of P Relevant papers attached.

PLEASE DESTROY DUP[illegible] AND ATTACHMENT IF [illegible]

Mrs Nottle N. Copy retained on 3010/10/6.

340

718

3010/10/6

14th July, 1966.

The Australian Embassy,
BANGKOK.

Protocol: Appointment of Consul, Thailand

Please refer to your Memorandum No. 858 of 1st July, 1966, concerning the preparation of Consular Commissions for Messrs Beattie and Mooney.

2. It has been decided that a Commission will be issued for Mr Beattie, but Administration had not considered such a Commission necessary for Mr Mooney.

3. The document for Mr Beattie will be prepared and forwarded in due course.

(G. T. Pretyman)
for the Secretary

CHECKED

EXTERNAL AFFAIRS
5 JUL 1966
Indexed by

AUSTRALIAN EMBASSY,
BANGKOK

339

In reply quote No......
Memorandum No. 858

1st July, 1966.

3010/10/6

The Secretary,
Department of External Affairs,
CANBERRA.

Protocol : Appointment of Consul, Thailand

We have been advised by the Protocol Division of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs that for formulation of listing on the diplomatic and Consular list, a Commission should be provided for the position of Consul and Vice Consul. The Commission, so we are informed, should be signed by the Minister.

2. So far as we can trace, a previous Commission was supplied to the Ministry of Foreign Affairs for Mr. A. Blackburn in September 1960 when he was occupying the position of Consul. Since then the Ministry of Foreign Affairs have not insisted on a Commission, nor have we provided one. However, we have had the distinct impression that they have been dissatisfied by this state of affairs. This would seem to be confirmed by the present request. Absence of a Commission may also have explained some of our past experience of delays and difficulties in obtaining customs clearances and the like for officers arriving in Bangkok to take up the position of Vice Consul.

3. You may wish to consider the legal aspects along with our recommendation that a Commission be sought for Mr. D. Beattie who will occupy the position here as Consul and is expected to arrive on the 2nd August.

4. Given the possible range of duties for Mr. Mooney - my memorandum No.834 of 23rd June refers - you may wish to consider whether a Commission in respect of him is also required.

H. Marshall

(H. Marshall)
Charge d' Affaires a.i.

Mr Bultyman
Please can. see.
The Hon request is
fair enough. I think
Accords with
Convention.

Mr Hall.
EoP.

Mr Booth
Seen 6/7

3010/10/6
338

DEPARTMENT OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS

OUTWARD CABLEGRAM

LC: 0.21400

TO: Sent: 20th April, 1967.
1950

Australian Embassy,
BANGKOK.

727. RESTRICTED.

Tour of Northern Thailand.

Your cable 576.

In discussing this with Air it would be helpful if we could have your initial comments on our memorandum 342.

E.A.
AIR
P.M.'S

21st April, 1967.

A/SEC FAS(1) SEA M DL@ FAS(2) C&P FAS(4)

RESTRICTED RESTRICTED RESTRICTED RESTRICTED

3010/10/637

DEPARTMENT OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS

INWARD CABLEGRAM

I.22846

MAB:

DATED: 14TH APRIL, 1967.
1140 LT

FROM:

REC'D. 14TH APRIL, 1967.
2016 LT

AUSTRALIAN EMBASSY,
BANGKOK.

576. CONFIDENTIAL.

TOUR OF NORTHERN THAILAND.

1. I SHOULD LIKE TO PAY A VISIT BEFORE THE RAINS TO NORTHERN THAILAND, WHICH I HAVE NOT VISITED FOR SOME TIME.

A CONVENIENT TIME WOULD BE FROM 29TH MAY TO 3RD JUNE, AND I AM INFORMED THAT A RAAF DAKOTA FROM BUTTERWORTH WOULD BE AVAILABLE, SUBJECT OF COURSE TO DEPAIRS APPROVAL.

I WOULD PROPOSE TO VISIT CHIENGMAI, CHIENGRAI, MAE HONGSORN, MAE SARIANG, PHRAE (AND POSSIBLY NAN), LOEI, PHITSANULOKE AND NAKORN SAWAN (AND POSSIBLY OTHER PLACES IF TIME PERMITS) TO LOOK INTO SECURITY PROBLEMS (WHICH SEEM NOW TO BE MANIFESTING THEMSELVES IN THE NORTH), AUSTRALIAN AID PROJECTS AND OTHER MATTERS OF INTEREST.

2. I SHOULD BE GRATEFUL IF APPROVAL COULD BE GIVEN TO MY USE OF THE DAKOTA DURING THE PERIOD MENTIONED.

I SHOULD BE GLAD OF AN EARLY REPLY, AS TOURS OF THIS NATURE TAKE ABOUT A MONTH TO ARRANGE.

LOOMES.

A/MIN. & DEPT E.A.
MIN. & DEPT AIR
MIN. & DEPT DEFENCE
P.M.'S

15TH APRIL, 1967.

A/SEC FAS(1) SEA M DL@ FAS(2) FAS(3) AS(JIC) INT
AID ICR PIO FAS(4) SAS(MS)

CONFIDENTIAL

CONFIDENTIAL

3010/10/6
336

DEPARTMENT OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS

INWARD CABLEGRAM

MAB

I.19116

DATED: 30TH MARCH, 1967.
2000 LT

FROM:

REC'D: 31ST MARCH, 1967.
0029 LT

AUSTRALIAN EMBASSY,
BANGKOK.

450. RESTRICTED.

YOUR 561.

ACQUISITION OF LAND IN THAILAND.

I HAVE DISCUSSED THIS QUESTION WITH YOUNG AND WILL SEE HIS GENERAL MANAGER NEXT WEEK.

YOU WILL ALSO HAVE SEEN MY MEMORANDUM NO. 327 OF 22ND FEBRUARY CONCERNING ACQUISITION OF LAND BY THE AUSTRALIAN GOVERNMENT - THE SAME PRINCIPLES OF COURSE APPLY TO ACQUISITION OF LAND BY AUSTRALIAN COMPANIES AND INDIVIDUALS.

LOOMES.

E.A. (747/1/7)

31ST MARCH, 1967.

FAS(1) M FAS(3) C&P FAS(4) ER@

RESTRICTED RESTRICTED RESTRICTED RESTRICTED

DEPARTMENT OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS

3010/10/6 335

INWARD CABLEGRAM

MAB

I.19116

FROM:

DATED: 30TH MARCH, 1967.
2000 LT

REC'D: 31ST MARCH, 1967.
0029 LT

AUSTRALIAN EMBASSY,
BANGKOK.

450. RESTRICTED.

YOUR 561.

ACQUISITION OF LAND IN THAILAND.

I HAVE DISCUSSED THIS QUESTION WITH YOUNG AND WILL SEE HIS GENERAL MANAGER NEXT WEEK.

YOU WILL ALSO HAVE SEEN MY MEMORANDUM NO. 327 OF 22ND FEBRUARY CONCERNING ACQUISITION OF LAND BY THE AUSTRALIAN GOVERNMENT - THE SAME PRINCIPLES OF COURSE APPLY TO ACQUISITION OF LAND BY AUSTRALIAN COMPANIES AND INDIVIDUALS.

LOOMES.

E.A. (747/1/7)

31ST MARCH, 1967.

FAS(1) M FAS(3) C&P FAS(4) ER@

RESTRICTED RESTRICTED RESTRICTED RESTRICTED

3010/10/6 334

DEPARTMENT OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS

INWARD CABLEGRAM

WK

I.16405

FROM:

DATED: 17TH MARCH, 1967.
1330 LT

AUSTRALIAN EMBASSY,
BANGKOK.

REC'D: 17TH MARCH, 1967.
2110 LT

413 UNCLASSIFIED.

AMBASSADOR RETURNED FROM UP-COUNTRY TOUR 1330 HOURS 17TH MARCH.

MIN. & DEPT E.A.
P.M'S

18TH MARCH, 1967.

SEC DEP SEC FAS(1) SEA M&I M DL SA FAS(2) UN
PACAM AMSP PPO FAS(3) AS(JIC) INT ICR PIO SAS(MS)
STAFF

30.0/10/6
333

AUSTRALIAN EMBASSY, BANGKOK

DIRECTORY (MARCH, 1967)

The Australian Embassy office (Chancery) is situated at 323 Silom Road - Telephone 30977-8-9.

The Trade Office is situated separately,,but not very far away, at 40 Chartered Bank Lane. Telephone 35955-57.

This Directory lists all Australians, excluding U.N. recruited personnel and Servicemen on active service, who are currently officially in Thailand.

An asterisk indicates that the officer is married with wife in Thailand. Where fairly clearly settled, due departure date from Bangkok of officers is indicated.

1. Australian Embassy Staff

(The Embassy has the overall responsibility for the conduct of Australian Government business and activities in Thailand.)

		Home Telephone
Ambassador:	Mr. A.H. Loomes*, O.B.E. ..... 173 South Sathorn Road, Bangkok.	34285
Counsellor:	Mr. Harold Marshall*..... 71/1 Soi Saladaeng, Bangkok.	30005
Services Attache:	Col. J.G. Ochiltree*, O.B.E..... 49 Soi 2 Ruam Rudee.	56565
Trade Commissioner:	Mr. B.H.M. Maxwell*..... 43 Soi Lang Suan, Ploenchit Rd.	57514
First Secretary:	Mr. J.H. Brook..... Apt. 9 Bangkapi Mansion, 91 Soi 12 Sukhumvit.	58027
Information Attache:	Mr. Peter Davison*..... Apt. 4A Chand House, Soi 11, Sukhumvit.	57694
Assistant Trade Commissioner:	Mr. J.N.P. Burrill*..... 230/2 Soi Sri Nakorn, Linchee Rd.	33009
Second Secretary:	Mr.J.R. Holdich*..... 22 Soi Attakarn Prasit, South Sathorn Rd.	36277
Second Secretary:	Mr. David Beattie..... Apt. 14, Bangkapi Mansion, 91 Soi 12, Sukhumvit.	59452
Assistant Trade Commissioner:	Mr. E. Mouritz..... Room No. 59, Piyatham Court, Wireless Road.	59232
Third Secretary:	Mr. R.S. Sheaves..... 15/1 Soi Saladaeng 1, Silom Road.	32673
Attache:	Mr. Ray Mooney*..... No. 9 St. Louis Lane, South Sathorn Road.	33274
Attache:	Mr. John Gleeson..... 7/2 Soi Phipat, Silom Road. (Replacement Mr. John Keogh* due 9th March)	35265 & 30977

Home Telephone

Assistant to Services Attache:

S. Sgt. R.E. Secombe, * 55017
Apt. 19, Bangkapi Mansion,
91 Soi 12, Sukhumvit.

Secretaries:

Miss Thea Cawthorne..... 36101
29 Phitak Court, Soi Attakarn Prasit.

Miss Sue Lucas 38541
Apt. 8 Kit's Court, 94 Soi Phra Pinij.

Miss Beverley Birch..... 33110 (Apt.E)
Apt. E, Veesri Court, Soi Saladaeng.

Miss Elaine O'Brien..... 38623
Apt. 6, Kit's Court, 94 Soi Phra Pinij.

Thai Language Trainees:

Sgt. D.E. Lord*, RAAF..... 58624
34 Soi 8, (Prida), Sukhumvit Rd.

W.O.2. I. C. Donald, Army (to July 1967)..... 33110 (Apt. G)
Apt. G, Veesri Court, Soi Saladaeng.

11. S.E.A.T.O. Personnel.

(Situated in Bangkok at Rajdamnern Avenue is the Headquarters of the regional security grouping S.E.A.T.O. - South-East Asia Treaty Organisation under the Manila Treaty of September 1954. Other member countries besides Australia are Thailand, the Philippines, Pakistan, United States, Britain, France and New Zealand). Tel. - 811322.

(a) International Staff

		SEATO Ext.
Mr. K.C. Duncan* - Director of Research (1968)..... 73834 Phyathai Court, 65/2 Phyathai Rd.		17
Mr. J. McKendrick - Staff Officer (Duo April)..... 485/6 Soi Wattanawong, Makkasan.		
Miss Joan Buckie - Senior Librarian (Sept.68)..... 84, Soi 51, Sukhumvit.		66

(b) Services Personnel

Capt. R.J. Scrivenor* R.A.N. (to Jan. 69) ..... Australian Military Adviser's Representative, Apt. 716 Ambassador's Court, Soi Lang Suan.	55336	50
Capt. R.C. Savage*, DSC, RAN, Head of Planning.... (to Feb. 68) 77/3 Soi Saladaeng.	33524	46
Cdr. D.C. Johns*, RAN, Planner (to Feb.68)..... Apt. 346 Ambassador's Court, Soi Lang Suan.	55726	73
Lt. Col. J.H. Marsh*, MBE, Planner (to Dec.67)... Apt. 43 Chanint Court, Soi Ton Son.	56242	70
Wg. Cdr. P.B. Jolbart, RAAF, Planner (to Feb.69).. Erawan Hotel (Temporarily)	59871	90
Sqn. Ldr. E.A. Lang*, RAAF (to Feb. 68)..... Assistant Head of Secretariat Apt. 3A, 49/1 Soi 12, Sukhumvit.		35

(b) Services Personnel (Cont'd.)	Home Telephone	SEATO EXT.
Sqn. Ldr. R.J. Viney, RAAF. (to Sept.67) Exercise Liaison Officer, Phya Thai Court, 65/2 Phya Thai Rd.	71364	4 (48335)
CPO J.G. Cummins*, RAN Assistant to A.S.M.A.R., 35 Soi Intramara 1 off Soi Sootisan, Bangsue.	72849	50
CPO WTR L.J. Webb* RAN (to Jan.69) ..... Military Planning Office Secretariat, Century Hotel. (Temporarily)	73699	65

(c) Australian Exercise Planning Group, Bangkok. Tel. 48335		Ext.
Lt. Col. B.C. Loveridge* (to Oct. 68)..... Army Representative. No. 5 Soi 18, Sukhumvit Rd.	912870	3
Wg. Cdr. G.S. King* RAAF (to Jan. 68)..... RAAF Representative 3816 Rama IV Rd., Klong Toey.	911850	305

III. Aid Personnel

(Australia co-operates with Thailand under Colombo Plan and S.E.A.T.O. Aid programmes).

(a) Colombo Plan Experts

In Tak (526 Km North of Bangkok) - Thai/Australian Road Construction Project. Telegram: T.A.R.C., Tak. No telephone.

(Australia is co-operating with the Government of Thailand in constructing the Tak/Mae Sod highway in N.W.Thailand, by providing the services of engineers, supervisors, operators and technicians from the Snowy Mountains Authority.)

Mr. K.A. Ryan* — Project Engineer

Mr. A.O. Whiteside* — Assistant Project Engineer

Mr. N.Grant (Construction Supervisor)
Mr.K.Amos (Workshop Supervisor)
Mr.G. Haas (Workshop Technician)
Mr.R. Beaman (Plant Technician)
Mr.J.Dickison (Plant Technician)
Mr.P. Lutz (Workshop Technician)
Mr.H.Fischer* (Plant Technician)
Mr.P. Lis* (Administrative Officer)
Mr. P. Mohr* (Construction Supervisor)
Mr. W. Horman* (Workshop Supervisor)
Mr.H.Myers (Workshop Technician)
Mr. S. Inkley* (Workshop Supervisor)
Mr. W. Hill (Plant Technician)
Mr.A.H.Russell* (Plant Supervisor)
Mr.J.L.Sutcliffe (Workshop Technician)
Mr.P.Hubicka (Workshop Technician)
Mr.P. Lugano (Workshop Technician)
Mr. J.Nicholson*(Mechanical Engineer)

Short-term Mr. T.E.Lewis (March 1967)
Field Construction Engineer (S.M.H.E.A.)

Note: Former Khon Kaen Project.

From 1962 until the conclusion of the Australian part at end of Oct. 1966, Snowy Mountains Authority experts likewise co-operated with the Thais in the joint feeder roads project at Khon Kaen in N.E.Thailand 414 Km. from Bangkok.

330

In Chiengmai (809 Km. North of Bangkok)

Mr. E.C. Chapman* (to June 1967)
Advisor on problems of land tenure with the Department of Land Development, 68/1 Tambol Nang Hoi, Chiengmai. (No phone).

In Chainart (281 Km. North of Bangkok)

(An Australian scientific team is assisting the Ministry of Agriculture and the Royal Irrigation Department in crops, soil, and irrigation research activity at Chainart.)

Address: C/o Agricultural Research Station,
Chainart Dam, Chainart.

Dr. C.C. Wood*, Hydrologist (Leader) (to 1969)
Mr. D.F. Beech*, Crop Agronomist (to 1969)
Dr. Phillip Judd*, Soils Physicist
(A soils chemist has yet to be assigned)

Home Telephone

In Bangkok

Mr. R.W. Bonn (to May 1967), English Instructor, ... 911489
Faculty of Commerce and Accounting, Chulalongkorn University
Apartment 11, Prasarnmitr Court, Sukhumvit Rd.

Mr. A.A. Darling* (To June 1967) 914989
Senior Instructor at the Northern Bangkok Engineering School.
86 Soi 23, Sukhumvit.

Mr. R.G. Collyer* (to June 67) 58470
Instructor in Electrical Engineering at the Northern Bangkok Engineering School.
59 Soi 12, Sukhumvit.

Mr. Henry Crocker* (To September 68)..... 75623
Instructor in Welding at Northern Bangkok Engineering School.
19/1 Supharaj Lane, Soi 14, Paholyothin Rd.

Mr. C.S. Gloe (due March 1967) 58066
Adviser to Lignite Authority of Thailand.
(Short term - 2 month assignment)
Imperial Hotel (Temporarily)

(b) S.E.A.T.O. Aid Experts

At Rangsit (35 Km. from Bangkok).

(The following Australian Army personnel are giving supervisory and technical assistance with the Thai Armed Forces Vehicle Rebuild Workshop, a joint Thai/Australian project, at Rangsit.)
Telephone: 20136

Lt.Col. W.J. Bauert,*O.B.E. (Jan-Feb.68) 76459
Senior Australian Project Officer.
169 Pradipat Rd., Bangsue.

Maj. J.A.W. Brophy*(July 67) 72754
61, Soi Sri Sawat, Pradipat Rd.

WO1 N.M. Cooper*(Jan.-Feb.68) 71259
19/2 Soi Som Prasong 1, Petchbury Rd.

WO1 F.C. Doust*(Jan.-Feb.68) 70445
65, Soi Boon choosri, Dindaeng.

(b) SEATO Aid Experts (Cont'd)
At Rangsit (Cont'd)

Home Telephone

WO1 J.C. Philp*(Jan.-Feb.68) 75345
No. 3, Red Hut Apartment,
55/1 Aree Sum Pun 2,
Soi Rashacroo No. 5, Paholyothin Rd.

WO1 P.J. Pini*(Jan.-Feb.68) 73389
14, Soi Wattanawong, Makkasan.

WO1 K.R. Sparrow*(July 1967) 71385
25, Soi Sri Fa, Paholyothin Rd.

Ir Chiengmai (809 Km. North of Bangkok)

Mr. P.R. Hinton*
Anthropologist. Adviser to Thai Government Tribal Research Centre, in University of Chiengmai grounds.
Address: Box 147, P.O. Chiengmai (also for telegrams).

Res: 15 Fah Ham, Chiengmai. (No phone)

Mr. D.J. Miles* : Research
Anthropologist with the Tribal Research Centre (see above)
9/1 Soi no.2, Keonawalat, Chiengmai.
(Resident in Phuluangokha for extended periods).

In Bangkok

Mr. J.H. McConnell* 56678
153 Soi 4, Sukhumvit.
SMHEA engineer contributed as Engineering Construction Adviser to Thai Accelerated Rural Development Programme.
Office: Tel. 47632 (ARD office)

Dr. Richard Silvester* 58066
Imperial Hotel (Temporarily)
Professor of Coastal Engineering, SEATO Graduate School of Engineering (in Chulalongkorn University grounds),
Sanam Ma Rd., Bangkok. Tel. 57709. (Office)

IV. Military Research and Development Centre (MRDC)

(An Australian Department of Defence team is attached to M.R.D.C. to work with Thai and United States officers on defence projects of mutual interest.) Office tel. 910111.

Lt.Col.W.A.Brydie* (to Apr.67) (Leader)..... 58919
Apt.5, Lumpini Court, Soi Sarasin.
(Replacement - Lt.Col.D.J.P.Tier, due 26 Mar.67)

Maj. A.T.Hall* (to Apr.67) 32587
2/2 Yon Akart Road, Tung Mahamok.
(Replacement - Maj. M.W. Farmer, due Mar./Apr.67)

Sqn.Ldr. J.M. Leaversuch*, RAAF (to Jan.69) .....
109 Soi 53, Sukhumvit.

Mr. D.G. Neal*(Senior Research Scientist)(to May 67)..... 35747
230/1 Soi Sri Nakorn, Linchee Rd.
(Replacement - Mr. R. Cummins, due April/May)

V. Others

Flt. Lt. D.W. Bastick*, RAAF..... 913386
39 soi 40, Sukhumvit.
(RAAF Liaison Officer in Bangkok particularly in respect of the RAAF Squadron stationed at Ubol in N.E. Thailand.)

3010/10/6.
328

DEPARTMENT OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS

INWARD CABLEGRAM

GMCN: I.12964

FROM: DATED: 3RD MARCH, 1967
1450 LT

AUSTRALIAN EMBASSY.
BANGKOK. REC'D: 3RD MARCH, 1967
2015 LT

346. CONFIDENTIAL. PRIORITY.

TOUR OF NORTH EAST.

THANKS FOR YOUR TEL NO. 392.

BECAUSE OF THE DIFFICULTY AND TIME REQUIRED TO ARRANGE FOR BRIEFINGS, APPOINTMENTS WITH GOVERNORS AND OTHER OFFICIALS, POLICE ESCORTS AND GUARDS AND ACCOMMODATION, I HAVE HAD TO MAKE TENTATIVE ARRANGEMENTS FOR THESE PURPOSES ON THE ASSUMPTION THAT A PLAN WOULD BE AVAILABLE.

IT WILL BE NECESSARY FOR ME TO CONFIRM OR CANCEL THESE ARRANGEMENTS BY MONDAY 6TH MARCH.

IT WILL ALSO BE NECESSARY FOR ME TO INDICATE WHETHER I SHALL BE PRESENT IN BANGKOK DURING THE DUKE OF EDINBURGH'S VISIT.

I SHOULD BE GRATEFUL THEREFORE FOR THE EARLIEST POSSIBLE INDICATION OF YOUR DECISION.

LOOMES.

E.A. (671/7)
DEFENCE
AIR
P.M.'S

4TH MARCH, 1967

SEC DEP SEC FAS(1) SEA M DL(A) SAS(MS) STAFF
PERS DEPT. DUTY OFFICER.

CONFIDENTIAL

3010/10/6.
327

DEPARTMENT OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS

OUTWARD CABLEGRAM

LES

O.11181

TO:

SENT: 2ND MARCH, 1967
1934

AUSTRALIAN EMBASSY,
BANGKOK.

392 CONFIDENTIAL.

FOR LOOMES.

WE SHALL LET YOU HAVE REPLY TO YOUR 331 AND 298 AS SOON AS POSSIBLE.
FUNDS ARE BEING SOUGHT.

E.A. (671/7)
DEFENCE
AIR
P.M.'S

3RD MARCH, 1967

SEC DS FAS(1) SEA M DL SAS(MS) STAFF PERS FIN

CONFIDENTIAL

CONFIDENTIAL

EXTERNAL AFFAIRS 3010/10/6

326

Mr Norfolk

Mr Curtis

Fyi please.

I was going to send this memo to Mr Brennan, but since our talk it might be better if you send. Then it might be better if you would:

(a) sound out Mr Hamer as to possibility of some cost-sharing with RAAF or some similar rationalising of arrangements;

(b) see if you can beef up Mr North's note with ~~some~~ reference to specific issues we should flights should we report.

WT 7/3

325

EXTERNAL AFFAIRS

FILE No. .....

DATE 7th March, 1967.

SUBJECT REQUESTS FOR RAAF AIRCRAFT FOR DIPLOMATIC MISSIONS IN SOUTH-EAST ASIA

FOR MR H.D. ANDERSON

You have asked for a note on the above subject.

2. For a number of years RAAF aircraft from Butterworth have been provided for our Missions in South-East Asia on a "when available" basis. The Department of Air now has advised this Department by memorandum (copy attached) that RAAF aircraft from Butterworth are exceeding their allotted flying hours and since there is no financial provision for special flights External Affairs will be charged in future for the cost of supplying aircraft for our Missions in South-East Asia at the rate of $A116 per flying hour plus travelling expenses for members of air crew.

3. Defence Liaison Branch considers that we have no redress in the matter and that there will be no alternative but to charge these costs to the travel vote of the Missions concerned.

4. The Department of Air estimates that the current annual flying effort involved in support of our Missions in South-East Asia is approximately 200 hours. The cost of this on the basis proposed by the Department of Air would be $A23,000 plus the travel costs of the air crew. It may be assumed that Missions will not have sufficient funds in their travel votes for this financial year to cover the cost of the use of RAAF aircraft. Treasury approval is now being sought for a flight for Mr Loomes to fly to Tak for the opening of the highway to Mae Sod.

5. Requests for flights made by our Missions during 1966 exceeded previous years. They were as follows:

Laos - January, April, August, November, (and a further request was made for a flight in January this year).

Thailand - June and October (and a further request was made for a flight in March of this year).

Viet Nam - September and November.

6. In general flights have been for the purpose of visiting remoter provincial centres otherwise inaccessible by road or civil air services. They have provided an opportunity for reporting, familiarisation

....

Mr Buchan:

Could we discuss some time, please?

In addition to the value of these flights for reporting on political, military and other developments in provincial areas, they are useful and at times necessary for work on aid projects in the countries concerned. We may need to do a bit of rationing, but as a minimum we should provide for 3 (and hopefully 4) flights per year for Viet Nam and Laos and probably the same for Thailand.

DT 7/3

and representation away from the capital city. All these functions are normally considered to be a necessary function of our Missions. With this in mind the number of flights for 1966 hardly seems excessive and even though Vientiane's total for 1966 was 4 as against 2 for each of the other posts, the flights in Laos had an added value in providing transport for aid equipment. Saigon and Vientiane for obvious reasons of security have needed air transport to keep in touch with regional centres cut off from Saigon by communist forces. Civil services could cover visits to a few centres in each case but exclusive use of commercial flights would not only deprive the Missions of the opportunity to visit other important centres but would also deny them the ability to visit several centres on the one occasion.

7. Thailand in some respects is a different case in that while there is a security problem, land transport and civil air services do offer feasible means of travel to the provinces. Distances, however, are considerable and given the relatively slow progress of motor traffic and the paucity of inter-connecting air services the RAAF flights are of great value to the Mission which has time-consuming responsibilities in Bangkok.

8. In summary the RAAF flights are of great value for the effective work of our Missions in Bangkok, Vientiane and Saigon. The primary consideration from this Branch's point of view is that irrespective of who meets the costs the number of flights must be maintained, and if necessary expanded. External Affairs should not accept any arrangement which will in effect curtail this service which has become an intrinsic element in our Missions' reporting and representational functions in the area.

(R. M. North)

Mainland Section.

323

COMMONWEALTH OF AUSTRALIA

TELEPHONE: U 0422 65.9111

TELEGRAPHIC ADDRESS: "AIRFORCE CANBERRA"

IN REPLY QUOTE 564/10/39

DEPARTMENT OF AIR,

CANBERRA, A.C.T.

EXTERNAL AFFAIRS
13 JAN 1967
ACT

The Secretary
Department of External Affairs
CANBERRA ACT

13 JAN '67

REQUESTS FOR RAAF AIRCRAFT FOR DIPLOMATIC MISSIONS IN SOUTH EAST ASIA

1. During the past twelve months there has been in increasing number of requests for RAAF transport aircraft to assist Australian diplomatic missions in South East Asia. The most recent of these requests was for an aircraft to be made available to the Australian Embassy Vientiane during January. Your memorandum 671/7 of 25th November, 1966 refers.

2. The reasons for your requests and the importance of the tasks involved are fully appreciated and as you are aware, none of your requests have been refused. However, as you are probably aware, RAAF aircraft are allocated a certain number of hours for flying for the year. This flying effort is based on service commitments only and does not take into account requests for special tasks of the type requested from your department. As a result of the flying undertaken on behalf of your department we find that the allocation of flying hours is being exceeded. There is no special financial provision for tasks of this nature and the cost of the additional flying effort is thus being borne from the Air vote.

3. Accordingly it is proposed that in future the operating costs of aircraft provided in answer to requests from your department should be recovered. These costs will be calculated at the nominal flying hour rate, currently $116 per hour, to which would be added the costs of accommodation and other travelling expenses, at the prevailing rates, for the crews of aircraft.

4. It would be of assistance if an estimate of the anticipated requirement for aircraft hours could be provided on an annual basis for inclusion in the allocation of flying hours for appropriate RAAF aircraft. To aid you in this matter, it is estimated that the current annual flying effort involved in support of your department in South East Asia would be about 200 flying hours.

5. A copy of this memorandum has been sent to the Secretary, Department of Defence for information.

(A. B. McFarlane)
SECRETARY

MR. HOMER.

322

DEPARTMENT OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS

OUTWARD CABLEGRAM

LES 0.11450

TO: SENT: 3RD MARCH, 1967
2133

AUSTRALIAN EMBASSY,
VIENTIANE.

84 RESTRICTED.

AMBASSADOR FROM BRENNAN.

YOUR MEMORANDUM 126.

DAKOTA.

UNTIL RECENTLY RAAF HAS FOUND FLIGHTS INTO LAOS AND OTHER NEARBY COUNTRIES USEFUL IN EXTENDING ITS KNOWLEDGE OF FLYING CONDITIONS AND HAS THEREFORE BEEN PREPARED TO MEET COSTS OF FLIGHTS OF THIS KIND OUT OF ITS BUDGET:

SUCH FLIGHTS NOW HAVE LESS VALUE FOR R.A.A.F AND IN ANY EVENT THEIR VOTES ARE NOW FULLY COMMITTED.

IT WILL NOW BE NECESSARY FOR THE COST OF ANY AIRCRAFT MADE AVAILABLE TO BE MET FROM THE TRAVEL VOTE OF THE RELEVANT POST AND WE WOULD BE OBLIGED TO SCRUTINISE CLOSELY ANY REQUESTS FOR AIRCRAFT.

IT IS NOTED THAT ON FOUR OCCASIONS DURING 1966, AIRCRAFT WERE MADE AVAILABLE TO VIENTIANE AND WE THEREFORE WONDER WHETHER YOUR PROPOSED VISIT IS ESSENTIAL.

WOULD APPRECIATE YOUR COMMENTS.

E.A. (671/7) 4TH MARCH, 1967

Mr Curtis Pls. have someone do a note on the importance of these flights in Laos, Thailand or Viet-Nam. Then may be some other Defence &/or intelligence interest too, if so cd. check with DL & Int.. 6/3

SEC DS FAS(1) DL SAS(MS) STAFF

RESTRICTED RESTRICTED RESTRICTED

321

EXTERNAL AFFAIRS

FILE No. 671/7

DATE 9th March, 1967

SUBJECT USE OF RAAF AIRCRAFT BY MISSIONS IN SOUTH EAST ASIA

FOR MR. BRENNAN

Copies to :

MR. ANDERSON
MR. CURTIS

...

I refer to your note (3010/10/6 of 9th March, 1967) and attach a copy of a memorandum received from the Department of Air confirming the provision of an aircraft for Mr. Loomes' visit, and drawing attention to the need for information about our requirements for aircraft for the coming year.

2. I have since informed Mr. Store, Assistant Secretary (Air), Department of Air, that the information he requires is being sought from our posts and that we will let him have this information as soon as it arrives. Mr. Store indicated that on receipt of this information the whole question would be re-examined in the light of our total requirements. The impression I gained, although I have nothing substantive to back this up, was that an endeavour might be made to sort this out within the Department of Air budget. If this happens, then there would be no need to include the item in the travel votes of the respective missions. The main thing now is to obtain estimates of flying hour requirements as rapidly as possible to enable the financial problems to be sorted out in time for inclusion in the estimates. We could perhaps ask Mr. Dexter to translate his requirements into flying hours in order to meet with Department of Air requirements.

3. I agree with your comment on telegram 127 from Vientiane that the idea of a visit in April be dropped. Mr. Dexter does not suggest that the visit is "essential" and it would, I think, help our relations with the Department of Air considerably if we made no further approaches until such time as the financial aspect has been sorted out.

(F.T. Homer)
Acting Assistant Secretary.

Defence Liaison Branch :
FTH/PS

3010/10/6.

DEPARTMENT OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS

INWARD CABLEGRAM

(P) 320

JE

I.10496

DATED: 22ND FEBRUARY, 1967.
1050 LT

FROM:

REC'D: 22ND FEBRUARY, 1967.
1844 LT

AUSTRALIAN EMBASSY,
BANGKOK.

298. CONFIDENTIAL. PRIORITY.

YOUR 313.
TOUR OF NORTH-EAST.

FUNDS REMAINING IN OUR TRAVEL VOTE (IN WHICH WE COULD NOT POSSIBLY HAVE FORESEEN NECESSITY TO PAY FOR THE USE OF SERVICE AIRCRAFT) ARE SUFFICIENT ONLY FOR MINOR EXPENDITURES, AND, IF WE COULD USE THE SAVING OF DOLLARS 400 ADVISED IN OUR REVISED ESTIMATES, THIS WOULD FALL FAR SHORT OF THE AMOUNT DEMANDED BY AIR.

IT IS OF COURSE ESSENTIAL FOR ME TO VISIT TAK FOR THE OPENING CEREMONY OF THE ROADS PROJECT, AND I COULD POSSIBLY GO BY CAR THE DAY BEFORE, THOUGH THIS WOULD MEAN BEING ABSENT DURING THE VISIT OF THE DUKE OF EDINBURGH AND DECLINING A PROBABLE DINNER WITH THE KING.

FOR THE REST, I REGARD IT OF MUCH VALUE TO VISIT AREAS IN THE NORTH-EAST, PARTICULARLY THOSE AFFECTED BY COMMUNIST INSURGENCY - SUCH VISITS ARE REALLY ONLY FEASIBLE BY AIR.

I ALSO UNDERSTAND THAT THE DEPARTMENT ATTACHED MORE IMPORTANCE TO FULL COVERAGE OF THIS SUBJECT.

SOME PRUNING OF THE ITINERARY WOULD BE POSSIBLE, BUT THIS WOULD MAKE LITTLE REAL DIFFERENCE TO THE FLYING HOURS INVOLVED.

IN THE LIGHT OF THE ABOVE, I HOPE THAT SOME WAY CAN BE FOUND EITHER TO MAKE THE AIRCRAFT AVAILABLE WITHOUT COST OR TO MAKE ADDITIONAL FUNDS AVAILABLE TO MEET THE COST.

MY ITINERARY WOULD INVOLVE ABOUT 11 FLYING HOURS (EXCLUDING FLIGHT TO AND FROM BUTTERWORTH) AND FIVE OVERNIGHT STOPS.

LOOMES.

E.A. (671/8)
P.M.S

23RD FEBRUARY, 1967.

SEC DEP SEC FAS(1) S&SEA M&I M DL@ FAS(3) AID

CONFIDENTIAL

CONFIDENTIAL

DEPARTMENT OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS

3010/10/6
319

OUTWARD CABLEGRAM

YP 0.08475

TO: SENT : 17TH FEBRUARY, 1967

AUSTRALIAN EMBASSY,
BANGKOK.

313. RESTRICTED. PRIORITY.

FOR LOOMES.

YOUR TELEGRAM 255.

WE HAVE AT PRESENT UNDER EXAMINATION AN ADVICE FROM THE DEPARTMENT OF AIR THAT RAAF AIRCRAFT FROM BUTTERWORTH ARE EXCEEDING THEIR ALLOTTED FLYING HOURS AND THAT IN FUTURE AIR WILL BILL THIS DEPARTMENT WITH THE COST OF SUPPLYING AIRCRAFT FOR OUR MISSIONS IN SOUTH EAST ASIA AT THE RATE OF DOLLARS 116 PER FLYING HOUR PLUS TRAVELLING EXPENSES FOR MEMBERS OF AIR CREW.
SHOULD IT BE DETERMINED THAT PAYMENT MUST BE MADE WE WILL HAVE NO ALTERNATIVE BUT TO CHARGE THESE COSTS TO THE TRAVEL VOTES OF THE MISSIONS CONCERNED.

2. IN VIEW OF THE FOREGOING AND AFTER AN EXAMINATION OF THE AVAILABILITY OF FUNDS REMAINING IN YOUR TRAVEL VOTE, YOU MAY WISH TO REVIEW YOUR REQUIREMENTS AS SET OUT IN TELEGRAM NO 255, SHOULD IT BECOME NECESSARY TO PAY FOR THE AIRCRAFT.
WE WILL THEREFORE AWAIT YOUR FURTHER ADVICE BEFORE REQUESTING THE USE OF AN RAAF AIRCRAFT.

E.A. (671/8)
P.M'S

18TH FEBRUARY, 1967

SEC DEP SEC FAS(1) SANDSEA MANDI M DL(ACTION) FAS(3)
AID

RESTRICTED RESTRICTED RESTRICTED

3010/10/6
318

DEPARTMENT OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS

INWARD CABLEGRAM

LES

I.8700

FROM:

DATED: 14TH FEBRUARY, 1967
1615 LT

AUSTRALIAN EMBASSY,
BANGKOK.

REC'D: 14TH FEBRUARY, 1967
2014 LT

255 RESTRICTED PRIORITY.

I PROPOSE TO VISIT TAK ON 12TH MARCH TO ATTEND OPENING CEREMONY OF ROADS PROJECT (PRIME MINISTER WILL BE PRESENT) AND THENCE TO TOUR NORTH-EAST, VISITING ROI-ET, UBON, KHON KAEN, NAKORN PHANOM, SAKAL NAKORN AND UDORN.

I SHOULD BE GLAD IF A RAAF DAKOTA COULD BE PROVIDED FROM AFTERNOON OF 11TH MARCH TILL 17TH MARCH.
BUTTERWORTH ADVISES INFORMALLY THAT A DAKOTA WOULD BE AVAILABLE FOR THIS PERIOD.
GLAD OF EARLY REPLY.

LOOMES.

MIN. AND DEPT E.A.
P.M.'S

15TH FEBRUARY, 1967

SEC DS FAS(1) S AND SEA M DL(ACTION) FAS(3) AS(JIC) INT AID(ACTION) SAS(MS) STAFF

RESTRICTED RESTRICTED RESTRICTED RESTRICTED

317

AUSTRALIAN EMBASSY,
BANGKOK

In reply quote No. 3/1/169

Memorandum No. 22

5th January, 1967

The Secretary,
Department of External Affairs,
CANBERRA ... A.C.T.

Appointment of Consul, Thailand

I refer to your memorandum 718 (3010/10/6) of 14th July 1966 concerning the issue of a Commission to Mr D.A. Beattie at this Embassy.

2. The Ministry of Foreign Affairs, who are at present preparing a new Diplomatic and Consular List, have recently asked whether they may see the Commission. I have explained to the Ministry that there is often a delay in the receipt of Commissions but that it should reach Bangkok in the near future.

3. Glad of your advice that Commission can be expected shortly.

(D.A. Beattie)
Second Secretary

3010/10/6 316

Australian Embassy,
Bangkok.

Ref. 3/2/2

27th October, 1966.

MEMORANDUM TO ALL EMBASSY STAFF:

EXTERNAL AFFAIRS OFFICERS' DUTIES

With the arrival on 26th October of Mr Brook, First Secretary, as an addition to the staff, and with reference to the Embassy notice of 1st September, 1966, the allocation of duties of External Affairs Officers has been revised. Provisionally the allocation is as follows and it will be reviewed in the light of experience in the New Year:

Mr Marshall - Counsellor

Alternate SEATO Council Representative
Australian Liaison Officer to ECAFE
Political Reporting
General Supervision of Work (including policy questions) connected with ECAFE and other UN agencies, the Colombo Plan and SEATO (including SEATO Aid)
Overall supervision of Embassy

Mr Brook - First Secretary

Responsibility for regional co-operation bodies but excluding ECAFE, that is, in particular, SEATO and ASPAC
Member of the SEATO Permanent Working Group
Member of the Sub-Committee of ASPAC
Regular Political Reporting (e.g. fortnightly Savingram)
Special reporting as directed
SEATO Aid, excluding individual experts
Specific administrative tasks as directed

Mr Holdich - Second Secretary

Alternate Member of SEATO Permanent Working Group
Alternate Member of SEATO Information Advisory Group
Responsibility for SEATO Aid experts
Deputy Liaison Officer to ECAFE
Other UN agencies
Assistance as directed with fortnightly savingram, especially internal political reporting
Specific administrative tasks at direction of the Counsellor

Mr Sheaves - Third Secretary

Member of SEATO Budget Sub-Committee
Security Officer, including maintenance of burning roster
Colombo Plan, under supervision
Economic reporting under supervision
Specific administrative tasks at direction of the Counsellor
Administration of Beach Cottage roster and arrangements.

Mr Griffiths

→ Mr North (South East Asia)

.../2

Mr Beattie - Consul and Senior Administrative Officer

Supervision of general Embassy administration
Transport responsibility
Major consular and Immigration issues
Private students
Direction and supervision of Australian-based female and Group B staff
Management and supervision of locally-engaged staff, including terms and conditions
Certifying officer
Direction of duty rosters of all kinds
Responsibility for clearance of aid equipment
Direction of preparation of annual estimates

Mr Mooney - Attaché Consular and Administrative

Under direction routine consular matters including passports and visas
Property matters - negotiation of leases, general care of Government property, including repair and maintenance of Residence, Chancery and Staff accommodation
Maintenance of all routine administrative returns to Canberra
Organising the preparation and maintenance of inventories
Removals
Supervision of action on Customs clearances
Maintenance of stationery supplies
Member of the Embassy commissary committee

Mr Gleeson - Administrative

Preparation of accounts
Paymaster and Collector of Public Moneys
Preparation, under direction, of estimates (Annual, Supplementary, revised)
Purchasing Officer
Staff and personnel forms (leave, etc.)
Transport under supervision including car maintenance and returns
Medicals, X-ray, inoculations, etc. (Australian and local staff)

Joint responsibilities (under direction of the Counsellor)

All Officers - Meeting and arrangements for visitors as directed, in association with all other officers

Mr Beattie, Mr Mooney and Mr Gleeson

Despatch and collection of diplomatic bags courier service
Embassy travel and accommodation (civilian).

(A. H. Loomes)
Ambassador

3010/10/6.
314

DEPARTMENT OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS

OUTWARD CABLEGRAM

LES 0.845

TO: SENT: 7TH JANUARY, 1967.
1559

AUSTRALIAN EMBASSY,
BANGKOK.

37 UNCLASSIFIED.

FOR AMBASSADOR

YOUR TELEGRAM 6

LEAVE APPROVED.

E.A. (1251/P) 9TH JANUARY, 1967

SEC FAS(1) S&SEA M SAS(MS) STAFF

S.E.A. BRANCH (1 COPY) 3010/10/6 313

SEATO-UNCLASSIFIED

SOUTH-EAST ASIA TREATY ORGANIZATION

COUNCIL REPRESENTATIVES

SCR/66/D-114
November 1, 1966

REPRESENTATION OF AUSTRALIA
ON SEATO NEGOTIATING BODIES

Reference: SCR/66/D-8

Note by the Office of the Secretary-General

The following communication dated October 28, 1966, received from the Australian Embassy is circulated for information:

"The Australian Embassy presents its compliments to the Secretariat-General of the South-East Asia Treaty Organisation and has the honour to inform the Secretariat-General that, following upon recent staff additions to the Embassy, Australian representation on SEATO negotiating bodies will henceforth be as follows:

Council Member:
The Rt Hon. Paul Hasluck, M.P.

Council Representative:
H.E. Mr. A.H. Loomes, O.B.E.

Alternate Council Representative:
Mr. H. Marshall

Permanent Working Group Member:
Mr. J.H. Brook

Permanent Working Group Alternate:
Mr. J.R. Holdich

Budget Sub-Committee Member:
Mr. R.S. Sheaves"

DAVID A. WRAIGHT

3010/10/6

BANGKOK.

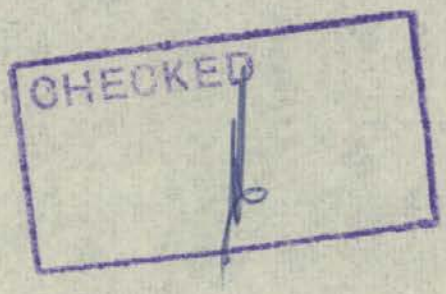
Mr. Curtis
S.E.A.

With the Compliments

of the

Australian Embassy.

For information.



"THIS WEEK IN BANGKOK"

VISITORS

Week of 10th-17th October 1966
(Excluding Trade & Service Visitors)

Already here

Dr. C. Wood and family of four. (C.P.)
Mr. & Mrs. Crocker and child (House inspected a.m. Friday 14th). (C.P.)

Movements (existing personnel in Thailand)

Mr. Amos (engineer) from Khon Kaen on 12th; to Tak on 14th (C.P)

Mr. & Mrs. Fischer and family from Khon Kaen on Sunday 16th; to go on to Tak 17th

Mr. Burgess (SMA) arrived from Phnom Penh week-end 8th 9th; to Tak on 11th; back to Bangkok on 13th; and to Australia on 14th (C.P)

Messrs. Loudon, A. Pongratz, M.Duke - engineers on transit from Khon Kaen to Australia (C.P)

New Personnel

Messrs. Pinkerton & Price (SMA) returned from Phnom Penh Thursday 13th; to Khon Kaen/Nongkai 15th; return 17th; to Australia 19th. (C.P.)

Messrs. Beaman, Lutz, Dickerson and McLaughlin (all SMA) arrived 2 a.m. Friday 14th; first three to Tak Sunday 16th; fourth to Khon Kaen 15th, return next week (C.P)

Couriers

From Canberra 2 a.m. Friday 14th; ex p.m. Friday 14th
From Rangoon Thursday 13th; out Satv.15th.

Other Visitors

Mr. Graeme Crove (retiring Leader of surgical team Vietnam) and Dr. Villiers (anaesthetist) and wives arrive Thursday 13th. Depart p.m. Monday 17th. (SEATO Aid)

Mr. McKenzie A/Sec I&NS arrived Tues 11th; departs p.m. 17th
Mrs. Price from Vientiane Tues 11th; departed 15th P.M.
Mr. Price due from Vientiane Sunday 16th; departs Weds 19th P.M.
Miss Chivers from Vientiane, in town during the week till 13th (P.M.)

Others in our Sights ("Private"but officially notified)

Dr. Donald Duffy (nephrologist) & wife due Friday 14th till 17th
Mr. Maynes of Federated Clerks' Union due Friday 14th to 16th.
Mr. Starrardt of Melbourne due during week of 10th-17th
Mr. W. Robertson of Melbourne

P.M. Resources available :
(in absence of Ambassador on Southern tour & one attache on leave)

1 Counsellor
1 Second Secretary
1 Senior Admin.Officer
1 Third Secretary
1 Attache

Australian Embassy, Bangkok.
17th October, 1966.

Mr Henderson

I do not see any problem here at all as far as Mr Beattie is concerned. It follows the general line we followed last year.

Admin. may wish to consider the necessity of a commission for Mr Mooney. He could always prepare any documentation for Mr Beattie's signature. We did not take any ~~previous~~ action on appointing Consul & Vice Consul at the same post.

[illegible] 13/7.
COS

Mr Knight
Please prepare
a Commission for
Mr Beattie

Mr N[illegible] 3010/10/6

File Here 310

AUSTRALIAN EMBASSY, BANGKOK

DIRECTORY (March 1966)

The Australian Embassy office (Chancery) is situated at 323 Silom Road - Telephone 30977-8-9

The Trade Office is situated separately, but not very far away, at 40 Chartered Bank Lane. Telephone : 35955-57

This Directory lists all Australians, excluding Servicemen on active service, who are currently officially in Thailand.

An asterisk indicates that the officer is married with wife in Thailand. Where fairly clearly settled, due departure date from Bangkok of officers is indicated.

I. Australian Embassy Staff

(The Embassy has the overall responsibility for the conduct of Australian Government business and activities in Thailand).

		Home Telephone
Ambassador :	Mr. A.H. Loomes, O.B.E.* ..... 173 South Sathorn Road, Bangkok.	34285
Counsellor :	Mr. Harold Marshall* ..... 71/1 Soi Sala Dang, Bangkok.	30005
Services Attache :	Col. J.G. Ochiltree O.B.E.* ..... 49 Soi 2 Ruam Rudee	56565
Trade Commissioner :	Mr. B.H.M. Maxwell* ..... 43 Soi Lang Suan, Ploenchitr Road.	57514
Assistant Trade Commissioner :	Mr. K.J. Cosgrave* ..... (to May 1966)	33009
	: Mr.J.N.P.Burrill* ..... (from May 1966) 230/2 Soi Sri Nakorn, Linchee Rd.	
Information Attache :	Mr. Peter Davison* ..... Apt.4A Chand House, Soi 11 Sukhumvit	57694
Second Secretary :	Mr. J. R. Holdich* ..... 22 Soi Attakarn Prasit, South Sathorn	36277
Third Secretary :	Mr. R. S. Sheaves ..... 15/1 Soi Sala Dang, Silom Road.	32673
Assistant to Services Attache :	Chief Petty Officer R. Alexander RAN* ..... Apt.19 Bangapi Mansion, 91 Soi 12 Sukhumvit.	55017
Vice Consul :	Mr. Ray Mooney* ..... No.9 St. Louise Lane, South Sathorn Road.	33274

Home Telephone

Attache : Mr. John Gleeson ..... 35265 &
7/2 Soi Phipat, Silom Road. 30977

Secretaries : Miss Thea Cawthorne .....
29 Phitak Court, Soi Attakarn Prasit

Miss Beverly Baum 913653
Seephenong House 95 Soi Akapatr Off 49

Miss Sue Lucas 38541
Apt.8 Kit's Court, 94Soi Phra Pinij

Thai Language Trainee : Sgt. D. E. Lord, RAAF *..... 58066
Imperial Hotel (temporary)
Soi Ruam Rudee.

Assistant Trade Commissioner : Mr. E. Mouritz 37070
(from July 1966)
Hotel Manohra, Suriwongse Rd.

II. S.E.A.T.O. Staff

(Bangkok is the Headquarters of the regional security grouping S.E.A.T.O. - South-East Asia Treaty Organisation under the Manila Treaty of September 1954. Other member countries are Thailand, the Philippines, Pakistan, United States, Britain, France and New Zealand) Telephone - 25601-9

(a) Civilian Staff

Mr. K.C. Duncan* - Director of Research (Jan.68)...
Phyathai Court,65/2 Phyathai Rd.

Mr. J. Colquhoun*- Staff Officer (Feb.67) .....
485/6 Soi Watananawang Makkasan.

Mr. L.D. Gordon* - Research Officer (March 67)..... 912870
No.5 Soi 18 (Soi Pichit).

Miss Carmel Maguire - Librarian (June 66).....
46/1 Rambhalai Apt.,
Sukhumvit 21.

(b) Services Staff

Gp.Capt. J.M.Sutherland, RAAF*(to Jan.67) 55336
Australian Military Adviser's Representative
Apt.716 Ambassador's Court, Soi Lang Suan.

Capt.R.C.Savage, DSC, RAN*Head of Planning 33524
(to Feb.68) 77/3 Soi Sala Dang.

Comdr. D.C. Johns, RAN,*Planner (to Feb.68) 911486
Prasarnmitr Court, Soi Prasarnmitr,
Sukhumvit 23.

Lt. Col. J.H.Marsh, MBE,*Planner (to Dec.67) 56242
Apt.43 Chanint Court, Soi Ton Son.

Home Telephone

(b) Services Staff (Contd.)

Lt.Col. L.B. Swifte * (to Aug.66) 55726
Deputy Public Information Officer, Military.
Apt.346, Ambassador's Court, Soi Lang Suan.

Wg.Cmdr. G.H.Bosworth,*RAAF,(to Jan.67) 70796
Planner - Apt.A2 Red Rose Court, Patipat Road.

Wg..Comdr. G.S, King, RAAF*(to Jan.68)..... 911850
Exercise Liaison Officer
3816 Rama IV Road, Klong Toey.

Sq..Ldr. F.A. Lang, RAAF*(to Aug.67).....
Assistant Head of Secretariat
Apartment 3A, 49/1 Soi Sook Chai.

C.P.O. J.G. Cummins, RAN*(to Feb.68) 910100
Assistant to A.S.M.A.R. - Rex Hotel.

Sgt. L.C. Sutherland (to March 1966) 912860
Assistant to A.S.M.A.R.
58 Soi Chonglom, Sukhumvit 51.

Sgt. L.W. Luskey, RAAF (to Jan.67) 73876
44 Soi Sena Ruam, Phaholvothin (11)

III. Aid Personnel

(Australia Cooperates with Thailand under Colombo Plan and SEATO Aid Programmes)

(a) Colombo Plan Experts

In Khon Kaen - Serving with Feeder Roads Project :

Mr. D.G. Dowty*	Mr. K.A. Ryan*	Mr. C.B.Jackson*(to Apr.66)
Mr. P. Mohr. *	Mr. S.D. Inkley*	Mr. A.W. Lawson *
Mr. K. Amos*	Mr. A. Pongratz	Mr. L. Loudon
Mr. M. Duke *	Mr. J. Motby	

In Bangkok

Mr. J.H. McConnell* 911501
Engineering expert under Colombo Plan

Mr. R.A. Benn 911489
Teacher of English at Chulalongkorn University
Apt.11 Prasarn Mitr Court, Sukhumvit

Mr. W.C. Greenhill*..... 910668
Research scientist at Applied Science Research Corporation

Mr. A.A. Darling*..... 914989
Instructor at the Bangkok Engineering School
86 Soi 23 Sukhumvit Road.

307

Home Telephone

In Bangkok (Contd.)

Mr. R.G. Collyer 54870
Instructor at the Bangkok Engineering School
59 Soi 12 Sukhumvit Road.

In Chiengmai :

Dr. E.C. Chapman .....
Northern Survey Office, Room 8222 Building No.1,
University of Chiengmai, Chiengmai.

Mr. P.J. Smailes .....
Northern Survey Office, Room 8222 Building No.1,
University of Chiengmai, Chiengmai.

(b) SEATO Aid Experts

(The following 10 Australian Army Personnel are giving supervisory and technical assistance with the Thai Services Rebuild Workshop, a joint Australian/Thai project, at Rangsit near Bangkok)

Lt. Col. W.J. Bauert OBE*(Leader) 76459
169 Pradipat Road, Bangsue.

Maj. J.A.W. Brophy *..... 72754
61 Soi Sri Sawasdi, Pradipat Road.

Capt. N. Mc.K. Stewart *..... 72664
406 Paholyothin Road, Bangsue.

Lt. C.M. Harrington*..... 70639
12 Soi Aree 4, Paholyothin Road.

W.O.1 R. Hartney *..... 71699
7 Soi Sansuek, Pradipat Road.

W.O.1. E.F. Harding*..... 72849
35/35 Soi Intamara, Suthisarn

W.O.1 K.R. Sparrow* 71385
25 Soi Sri Fa, Paholyothin

W.O.1 H.B. Barnett*..... 56342
507/37 Soi Thepahasdin, Sri Ayudhya Road.

W.O.1 N.M. Cooper*..... 71359
19 Soi Somprasong 1, Petchburi Road.

W.O.2 P. Pini*..... 73389
14 Soi Wattanawongse, Makasan.

In Chiengmai

Mr. Peter Hinton *.....
Adviser to the Hill Tribes Research Centre.

IV. Military Research & Development Centre (M.R.D.C.)

(An Australian Department of Defence team is attached to M.R.D.C. to work with Thai and U.S. officers on defence projects of mutual interest)

Lt. Col. W.A. Brydie* (Leader) .....
Apt.5, Lumpini Court, Soi Sarasin.

Maj. A.T. Hall* 32587
2/2 Yen Akart Road, Tung Mahamek

Sq.Ldr. R.S. Fisher RAAF *..... 58434
68/1 Soi Phasuk (Soi 2)

Mr. D. G. Neal* 35747
230/1 Soi Sri Nakorn, Linchee Road.

V. Others

Flt. Lt. G.A. Jenkins*..... 913386
(RAAF Liaison Officer particularly in respect of the RAAF Squadron stationed at Ubol in N.E. Thailand)
39 Soi 40.

Mr. PIPER - DL305

AUSTRALIAN EMBASSY, BANGKOK

DIRECTORY (March 1966)

The Australian Embassy office (Chancery) is situated at 323 Silom Road - Telephone 30977-8-9

The Trade Office is situated separately, but not very far away, at 40 Chartered Bank Lane. Telephone : 35955-57

This Directory lists all Australians, excluding Servicemen on active service, who are currently officially in Thailand.

An asterisk indicates that the officer is married with wife in Thailand. Where fairly clearly settled, due departure date from Bangkok of officers is indicated.

I. Australian Embassy Staff

(The Embassy has the overall responsibility for the conduct of Australian Government business and activities in Thailand).

		Home Telephone
Ambassador :	Mr. A.H. Loomes, O.B.E.* ..... 173 South Sathorn Road, Bangkok.	34285
Counsellor :	Mr. Harold Marshall* ..... 71/1 Soi Sala Dang, Bangkok.	30005
Services Attache :	Col. J.G. Ochiltree O.B.E.*..... 49 Soi 2 Ruam Rudee	56565
Trade Commissioner :	Mr. B.H.M. Maxwell* ..... 43 Soi Lang Suan, Ploenchitr Road.	57514
Assistant Trade Commissioner :	Mr. K.J. Cosgrave* ..... (to May 1966)	33009
	: Mr.J.N.P.Burrill* ..... (from May 1966) 230/2 Soi Sri Nakorn, Linchee Rd.	
Information Attache :	Mr. Peter Davison* ..... Apt.4A Chand House, Soi 11 Sukhumvit	57694
Second Secretary :	Mr. J. R. Holdich* ..... 22 Soi Attakarn Prasit, South Sathorn	36277
Third Secretary :	Mr. R. S. Sheaves ..... 15/1 Soi Sala Dang, Silom Road.	32673
Assistant to Services Attache :	Chief Petty Officer R. Alexander RAN* ..... Apt.19 Bangapi Mansion, 91 Soi 12 Sukhumvit.	55017
Vice Consul :	Mr. Ray Mooney* ..... No.9 St. Louise Lane, South Sathorn Road.	33274

304

Home Telephone

Attache : Mr. John Gleeson ..... 35265 & 30977
7/2 Soi Phipat, Silom Road.

Secretaries : Miss Thea Cawthorne .....
29 Phitak Court, Soi Attakarn Prasit

Miss Beverly Baum 913653
Seephenong House 95 Soi Akapatr Off 49

Miss Sue Lucas 38541
Apt.8 Kit's Court, 94Soi Phra Pinij

Thai Language Trainee : Sgt. D. E. Lord, RAAF *..... 58066
Imperial Hotel (temporary)
Soi Ruam Rudee.

Assistant Trade Commissioner : Mr. E. Mouritz 37070
(from July 1966)
Hotel Manohra, Suriwongse Rd.

II. S.E.A.T.O. Staff

(Bangkok is the Headquarters of the regional security grouping S.E.A.T.O. - South-East Asia Treaty Organisation under the Manila Treaty of September 1954. Other member countries are Thailand, the Philippines, Pakistan, United States, Britain, France and New Zealand) Telephone - 25601-9

(a) Civilian Staff

Mr. K.C. Duncan* - Director of Research (Jan.68)...
Phyathai Court,65/2 Phyathai Rd.

Mr. J. Colquhoun*- Staff Officer (Feb.67) .....
485/6 Soi Watananawang Makkasan.

Mr. L.D. Gordon* - Research Officer (March 67)..... 912870
No.5 Soi 18 (Soi Pichit).

Miss Carmel Maguire - Librarian (June 66).....
46/1 Rambhalai Apt.,
Sukhumvit 21.

(b) Services Staff

Gp.Capt. J.M.Sutherland, RAAF*(to Jan.67) 55336
Australian Military Adviser's Representative
Apt.716 Ambassador's Court, Soi Lang Suan.

Capt.R.C.Savage, DSC, RAN*Head of Planning 33524
(to Feb.68) 77/3 Soi Sala Dang.

Comdr. D.C. Johns, RAN,*Planner (to Feb.68) 911486
Prasarnmitr Court, Soi Prasarnmitr,
Sukhumvit 23.

Lt. Col. J.H.Marsh, MBE,*Planner (to Dec.67) 56242
Apt.43 Chanint Court, Soi Ton Son.

303

Home Telephone

(b) Services Staff (Contd.)

Lt.Col. L.B. Swifte * (to Aug.66) 55726
Deputy Public Information Officer, Military.
Apt.346, Ambassador's Court, Soi Lang Suan.

Wg.Cmdr. G.H.Bosworth,*RAAF,(to Jan.67) 70796
Planner - Apt.A2 Red Rose Court, Patipat Road.

Wg..Comdr. G.S, King, RAAF*(to Jan.68)..... 911850
Exercise Liaison Officer
3816 Rama IV Road, Klong Toey.

Sq..Ldr. F.A. Lang, RAAF*(to Aug.67).....
Assistant Head of Secretariat
Apartment 3A, 49/1 Soi Sook Chai.

C.P.O. J.G. Cummins, RAN*(to Feb.68) 910100
Assistant to A.S.M.A.R. - Rex Hotel.

Sgt. L.C. Sutherland (to March 1966) 912860
Assistant to A.S.M.A.R.
88 Soi Chonglom, Sukhumvit 51.

Sgt. L.W. Luskey, RAAF (to Jan.67) 73876
44 Soi Sena Ruam, Phaholvothin (11)

III. Aid Personnel

(Australia Cooperates with Thailand under Colombo Plan and SEATO Aid Programmes)

(a) Colombo Plan Experts

In Khon Kaen - Serving with Feeder Roads Project :

Mr. D.G. Dowty*	Mr. K.A. Ryan *	Mr. C.B.Jackson*(to Apr.66)
Mr. P. Mohr. *	Mr. S.D. Inkley *	Mr. A.W. Lawson *
Mr. K. Amos*	Mr. A. Pongratz	Mr. L. Loudon
Mr. M. Duke *	Mr. J. Motby	

In Bangkok

Mr. J.H. McConnell * 911501
Engineering expert under Colombo Plan

Mr. R.A. Benn 911489
Teacher of English at Chulalongkorn University
Apt.11 Prasarn Mitr Court, Sukhumvit

Mr. W.C. Greenhill *..... 910668
Research scientist at Applied Science Research Corporation

Mr. A.A. Darling*..... 914989
Instructor at the Bangkok Engineering School
86 Soi 23 Sukhumvit Road.

302

Home Telephone

In Bangkok (Contd.)

Mr. R.G. Collyer 54870
Instructor at the Bangkok Engineering School
59 Soi 12 Sukhumvit Road.

In Chiengmai :

Dr. E.C. Chapman .....
Northern Survey Office, Room 8222 Building No.1,
University of Chiengmai, Chiengmai.

Mr. P.J. Smailes .....
Northern Survey Office, Room 8222 Building No.1,
University of Chiengmai, Chiengmai.

(b) SEATO Aid Experts

(The following 10 Australian Army Personnel are giving supervisory and technical assistance with the Thai Services Rebuild Workshop, a joint Australian/Thai project, at Rangsit near Bangkok)

Lt. Col. W.J. Bauert OBE*(Leader) 76459
169 Pradipat Road, Bangsue.

Maj. J.A.W. Brophy *..... 72754
61 Soi Sri Sawasdi, Pradipat Road.

Capt. N. Mc.K. Stewart *..... 72664
406 Paholyothin Road, Bangsue.

Lt. C.M. Harrington*..... 70639
12 Soi Aree 4, Paholyothin Road.

W.O.1 R. Hartney *..... 71699
7 Soi Sansuek, Pradipat Road.

W.O.1. E.F. Harding*..... 72849
35/35 Soi Intamara, Suthisarn

W.O.1 K.R. Sparrow* 71385
25 Soi Sri Fa, Paholyothin

W.O.1 H.B. Barnett*..... 56342
507/37 Soi Thepahasdin, Sri Ayudhya Road.

W.O.1 N.M. Cooper*..... 71359
19 Soi Somprasong 1, Petchburi Road.

W.O.2 P. Pini*..... 73389
14 Soi Wattanawongse, Makasan.

In Chiengmai

Mr. Peter Hinton *.....
Adviser to the Hill Tribes Research Centre.

301

IV. Military Research & Development Centre (M.R.D.C.)

(An Australian Department of Defence team is attached to M.R.D.C. to work with Thai and U.S. officers on defence projects of mutual interest)

Lt. Col. W.A. Brydie* (Leader) .....
Apt.5, Lumpini Court, Soi Sarasin.

Maj. A.T. Hall* 32587
2/2 Yen Akart Road, Tung Mahamek

Sq.Ldr. R.S. Fisher RAAF *..... 58434
68/1 Soi Phasuk (Soi 2)

Mr. D. G. Neal* 35747
230/1 Soi Sri Nakorn, Linchee Road.

V. Others

Flt. Lt. G.A. Jenkins*..... 913386
(RAAF Liaison Officer particularly in respect of the RAAF Squadron stationed at Ubol in N.E. Thailand)
39 Soi 40.

3010/10/6
Pt 300

DEPARTMENT OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS

INWARD CABLEGRAM

JM

I.10657

DATED: 4TH MARCH, 1966
1455 LT

FROM:

REC'D: 4TH MARCH, 1966
1852 LT

AUSTRALIAN EMBASSY,
BANGKOK.

362. UNCLASSIFIED.

AMBASSADOR RETURNED 2130 3RD MARCH.

E.A.

5TH MARCH, 1966

SEC FAS(1) S&SEA M SAS(MS) STAFF PERS TRAV FIN

299

DEPARTMENT OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS

OUTWARD CABLEGRAM

SCG:

O:41181

TO

F3010/10/6

Sent: 21st December, 1965
1900

Australian Embassy,
BANGKOK.

1500. UNCLASSIFIED.

For Loomes from Brennan.

Your 956 leave approved.

E.A.(1251/P)

22nd December, 1965

SEC FAS(1) SAS(MS) S&SEA M ADMIN PERS

3010/10/6

DEPARTMENT OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS

INWARD CABLEGRAM

(B) 298

EOB.

I.57478

DATED: 20TH DECEMBER, 1965.
0900

FROM:

REC'D: 20TH DECEMBER, 1965.
1511

AUSTRALIAN EMBASSY,
BANGKOK.

956. UNCLASSIFIED.

I PROPOSE SUBJECT TO YOUR APPROVAL, TO TAKE LEAVE FOR THREE DAYS FROM 29TH TO 31ST DECEMBER.
I CAN RETURN TO BANGKOK WITHIN A FEW HOURS IF REQUIRED.

LOOMES.

E.A.

20TH DECEMBER, 1965.

A/SEC FAS(1) SAS(MS) S&SEA M ADMIN PERS

301/10/6
291

17th November, 1965.

Mr Truscott
Mr Morrison
Mr Dunn
Mr Dan

Mr Barsdell telephoned to say that Mr Peter Davison, the Press Attache in Bangkok, will be in Canberra on Monday on consultation. Barsdell will contact us further to arrange an appointment for him to visit this Department.

2. Barsdell mentioned the pamphlet on Australia which Davison is having produced in Bangkok in Thai language, and said that we might be interested in ordering copies for next year's Asian Trade Fair in Bangkok.

(J.V.R. Hearder)

Information and Cultural Relations Branch
JVRH:AL

EXTERNAL AFFAIRS

~~3014~~ 3010/10/6 1/296

FILE No. 673/2/13

DATE 16th November 1965

SUBJECT: APPOINTMENTS FOR COLONEL J.G. OCHILTREE, O.B.E., SERVICES ATTACHE-DESIGNATE, AUSTRALIAN EMBASSY, BANGKOK

FOR MR. ~~TENOUR~~
MR. BORDER
MR. DOUGLAS-SCOTT
MR. DUNN
MR. WALSHE
MR. HANFIELD
MR. JOHNS
MR. K. BROWN
MR. GALVIN
MR. MEERE
MR. DESMOND
COLONEL OCHILTREE
MAJOR NEVILLE

Wednesday, 17th November, 1965 :

Colonel J.G. Ochiltree, O.B.E., will be in the Department on Wednesday, 17th November, for departmental briefing before going to Bangkok to take up his appointment as Services Attache to the Australian Embassy. The following appointments have been arranged for Colonel Ochiltree, whose statement of service is attached.

10.30 a.m.	:	Mr. K. Douglas-Scott
10.45 a.m.	:	Mr. L.H. Border
11.00 a.m.	:	Mr. H.A. Dunn
11.30 a.m.	:	Mr. M.J. Cook
11.45 a.m.	:	Mr. G. Jockel
1.45 p.m.	:	Mr. D.R. Desmond
2.00 p.m.	:	Mr. E.H. Harfield
2.30 p.m.	:	Mr. R.E. Johns
3.00 p.m.	:	Mr. K.L. Brown
3.30 p.m.	:	Mr. P.J. Galvin
4.00 p.m.	:	Mr. J. Meere
4.15 p.m.	:	Mr. J.P. Walshe

2. I should be grateful if each officer would pass Colonel Ochiltree on to the officer next on the list.

M. Cook

(M. J. Cook)

Intelligence Co-ordination Branch

3141 Colonel J.G. OCHILTREE, OBE, MBE, Australian Staff Corps

Date of Birth 2.4.18

295

[redacted] Lieutenant Australian Staff Corps

12.12.39 Attached Headquarters Southern Command

6. 5.40 2/17th Australian Infantry Battalion

23. 2.41 Staff Captain (Learner) 26th Australian Infantry Brigade

2. 9.41 Temporary Captain

3. 4.42 Captain

29. 5.42 Brigade Major (Learner) 26th Australian Infantry Brigade

28.11.42 Attendance Middle East Staff School

11. 5.43 General Staff Officer Grade 2 (Operations) Headquarters 1st Australian Corps

27. 8.43 General Staff Officer Grade 2 (Liaison) Headquarters 1st Australian Corps

4. 9.43 Major

8.12.43 Instructor Royal Military College & Staff School (Australia)

3.10.44 Chief Instructor Junior Staff School

15. 3.45 General Staff Officer Grade 2 (Staff Duties) Advanced Land Headquarters

25.10.45 General Staff Officer Grade 2 (Intelligence) Army Headquarters

11. 1.46 General Staff Officer Grade 2 (Intelligence) Headquarters British Commonwealth Occupation Forces

31. 1.47 General Staff Officer Grade 2 (Intelligence) Headquarters Southern Command

14. 4.47 Captain Australian Staff Corps

25.10.48 Attached Directorate of Military Intelligence Army Headquarters

8. 3.49 General Staff Officer Grade 2 Headquarters 6th Military District

12.12.49 Major Australian Staff Corps

9. 1.50 Temporary Lieutenant-Colonel

9. 1.50 Assistant Adjutant General Directorate of Personnel Administration Army Headquarters

1. 4.52 Lieutenant-Colonel Australian Staff Corps

1. 8.52 Intelligence Officer Australian Military Mission Washington

22.10.54 Commander 2nd Battalion Royal Australian Regiment

16.12.57 Temporary Colonel

16.12.57 Commandant Officer Cadet School

3. 1.61 Director of Maintenance Army Headquarters

26. 5.61 Colonel Australian Staff Corps

21. 1.63 Director of Infantry Army Headquarters

3.12.64 Range Commander Maralinga

DEPARTMENT OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS

INWARD CABLEGRAM

3010/10/6
1- 294

AMM

I.47092

Dated: 22nd October, 1965.
1130

FROM:

Rec'd: 22nd October, 1965.
1430

Australian Embassy,
BANGKOK.

772 UNCLASSIFIED.

I returned to Bangkok 21st October, and have resumed charge of the Embassy...

Loomes.

MIN. & DEPT E.A. 22nd October, 1965.

A/SEC FAS(1,2,3,4) SAS(MS) AS(JIC) S&SEA M PACAM EAMEC ICR ADMIN PERS TRAV

DEPARTMENT OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS

3010/10/6
293

OUTWARD CABLEGRAM

SW: 0.30982

TO: Sent: 1st October, 1965.
1732

Australian Embassy,
BANGKOK.

1075 UNCLASSIFIED.

Your 720.

Loomes would like Borthwick to represent him.

E.A.(3010/10/6) (Mr Loomes) 2nd October, 1965.

A/SEC S&SEA M

CONFIDENTIAL

DEPARTMENT OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS

INWARD SAVINGRAM

File No. 3/1/1

3016/10/6
I 39404

31st August, 1965.

Rec'd: 8th September, 1965

From: Australian Embassy,
PHNOM PENH

To: The Secretary,
Department of External Affairs,
CANBERRA.

SAVING NO. 19. CONFIDENTIAL

TOUR OF CAMBODIAN PROVINCES

I would like during the next few months to visit outlying provinces of Cambodia. This would be facilitated if it were possible to use R.A.A.F. VIP Dakota from Butterworth. I would be grateful if you would indicate whether this is possible and which month would be preferable. I am sounding out Cambodians to see whether they would have any objections to my using an R.A.A.F. aircraft.

2. Purpose of the visit would be:-

(a) to show an Australian interest in provinces;

(b) to inspect Australian aid in operation;

(c) as I propose that Services Attaché accompany me, visits would be of value to Services and J.I.B.;

(d) I would take opportunity of inviting French Ambassador and British Chargé. I would like to repay the many services the French here have afforded us.

I would hope that we would also be accompanied by various senior Cambodian officials. If Cambodian authority is obtained, this would seem likely.

3. I would propose a five day programme covering the following provinces: Ratanakiri, Mondulkiri, Koh Kong, Preah Vihear, Battambang, Kompong Cham and Siem Reap. Many of the areas I propose visiting are in the main inaccessible by road, particularly during the wet season.

4. I would be grateful if you would approach Air Force for dates when aircraft could be made available.

ND

Deschamps.

MIN. & DEPT E.A. 9th September, 1965

SEC FAS(1,2,3,4) SAS (MS) S&SEA M PACAM AMSP ADMIN ICR PIO

CONFIDENTIAL

CONFIDENTIAL

CONFIDENTIAL

CONFIDENTIAL

291

AUSTRALIAN EMBASSY,
BANGKOK.

DEPARTMENT OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS
CANBERRA
2 FEB 1965
No. 3010/10/6
REGD. INDEXED SUB-INDEXED

In reply quote No. 2/1/2

Memorandum No. 97

22nd January, 1965.

The Secretary,
Department of External Affairs,
CANBERRA.

THAI-BURMESE BORDER

Please refer to our memorandum 653 of 14th May 1964.

2. You may care to pass the following details of another border region to J.I.B.

3. The following report is on the area around the Three Pagoda Pass (Chedi Sam Ong) the traditional entry for Burmese invaders in the past and the route of the Japanese wartime railway. The Thai-Burma border is, in practice, fairly open and in addition to the regional inhabitants who move backwards and forwards, numbers of Bangkok sportsmen take advantage of the isolation to hunt in the border jungles.

4. The railway on the Thai side has been completely dismantled and the present means of communication up the Kwai valley is by daily wood-burning trains to Jang Po or Sai Yok (the terminus) and then by small river boats to Sangkhla Buri, site of a United States Mission hospital. There is also rutted cattle trail marked on some maps which at certain times in the dry season is attempted by heavy duty trucks. Even in the dry season the track is in appalling condition and the upper reaches of the Kwai river is by far the preferred route. The surrounding territory in both countries is inhabited by Mon tribesmen whose limited cash economy is based on the raising of cattle eventually marketed - after changing hands many times - in Bangkok. There is very little Thai government activity apart from the police although military parachute exercises were held near Sangkhla Buri recently. The Burmese summer military patrol sometimes covers the area on their side of the border.

5. Within a few miles of the border in Burmese territory is one of the camps of a Mon leader, Swe Chyin, a well educated man apparently in his early 50's, who was once a member of the Royal Navy. (He spoke of friends on the Repulse and Ark Royal!) and keeps in touch with the ouside world through a powerful radio and books and newspapers brought in by his followers. He appears to be a political leader rather than a guerilla fighter and outlined very forcefully the Mon's case for political recognition. There are several thousand Mons under arms in the region who obtain equipment by raiding Burmese army parties and by purchasing goods in Thailand. They sell their cattle at 400 baht per head through the Thai police who receive the profits of their sale in Sangkhla Buri for 700 baht each. In addition to products actually sold in Thai territory, there is a currency exchange much to their disadvantage at 1 Ky. = 3 Baht.

MR Sturrock

Copy to [illegible]

CONFIDENTIAL

CONFIDENTIAL

6. The Thai officials must know of his presence but do little to hinder or help him being apparently quite content with the status quo which enables them to obtain a steady supplementary income from what are virtually levies on his trade with Thailand and from the sale of weapons. He, for his part, talks only in terms of the political future of the Mons in Burma.

(I.L. James)
Second Secretary

CONFIDENTIAL

3010/10/6

Bangkok Post 13.11.64

'LOMATIC BADMINTON

Aussie confrontation can't stop Malaysians

by a "Post" Staff Writer

On the beautiful open air court in the spacious lawn of the Malaysian Embassy, yet another series of Badminton matches was gone through successfully by diplomats attached to the Malaysian and Australian Embassies in what promises to be a regular sporting feature in the local diplomatic world.

The Malaysians, with their innate love for the game, literally ran all over their opponents from 'down-under,' and the scores given below are nothing if not academic.

In favour of the Australians, though, it must be said that a rather stiff southerly breeze tended to 'put them off' their wanted game, with the shuttle quite often ending up 'off the premises,' so to speak! This does not, however, detract from some excellent play served up by the duo of John Mahoney and David Goss, who combined very well indeed, and nearly brought about what would have been termed a 'Surprisingly successful confrontation, against their more experienced opponents, Inche Abdullah and Gunter.

With a little more luck and a slightly more favourable wind at the right times, the game could very easily have gone the way of the Australian pair. This doubles match was the best of the evening.

Rallies

Later in the evening, John Mohoney teamed up with Mrs Goss, and, profiting from his earlier 'warm-up' session, threatened to 'squash' the opposition team of Mr Leong and Che Badariah Abdullah, when they got away to a 5-1 lead. But the Australians' luck ran out at this point, and in spite of some spirited rallies, much to the enjoyment of all present, they 'went under' fishing to the last 'smash.'

The matches were sparked off by the Ambassadors of both sides, and their Excellencies, in their Doubles' game in the company of Inche Kamil and James respectively, displayed all those sporting qualities that one has got accustomed to expect from two sporting gentlemen such as they are.

One can visualise these matches being played with more and more interest and enthusiasm as time goes by, as the occasions themselves serve to bring people together in a more informal atmosphere than they are usually.

The Malaysian Ambassador and Madame Ya'acob Rahman entertained the Australian Ambassador and Madame Loomes, members of both Embassies and their wives and friends to a very high tea and cocktails later in the evening, and it goes without saying that a good time was had by all.

The following are the results of yesterday's games:- H.E. The Malaysian Ambassador & Inche Kamil beat H.E. The Australian Ambassador & Ian James 21-3; Mrs Leong & Che Zaleha beat Mrs Mahoney & Mrs Goss 21-8; Inche Abdullah & Mr Gunter beat David Goss & John Mahoney 21-19; Inche Pillai & Inche Zakaria beat Mr Hill & Mr Taweesak 21-6; Che Badariah Abdullah & Mr Leong beat Mrs Goss & John Mahoney 21-11; Mrs Pillai & Inche Shahuddin best Mrs Mahoney & David Goss 21-1.

AIS BANGKOK

P.M.

12.00 Magazine - The Australian Scene
12.15 These Were Hits
12.30 WORLD NEWS
12.40 Excerpts from the Classics
1.00 Farmers' Year - current activities in Rural Industries.
1.10 Tunes of the Day
1.30 AUSTRALIAN NEWS
1.40 Best in Music
2.00 Indonesian Programme - 16 and 19 metres.
2.15 Australians On Record
2.30 WORLD NEWS
2.40 Commentary
2.45 Latest Releases
3.00 Olympic Games Descriptions
16 and 19 metres.
3.30 Pianophonics
3.45 Time for Music
16, 19 and 25 metres.
4.00 Sporting Highlights
4.05 Popular Orchestras
4.30 WORLD NEWS
4.40 Commentary
4.45 Australian Composers
25 and 31 metres.
5.00 Farmer's Year - current activities in Rural Industries.
5.10 Everyman's Music
5.30 Indonesian Programme - 25 and 41 metres.
25 and 31 metres.
5.30 DICTATION SPEED NEWS
6.00 Popular Vocalists
6.15 Magazine - The Australian Scene
6.30 WORLD NEWS
6.40 Commentary
6.45 The Orchestra Plays
7.00 Mandarin Programme - 25 and 41 metres.
25 and 31 metres.
7.30 AUSTRALIAN NEWS
7.45 Olympic Games Report
8.00 Music for Leisure
Vietnamese Programme - 25 and 31 metres.
25 and 31 metres.
8.30 WORLD NEWS
8.40 Commentary
8.45 Play It Again
9.00 Thai Programme - 25 and 31 metres.
Cantonese Programme - 25 and 41 metres.
25 and 31 metres.
9.00 Farmer's Year - current activities in Rural Industries.
9.15 Music Hath Charms
9.30 WORLD NEWS
9.45 Listeners' Choice
31 and 41 metres.
10.15 Popular Classics
10.35 AUSTRALIAN NEWS
10.40 Commentary
10.45 Australian Singers
11.00 Magazine - The Australian Scene.
11.15 Pianophonics
11.30 WORLD NEWS
11.40 Record Album

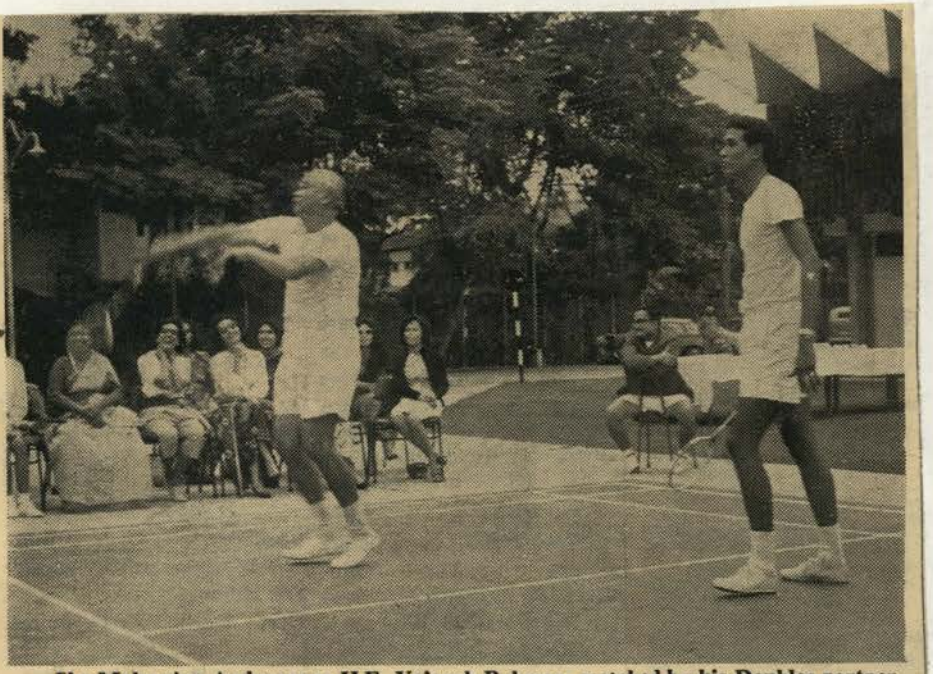
A.M.

12.00 Health Talk
12.08 South American Rhythm
12.30 WORLD NEWS
12.40 Commentary
12.45 As You Like It
1.00 CLOSE DOWN.

(1) 21
(2) 21

288

Bangkok Post 13.11.64



(1)

The Malaysian Ambassador H E. Ya'acob Rahman, watched by his Doubles partner Inche Kamil, executes a forehand volley in their game yesterday. B.P. 13



(2)

Concentration written all over his face, the Australian Ambassador, H.E. Allan Loomes, goes down to take a 'dipper' in their match against the Malaysian pair. His partner is Ian James, and with his back to the camera is the Malaysian Ambassador.

AIS BANGKOK

P.M.

6.30	WORLD NEWS
6.40	Commentary
6.45	For the Music Lover
7.00	Mandarin Programme - 25 and 41 metres.
	25 and 31 metres.
7.30	AUSTRALIAN NEWS
7.45	Olympic Games Report
8.00	Dance Time
	Vietnamese Programme - 25 and 31 metres.
8.30	WORLD NEWS
8.40	Commentary
8.45	Stars of Song
9.00	Thai Programme - 25 and 31 metres.
	Cantonese Programme - 25 and 31 metres.
	25 and 31 metres.
	Album of Familiar Music
9.30	WORLD NEWS
9.45	Listeners' Choice
	31 and 41 metres.
10.15	Music of the Islands
10.30	AUSTRALIAN NEWS
10.40	Commentary
10.45	Light Music
11.00	Science Makes News - prepared by J. W. Wignall.
11.15	Australians On Record
11.30	WORLD NEWS
11.40	Waltz Time.

A.M.

12.00	International Report
12.15	Singing Stars
12.30	WORLD NEWS
12.40	Commentary
12.45	As You Like It
1.00	CLOSE DOWN.

WEDNESDAY 14th October, 1964.

A.M. 19 metres.

5.45	Hospital Half Hour
6.15	WORLD NEWS
	Indonesian Programme - 16 and 19 metres.
6.30	Music Miscellany
6.45	French Programme - 19 metres.
7.00	WORLD NEWS
	16 and 19 metres.
7.15	Singing for You
7.25	Pause A Moment
7.30	Concert Hall
7.45	AUSTRALIAN NEWS
8.00	International Report
8.15	Music by Request
	13 and 16 metres.
8.30	Music from the Ballet
9.00	WORLD NEWS
9.15	Health Talk
9.30	Kindergarten of the Air
10.00	WORLD NEWS
10.10	Bands and their Music
10.30	Music for Leisure
11.00	Everyman's Music
11.30	WORLD NEWS
11.40	Melody Time.

CONFIDENTIAL

File No. 3/10/10/6

EXTERNAL AFFAIRS.

Record of Conversation with the Thai Ambassador (Mr. Vadhana Isarabhakdi)

on 26th May, 1964

Officers Present The Secretary

MAIN SUBJECT(S): DEPARTURE OF THAI AMBASSADOR

1. The Thai Ambassador called to say that he had received notification from his Government that his mission in Australia is to end within the next month or two. He will later notify the date.

2. After an exchange of courtesies about his mission here and the remarkable development of Thai/Australian relations in the last 20 years, the Ambassador said he very much hoped that General Thanom (the Prime Minister) could make a visit to Australia. He had not travelled very much, and the Ambassador thought Australia would be an "eye-opener" to him. The Ambassador kept hearing of the pleasure the King had in his visit here.

3. We briefly discussed who would inherit the position of Dean of the Corps. There had been some talk of Chen Chih-mai (China) leaving, but this does not seem now to be the case. After him comes the British High Commissioner.

4. I told the Ambassador I would inform the Minister of his news.

DISTRIBUTION:

✓Minister
✓Secretary
✓A/S Div. 1
✓A/S Div. 2
A/S Div. 3
A/S Div. 4
Legal Adviser
A/S Div. 7

Pac. & Am. Br.
U.N. Br.
Admin. Br.
E.A.M.E. Br.
D.L. Br.

~~✓S. & S.E.A. Br.~~
E.R. Br.
Finance Br.
✓C. & P. Br.
E. & T.A. Br.

M.T. Br.
Com. Rel.
Sydney Office
Inf. Br.

Ex. Comms. Br.
Melbourne Office
Antarctic Division
✓Registry

FOLLOWING POSTS: Bangkok

Report prepared by A. H. Tange
(A. H. Tange)

ACTION:

Hum 1/6 file

5792/62.

CONFIDENTIAL

DEPARTMENT OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS
CANBERRA
18 MAY 1964
File No. 3010/10/6
NUM. INDEX SUB. INDEX

RESTRICTED

286

AUSTRALIAN EMBASSY,
BANGKOK.

In reply quote No. 1/2/2

Memorandum No. 653

14th May, 1964.

The Secretary,
Department of External Affairs,
CANBERRA. A.C.T.

VISIT TO BURMESE BORDER AREA

I recently accompanied a Thai group on a hunting trip in the border region south west of Prachuab.

2. The border is completely unsupervised; the local Thais cross to hunt or cut timber, while an occasional itinerant Karen enters Thailand to sell cattle and rob isolated farms.

3. The Thai side is settled plain, with all-weather jeep tracks leading to within a few miles of the border, which follows the ridge of the first line of hills. The Burmese border region is uninhabited mountainous jungle, with a pattern of elephant pathe used by timber-cutters and hunters.

4. The only road crossing the border in this area is a newly re-opened jeep track from Thailand to Taprik on the Huai Wai Than river. The continuation towards Tenasserim marked on some maps is completely overgrown.

(I.I. James)
Second Secretary

Mr D. Wilson 20/5

RESTRICTED

RESTRICTED

File No. 3010/10/6 285

EXTERNAL AFFAIRS.

Record of Conversation with Mr. Prasong Soonsiri, Director-General, International Organizations Department, M.F.A. Bangkok

on 10th May, 1964

Officers Present W.P.J. Handmer

MAIN SUBJECT(S):

THAI AMBASSADOR TO AUSTRALIA

Prasong told me that the present Ambassador Vadhana Isarabhakdi) would be returning to Bangkok next month. He was not sure who the new Ambassador would be but according to current rumours in Bangkok he believed it would probably be the Thai Ambassador to Korea. Prasong admitted that his own name had been canvassed by a number of people. He doubted very much, however, that he would be offered the appointment.

file

DISTRIBUTION:

Minister				
× Secretary				
× A/S Div. 1	Fac. & Am. Br.	✓ S. & S.E.A. Br.	M.T. Br.	
× A/S Div. 2	U.N. Br.	E.R. Br.	Com. Rel.	Ex. Comms. Br.
A/S Div. 3	Admin. Br.	Finance Br.	Sydney Office	Melbourne Office
× A/S Div. 4	E.A.M.E. Br.	× C. & P. Br.	Inf. Br.	Antarctic Division
Legal Adviser				
A/S Div. 7	D.L. Br.	E. & T.A. Br.		

Report prepared by W.P.J. Handmer

(W.P.J. Handmer)

FOLLOWING POSTS:

ACTION: Seoul
Bangkok

RESTRICTED

5792/62.

3010/10/6

284

DEPARTMENT OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS

OUTWARD CABLEGRAM

JT 0.8139

Sent: 1st April, 1964
1600

TO:

Australian Embassy,
BANGKOK.

320 UNCLASSIFIED.

For McConnell from Lewis.

If you wish, because of wife's illness, permission granted to you to return to Australia with your family. If necessary, arrangements will be made for replacement.

E.A.(2032/6/34)
S.M.H.E.A.
P.M'S

1st April, 1964.

FAS(1) S&SEA M&I M ETA@ EAPD TALO(S)

DEPARTMENT OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS 3014/10/6 283

OUTWARD CABLEGRAM

MH 0.6034

TO: Sent: 8th March, 1964.
1540

Australian Embassy,
SAIGON.

129. CONFIDENTIAL. PRIORITY.

For Anderson.

Your 155 and 156.

We are deeply concerned over recent developments.

You have authority without further reference to us to move to Singapore any dependents or female staff, who, in your opinion should be moved in the interests of safety. Please let us have your ideas about stand-by arrangements for dependents and female staff. All of you and your wives and children have our best wishes.

MIN. & DEPT E.A.
P.M.'S. 9th March, 1964.

SEC FAS(1,2,4) AS(3) AS(JIC) S&SEA M&I M DL INT UN PACAM
AMSP EAMEC INF ADMIN PERS PROP PIO

CONFIDENTIAL

CONFIDENTIAL

3010/10/6 282

DEPARTMENT OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS

OUTWARD CABLEGRAM

IM 0.3754

TO: Sent: 13th February, 1964.

Australian Embassy,
BANGKOK.

135 UNCLASSIFIED.

Your 105.

Agree you visit Saigon and Phnom Penh last week February.

MIN. & DEPT TRADE
E.A.
TREASURY
P.M'S

13th February, 1964.

SEC FAS(1,2,4) S&SEA M&I M ETA INT INF ER@

DEPARTMENT OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS

3010/40/6 281

INWARD CABLEGRAM

SRG

I. 807

Dated: 9th January, 1964
1636

FROM:

Rec'd: 9th January, 1964
1935

Australian Embassy,
BANGKOK.

24. UNCLASSIFIED.

I shall be absent from Bangkok on leave from 11th to 17th January inclusive.

Loomes.

MIN. & DEPT E.A.

10th January, 1964

SEC FAS(1) (2) (4) AS(3) AS(JIC) LA S&SEA M&I M DL INT
PACAM C&P EAMEC ER ADMIN PERS INV FIN

3010/10/6

280

DEPARTMENT OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS

INWARD CABLEGRAM

MT

I.34599

FROM:

Dated: 13th December, 1963
1435
Rec'd: 13th December, 1963
1804

Australian High Commission,
SINGAPORE OFFICE.

723. UNCLASSIFIED.

Woolcott departed 0800 this morning for Djakarta, Saigon, Bangkok. Returning 22nd.

MIN. & DEPT E.A.
P.M.'s

14th December, 1963

SEC FAS(1)(2) AS(3) AS(JIC) LA S&SEA M&I M
DL INT PACAM EA EAMEC INF MT ADMIN@ PERS
INV FIN

RESTRICTED

279

DEPARTMENT OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS
13 SEP 1963
3010/10/6

AUSTRALIAN EMBASSY,
BANGKOK.

In reply quote No. 1/2/2

Memorandum No. 1336

13th September, 1963.

The Secretary,
Department of External Affairs,
CANBERRA. A.C.T.

TOURS

In continuation of general familiarisation tours in Thailand, I have made arrangements to pay a visit to Northern Thailand by R.A.A.F. aircraft from 26th to 28th September inclusive. I shall be accompanied by my wife and by Group Captain and Mrs. Davies.

2. I enclose a copy of my itinerary for information.

(A.H. Loomes)
Ambassador

RESTRICTED

ITINERARY FOR TOUR OF NORTHERN THAILAND BY

AMBASSADOR AND MRS. LOOMES

ACCOMPANIED BY GROUP CAPTAIN AND MRS. DAVIES

278

Wednesday, 25th September	Aircraft arrives from Butterworth			
Thursday, 26th September	ETD	Don Muang	0815	
	ETA	Yanhee	1000	Visit Dam site and have lunch
	ETD	Yanhee	1330	
	ETA	Chiengrai	1515	Fly over Lampang and Nan en route
Friday, 27th September	ETD	Chiengrai	0800	
	ETA	Chiengmai approximately	1030	Fly over Ban Huey Sae, Chieng Saen, Mae Sae, Fang Mae Haun Saun en route. Land at Ban Haun Saun if airfield suitable - spend 30 minutes on ground.
Saturday, 28th September	ETD	Chiengmai	0800	
	ETA	Mae Sod	0915	(Fly over Mae Sariang en route - spend 2 hours on ground)
	ETD	Mae Sod	1115	
	ETA	Tak	1135	Lunch
	ETD	Tak	1400	
	ETA	Don Muang	1530	

DEPARTMENT OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS

INWARD CABLEGRAM

272

LJH.

I. 20509.

DATED: 1ST AUGUST, 1963.
1700.

FROM:

REC'D: 1ST AUGUST, 1963.
2110.

AUSTRALIAN EMBASSY,
BANGKOK.

333. UNCLASSIFIED.

I SHALL BE ABSENT FROM BANGKOK ON OFFICIAL VISIT TO UBOL AND NORTH EAST FROM 5TH 7TH INCLUSIVE.

LOOMES.

MIN. & DEPT E.A.
P.M.'s.

1ST AUGUST, 1963.

SEC FAS (1) (2) (4) AS (3) S&SEA M&I M DL INT
UN PACAM AMSP EA EAF&ME E INF ADMIN PERS INV
TRAF FIN

3010/10/6

276

AUSTRALIAN EMBASSY,
BANGKOK

DEPT 15 JUL 1963 3010/10/6 CANBERRA

In reply quote No. 3/1/93

Memorandum No. 968

9th July, 1963.

The Secretary,
Department of External Affairs,
CANBERRA.

PRESENTATION OF CREDENTIALS

....

I enclose for your information a copy of my speech on the occasion of the presentation of my credentials, and a copy of the reply by His Majesty the King of Thailand.

(A.H. Loomes)
Ambassador.

M. D. Wilson

275

SPEEDH ON THE OCCASION OF THE PRESENTATION OF
CREDENTIALS BY A.H. LOOMES, ESQ., O.B.E.,
AUSTRALIAN AMBASSADOR TO THE KINGDOM OF THAILAND.

Your Majesty:

I have the honour to present the Letters by which my Sovereign, Her Majesty Queen Elizabeth the Second, has been pleased to aecredit me as Her Australian Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary to Your Majesty's Court. I have also the honour to present the Letter of Recall of my distinguished predecessor, Mr. M.R. Booker, who has been assigned to other important functions in Australia.

It is a matter of much personal pleasure for me to return to Thailand after a number of years, and I look forward both to renewing those friendships I have made in the past and which I greatly treasure, and of making new friends in the future.

I am gratified by the continuing close and co-operative relations which exist between Australia and Thailand, reflecting, as they do, the similarity of purpose which directs the policies of our two countries, and our common interests in the preservation of peace and stability in South-East Asia and the Pacific. I am gratified also to observe the growing number of contacts which have developed between the people of the two countries. In particular, my country was greatly honoured by the visit which Your Majesty and Her Majesty the Queen were able to make last year to Australia. This visit contributed greatly to the strengthening further of the friendship which marks the relations between the peoples of our two countries.

It will be my endeavour, during my term of office in this country, to continue to develop and strengthen the friendship and close collaboration which have so happily existed in the past, and I trust that, in this aim, I may be accorded the assistance and co-operation of Your Majesty's Ministers and Authorities.

May I, in conclusion, on behalf of the Government and people of Australia, express the hope that this country will have all possible success, progress and prosperity in the years to come.

TRANSLATION

HIS MAJESTY'S ADDRESS ON THE OCCASION OF THE PRESENTATION OF LETTERS OF CREDENCE BY HIS EXCELLENCY THE AUSTRALIAN AMBASSADOR

Excellency,

I am pleased to receive from Her Majesty Queen Elizabeth the Second the Letters of Credence accrediting you as Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary of Australia to My Court and the Letters of Recall of your predecessor.

In extending to you a warm welcome, I am particularly glad that you have again been assigned to this country, and that you will have an opportunity to renew the friendships you have made as well as to make new friends in the future. It is likewise a source of gratification to Me that the relations between Thailand and Australia have continuously been close and marked with the friendly spirit of co-operation, while contacts between our two peoples have been increasing in number. I therefore welcome your statement that you will endeavour to strengthen further the friendship and the collaboration between our two countries.

The visit to your country which the Queen and I made last year is indeed still vivid in Our memory, and We always recall with deep appreciation the very warm welcome kindly given to Us by the Government and the people of Australia.

You may rest assured that, in discharging your tasks of furthering the good relations between Thailand and Australia, you will receive My wholehearted support and that of My Government, which will accord you all possible assistance and co-operation in the fulfilment of your mission.

I wish to thank you sincerely for the good wishes expressed towards My country, and to ask you to convey to the Australian Government and people My best wishes for their continuing progress and prosperity.

DEPARTMENT OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS

INWARD CABLEGRAM

273

MT

I.17965

FROM:

Dated: 5th July, 1963
1830
Rec'd: 6th June, 1963
0051

Australian Embassy,
BANGKOK.

310. UNCLASSIFIED.

Presented credentials today.

Loomes.

MIN. & DEPT E.A.

6th July, 1963

3010/10/6

SEC A/S's PAC&AM S&SEA SA SEA EAF&ME INF C&P ADMIN

EXTERNAL AFFAIRS

212

FILE No. 673/2/13

DATE 10th May, 1963.

SUBJECT REPLACEMENT OF SERVICES ATTACHE, BANGKOK.

FOR ASSISTANT SECRETARY
DIVISION IV

ADMIN. DIVISION

S. & S.E.A. BRANCH

As Minister assisting the Minister for External Affairs, Senator Gorton has approved the nomination of Captain A.G. McFarlane, RAN, to succeed the present Services Attache at the Australian Embassy, Bangkok, Group Captain A.E.L. Davies, RAAF, OBE. It is expected that Captain McFarlane will take up his new appointment in January, 1964, and that he will be accompanied to Bangkok by his wife and child.

2. Captain McFarlane is at present Fourth Naval Member and Chief of Supply, Department of the Navy.

3. Information concerning Captain McFarlane's itinerary and security clearances will be available later.

MR. WILSON

10/5

(K.T. Kelly)
Head,
Intelligence Co-ordination Branch.

3010/10/6

NFP:WW

3010/10/6

7th November, 1962.

Waller has passed me your letter of the 29th October concerning your proposed tour of North East Thailand at the end of November and your proposal to pay a short visit to Vientiane to see Morris.

There is no Departmental objection to your proposal and I have obtained Ministerial approval for your absence.

Yours sincerely,

(C.T. Moodie)

His Excellency M.R. Booker, Esq.,
Australian Ambassador,
BANGKOK.

DEPARTMENT OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS

INWARD CABLEGRAM

220

LJH.

I. 22461.

Dated: 13th September, 1962.
1500.

Rec'd: 13th September, 1962.
2200.

FROM:

Australian Embassy,
BANGKOK.

579. UNCLASSIFIED.

Glad of advice of Ambassador's return flight to Bangkok.

E.A.

14th September, 1962.

3010/10/6

SEC A/S's S&SEA SEA ADMIN PERS TRAV@

DEPARTMENT OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS

INWARD CABLEGRAM

269

LJH.

I. 19795.

Dated: 14th August, 1962.
1745.

Rec'd: 14th August, 1962.
2230.

FROM:

Australian Embassy,
BANGKOK.

507. UNCLASSIFIED.

For Trade.

Schneemann returned Bangkok 11th August, 5 P.M.

TRADE (C-S-M)
P.M.'s.

15th August, 1962.

3010/10/6

ER S&SEA SEA

(64)

Australian Embassy
Bangkok, Thailand

268

1/2/12
453/62

14th March, 1962

The Secretary,
Department of External Affairs,
CANBERRA. A.C.T.

Head of Mission - Absence from Post

In accordance with standing instructions, we wish to report that the Ambassador proposes making an official visit to the Chiengmai area in North Western Thailand during the period 30th March to 5th April, 1962.

(A.F. Blackburn)
Second Secretary.

SEATO Branch

F. 30/10/10/6

3010/10/6
261

DEPARTMENT OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS

INWARD CABLEGRAM

KFH

I.28461

FROM:

Dated: 24th November, 1961.
2106
Rec'd: 25th November, 1961.
0445

Australian Embassy,
BANGKOK.

631. UNCLASSIFIED.

For D.A.F.I. from Davies.

Absent from office 25th to 30th November inclusive visiting North-East Area.

AIR
E.A.
J.I.C.
P.M's

25th November, 1961.

SEC A/Ss S&SEA SEA ADMIN PERS FIN DEPT. DUTY OFFICER

SECRET

PERSONAL

3010/10/6 266

22nd November, 1961.

Thank you for your letter of 10th November (530/1/8).

I should apologize for the recent occasions when you have not got our telegrams in time for your meetings. I have made further strenuous efforts since then to ensure that this does not happen again.

The general point that you raise about Shepherd's sometimes knowing our thinking in advance of yourself is, I am afraid, one of those things that is unavoidable. Given our close relations with the New Zealanders, it has now become established procedure for Shepherd to see officers at various levels in the Department several times a week. In exchanging views, he naturally gets to know thinking at levels well below those at which final decisions are taken. This, of course, is all to the good in that potential differences can often be dealt with effectively before they formally rise. The difficulty is that it is clearly out of the question for us to send you our thinking on a day to day basis. The best we can do is to try to ensure that the New Zealanders make plain in their reports the difference between "thinking" and a firm line, and that you get the firm line well in advance of them. At the same time I will see what can be done to give you more information on New Zealand thinking by having sent to you more of the reports that they make available to us.

Your problem is, as you will be aware, one which occurs in other places and with other services. You will recall that the U.S. Embassy here is frequently in a position where we, through the Australian Embassy in Washington, know much more about U.S. policy than it does.

Concerning your paragraph 3, I should be glad to know if you have any indication that any of your reports of the kind you mention have in fact got back to the Americans through the New Zealanders. If this were so, we should take a very serious view of it and tell the New Zealanders in no uncertain terms. Speaking for myself, I know of no occasion in which the New Zealanders have in fact caused us any such embarrassment during my time here.

(F.J. Blakeney)

His Excellency Mr. M.R. Booker.
Australian Embassy,
BANGKOK

Mr. Blakeney Do you want this to be filed?

SECRET

Mr Blakeney

I wonder if this kind mentality arises when two countries exchange primary material on a large scale basis (DS Embassy Canberra compliment & Stub Dept that Aust Embassy Wellington knows much more about US policy than did Embassy here).

PERSONAL AND CONFIDENTIAL.

We could send to Booker what we get from NZ & this would probably soothe his feelings

13/11

CONFIDENTIAL

265

AUSTRALIAN EMBASSY,
BANGKOK.

In reply quote No. 530/1/8

Memorandum No.

10th November, 1961.

4. Mr Bastian dy 23/11

Mr. F.J. Blakeney,
Assistant Secretary,
Department of External Affairs,
CANBERRA.

→ 1. Mr Hamilton Comments pls.
2. Mr Hughes
3. To me pls.

13/11

Dear Blake,

I appreciate the importance of maintaining close relations with the New Zealanders, but I find it a little embarrassing that the New Zealand Embassy here often knows a good deal more about your views than we do. The crowning touch is when they receive complete details of my instructions before I do - as happened last Wednesday. (Although, as one of them has laughingly pointed out, this enables them to keep a watch ~~check~~ on me).

2. Shepherd sends the New Zealand Embassy voluminous accounts of his talks with the Department, frequently repeating his Wellington telegrams. This means that they are sometimes in a position to put us right about what we should say. This has its advantages, but I would like to feel quite sure that they have it straight. I believe the best way to ensure this would be to tell me at least as much as you tell Shepherd. I sometimes suspect that he interprets your views in ways which you would not approve and I would therefore welcome confirmation of them.

3. The New Zealand Embassy also receives a wide selection of my messages to you. You will forgive me for saying that this seems dangerous. It would be most unfortunate if some of my reports, for example about American policy, got back to the American Embassy by this means. I must also confess that I am not happy about being overlooked by the New Zealand Embassy in this way. (My reports sometimes seem to be given a world-wide circulation by the New Zealanders!)

4. I do not normally see the material which the New Zealand Embassy sends to Shepherd to pass on to you, but from experience I know that their reports differ a good deal from our understanding of what went on. However, I have no doubt that you treat these with due caution.

5. I have sent a message to the Department about the delays in receiving our telegrams and I would greatly appreciate anything you could do to speed up their despatch. The latest example is the receipt on the evening of November 8th of telegram No. AP 159!

Yours sincerely,

Malcolm Booker.

(M.R. Booker)

CONFIDENTIAL

CONFIDENTIAL

264

AUSTRALIAN EMBASSY,
BANGKOK.

In reply quote No. 530/1/8

Memorandum No.

PERSONAL AND CONFIDENTIAL.

10th November, 1961.

Mr. F.J. Blakeney,
Assistant Secretary,
Department of External Affairs,
CANBERRA.

Dear Blake,

I appreciate the importance of maintaining close relations with the New Zealanders, but I find it a little embarrassing that the New Zealand Embassy here often knows a good deal more about your views than we do. The crowning touch is when they receive complete details of my instructions before I do - as happened last Wednesday. (Although, as one of them has laughingly pointed out, this enables them to keep a ~~check~~ watch on me).

2. Shepherd sends the New Zealand Embassy voluminous accounts of his talks with the Department, frequently repeating his Wellington telegrams. This means that they are sometimes in a position to put us right about what we should say. This has its advantages, but I would like to feel quite sure that they have it straight. I believe the best way to ensure this would be to tell me at least as much as you tell Shepherd. I sometimes suspect that he interprets your views in ways which you would not approve and I would therefore welcome confirmation of them.

3. The New Zealand Embassy also receives a wide selection of my messages to you. You will forgive me for saying that this seems dangerous. It would be most unfortunate if some of my reports, for example about American policy, got back to the American Embassy by this means. I must also confess that I am not happy about being overlooked by the New Zealand Embassy in this way. (My reports sometimes seem to be given a world-wide circulation by the New Zealanders!)

4. I do not normally see the material which the New Zealand Embassy sends to Shepherd to pass on to you, but from experience I know that their reports differ a good deal from our understanding of what went on. However, I have no doubt that you treat these with due caution.

5. I have sent a message to the Department about the delays in receiving our telegrams and I would greatly appreciate anything you could do to speed up their despatch. The latest example is the receipt on the evening of November 8th of telegram No. AP 159!

Yours sincerely,

(M.R. Booker)

CONFIDENTIAL

3010/10/6

942

263

DEPARTMENT OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS

CANBERRA

PR. 77

19th September, 1961.

FOR THE PRESS

Released only in Canberra.

APPOINTMENT OF SERVICES ATTACHE, BANGKOK

Statement by the Minister for External Affairs.

The Minister for External Affairs, Mr. R.G. Menzies, announced today that, in agreement with the Ministers for Defence and for Air, it had been decided to appoint Group Captain A.E.L. Davies, O.B.E., as Services Attache in the Australian Embassy, Bangkok. Group Captain Davies will succeed Captain J.P. Stevenson, R.A.N., who has been Services Attache in Bangkok since August, 1959.

Mr. Menzies said that Group Captain Davies, in a distinguished career, had held a wide range of staff and command appointments. In 1945 he was appointed Commanding Officer of No. 24 Squadron, Darwin. In 1950, after a period at Air Force Headquarters, he was posted as Commanding Officer, R.A.A.F. Laverton. After service with the Directing Staff of the R.A.A.F. Staff College and with the Directorate of Air Staff Plans, he was Australian Defence Representative in New Zealand from 1956 to 1958. Since June, 1958, he had held the appointment of Director of Air Force Intelligence.

Group Captain Davies, accompanied by his wife and son, will leave Australia for Bangkok by air on September 20.

. . . . . .

CONFIDENTIAL 262

3010/10/6
1014

15th September, 1961.

The Australian Embassy,
BANGKOK

CONTACTS WITH SOVIET EMBASSY
Your file 532/1/2

Thank you for your memorandum 1364 concerning a conversation about Laos between Mr. Handmer and the Russian Chargé d'Affaires.

2. We agree with you that there is no reason why contacts of this kind should not be maintained, provided that the necessary circumspection is observed and that they are fully reported. They should, of course, remain on a social level. There should be no suggestion of "serious discussion" of such matters as Laos and the Geneva negotiations. This would not only be purposeless but might, as you suggest, give some opening to Teterine to glean details of Western policy.

(F.J. Blakeney)
Assistant Secretary

CONFIDENTIAL

~~DRAFT~~ Final

CONFIDENTIAL

3010/10/6

CONFIDENTIAL

File

The Australian Embassy,
BANGKOK

CONTACTS WITH SOVIET EMBASSY
Your file 532/1/2

Thank you for your memorandum 1364 concerning a conversation about Laos between Mr. Handmer and the Russian Chargé d'Affaires.

2. We agree with you that there is no reason why contacts of this kind should not be maintained, provided that the necessary circumspection is observed. ~~We feel~~ however that ~~T~~they should, of course, remain on a social level. ~~and that~~ there should be no ~~any~~ suggestion ~~be avoided~~ of "serious discussion" of such matters as Laos and the Geneva negotiations. This would ~~in the first place~~ not only be purposeless, ~~and~~ but might, as you suggest, give some opening to Teterine to glean details of Western policy.

(F.J. Blakeney)
Assistant Secretary

Be clear with Admin
Done

Mr Parkinson please.
See also Mr Blakeney's note (marked X) on next page.

CONFIDENTIAL

CONFIDENTIAL

Mr Moodie.

The attached Hfordner conversation with a Russian is so "political" in the diplomatic sense that I feel it is outside AS10's Charter entirely. Other decent reads I have referred to AS10 in line with your discussion last month with Phillips — on this I'd be glad of your direction

CWW 8/9

Can you see any practical disadvantage in C S10's seeing this? If not, I'll show them & then they ought to get a copy.

C 10, 7/9

↓

Mr Stone. 8/14/9

① Return draft reply to SEA with apologies for delay

② Keep copy of record (& spare) to show to HSO on next call

CWW 14/9

CONFIDENTIAL

260

AUSTRALIAN EMBASSY,
BANGKOK.

In reply quote No. 532/1/2
Memorandum No. 1364

17th August, 1961.

CONFIDENTIAL

The Secretary,
Department of External Affairs,
CANBERRA.

LAOS: CONVERSATION WITH RUSSIAN CHARGE D'AFFAIRES

I enclose copies of a record of conversation between Mr. Handmer and the Russian Charge d'Affaires in Bangkok. Mr. Handmer advises me that the conversation was pressed upon him by Mr. Teterine and he thinks there is a distinct possibility that he will be invited to some further function, presumably with a view to resuming talks about Laos and Geneva.

2. My feeling is that we have nothing to gain by refusing invitations of this sort since we have an interest in learning more about members of the Russian Embassy here and their operations. It is quite another matter, however - and one on which your instructions are also sought - whether on any such occasion Mr. Handmer should pursue any serious discussion about Laos and Geneva. As far as Australia is concerned, it is open to the Russians to do this in Canberra or in Moscow, and it would seem probable that Teterine's principal objective would be to obtain from us some indication either of local Thai views or of attitudes within SEATO, or possibly any impression that might be conveyed of American attitudes and intentions.

3. Teterine has been here a very short while - about two months - and both Mr. Handmer and I have been struck by his evident determination to get about as much as possible. We have both met him at quite minor entertainments given by junior members of the Diplomatic Corps and from ECAFE. He is clearly pursuing a deliberate policy of making himself generally available, to an extent which is not matched by others of his colleagues.

4. I enclose a copy of the memorandum for the Australian Embassy, Moscow, who may be in a position to comment on Teterine's background and previous areas of service.

(A.H. Borthwick)
Counsellor.

CONFIDENTIAL

CONFIDENTIAL

259

File No: 532/1/2

Record of Conversation with U.S.S.R. Charge d'Affaires, Mr. Teterine

on 15th August, 1961

Circumstances Reception by Netherlands Counsellor

Officers Present Mr. W.P.J. Handmer

Main Subject (s) LAOS

At a reception given last night by the Netherlands Counsellor, the Russian Charge d'Affaires approached me and after a brief discussion on ECAFE (he mentioned that Korolev's successor, a Counsellor, would probably go onto political work and that Romanchuk would become Permanent Representative to ECAFE) asked what was the Australian policy on Laos, in which country the Americans were continuing to interfere.

I replied that we hoped that it would be possible to secure a neutral Laos free of interference from the outside. We would not believe that a Communist Laos met these conditions.

Teterine replied that the idea of a completely neutral Laos was also Russian policy and one which Pushkin was pursuing at Geneva. Certainly it was not Russia's objective to secure a communist Laos. I commented that in this case we would welcome evidence of such a policy. Teterine said he was at a loss to see what further evidence could be usefully given. He knew Pushkin very well, having served under him at a previous post. He was a very able and scientific man and he commanded Teterine's highest respect.

I said that an example of the sort of evidence which would be welcome would be satisfactory agreement on the role of the I.C.C. and its equipment. If the objective was to facilitate the further disengagement of forces and the withdrawal of outside forces from the country, it was hard to see how anyone could question the logic of the I.C.C. being in a position to carry out its proper tasks without the requirement of a unanimous vote and of course by using its own transport, independent of either side.

Teterine immediately agreed that this was sound but when reminded of the difficulties still being encountered at Geneva said well "perhaps Pushkin is right". I said that Teterine himself had said that Pushkin was a very scientific man. It was hard therefore to see how he could fail to see the logic of the West's proposition. An agreement on this question would also be a token of good faith and honesty.

Distribution : Internal

Department

Other Posts

Action :

CONFIDENTIAL

 CONFIDENTIAL

258

Teterine did not take this up but said that just before he left Moscow he personally prepared the instructions for the Russian delegation on the question of elections in Laos. His draft was later worked over by Pushkin and Gromyko but it was largely unaltered in substance. He could therefore speak of Russia's objective in Laos with confidence and he gave his personal assurance that it was the attainment of a fully independent, neutral Laos, with no Russians, no Chinese, no Vietnamese and no Americans.

He then referred to Russian relations with Afghanistan, the U.A.R. and Cambodia. In Afghanistan there had been close relations between the two governments for many years but the Afghanistan government retained its complete independence. In the U.A.R. the U.S.S.R. had done a great deal to assist the country and was contributing substantial sums to such projects as the Aswan Dam. At the same time, however, Communists in the U.A.R. were gaoled and attacked. This, however, was not altering Russian policy which was disinterested. In Cambodia, the U.S.S.R. had built a hospital, and was providing a Technical Training School, yet internally the Cambodian Government adopted a strong anti-communist position. The U.S.S.R. would be perfectly satisfied with a similar situation in Laos. We are not interested, Teterine said, in a Russian, Chinese or Communist Laos but only in a fully neutral country. Such a country would at the same time present no threat or problem on Thailand's borders.

I said that given agreement on the objective, namely a neutral Laos, and if one is really serious about it, it should be possible to reach agreement quickly on practical and impartial arrangements to obtain the desired result.

Teterine concluded by saying that he would like to discuss these points further and especially to explain Russian policies and objectives at Geneva and in Laos.

16th August, 1961.

(W.P.J. Handmer)
First Secretary

CONFIDENTIAL

CONFIDENTIAL

DEPARTMENT OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS

INWARD CABLEGRAM

257

JRR

I.16940

Sent: 6th July, 1961.
1200
Rec'd: 6th July, 1961.
1620

FROM:

Australian Embassy,
BANGKOK.

413 CONFIDENTIAL

Sarit has indicated wish to see me before going on leave and appointment has been arranged for Monday morning. Will talk about S.E.A.T.O., Community Development, etc. on usual lines but grateful for any special points.

Booker.

MIN. & DEPT. E.A.
MIN. & DEPT. DEFENCE
J.I.C.
P.M's.

7th July, 1961.

File 30/10/10/6

SEC A/Ss S&SEA@ SEA E.AF&ME INF DL MT IC

CONFIDENTIAL

File No. ~~1506/1/53/2~~ 256

EXTERNAL AFFAIRS.

Record of Conversation with Charge d'Affaires of Cambodia - Mr. Poc Doeuskoma

on 16th September, 1960.

Officers Present Mr. W. G. A. Landale

MAIN SUBJECT(S):

Return to Australia of Mr. Poc Thieun

Mr. Poc Doeuskoma called at his own request.

2. He said that he had been instructed to inform us that the former Ambassador, Mr. Poc Thieun, had only left Australia to undertake a very confidential mission for Prince Sihanouk and that his Government would like him (i.e. Poc Thieun) to return to Australia at the end of October to take up his appointment again as Ambassador. Mr. Poc Doeuskoma then enquired whether his Government should again seek agreement and whether Mr. Poc Thieun would have to present fresh Letters of Credence at a formal ceremony. I expressed the personal view that as Letters of Recall had not been presented for Mr. Poc Thieun, his mission had not been formally terminated; therefore it would not be necessary to seek agreement again. I went on to say that as far as I could recollect, Mr. Poc Thieun had presented Letters signed by the late King; if my recollection was correct these would no longer be valid and he would require fresh Letters signed by Prince Sihanouk as Head of State. Mr. Poc Doeuskoma confirmed that the last Letters had been signed by the late King. As regards a formal ceremony I thought that the Governor-General would agree to the new Letters being conveyed to him in some informal manner, for instance through this Department. Mr. Poc Doeuskoma said that they would accept any procedure which we proposed.

3. Finally Mr. Poc Doeuskoma asked me somewhat diffidently (and I think on a personal basis) whether we would welcome Mr. Poc Thieun back. I told him that it was my personal view that we would be very pleased to welcome him back. I promised to give him an official reply on agreement and formalities as soon as possible.

→ ~~Mr Kirby~~ Mr Rutherford Mr Hamilton Mr Reilly

File 3016/10/7 ✓ 20/9

DISTRIBUTION:

Minister
Secretary (2)

A/S Div. 1	Pac. & Am. Br.	S. & S.E.A. Br.	M.T. Br.	
A/S Div. 2	U.N. Br.	E.R. Br.	Com. Rel.	Ex. Comms. Br.
A/S Div. 3	Admin. Br.	Finance Br.	Sydney Office	Melbourne Office
A/S Div. 4	E.A.M.E. Br.	C. & P. Br.	Inf. Br.	Antarctic Division
Legal Adviser				
A/S Div. 7	D.L. Br.	E. & T.A. Br.		

FOLLOWING POSTS:

Report prepared by W. G. A. Landale

W.G.A. Landale
Consular & Protocol Branch

ACTION:

5515/60.

Copy to Official Secretary to His Excellency the Governor-General.

CONFIDENTIAL

PRH
AHT/SCB

SECRET

255

SEC.137/60

S E C R E T

19th August, 1960

→ 3010/10/6

(My dear Ambassador)

I refer to paragraph 3 of your telegram 512.

We do not understand the purpose of your enquiry to the Soviet Charge, and hope the result of repeating what he said does not embarrass you with the French.

(Yours sincerely)

A. H. TANGE

(A. H. Tange)
Secretary

His Excellency Mr. M.R. Booker,
Australian Ambassador,
BANGKOK.

→ Mr Heydon RH

SECRET

254

Secretary.

This is no time for niggling but I do think Booker should receive some enquiry about para 3. of his telegram.

2. Draft telegram hereunto

RKA

DEPARTMENT OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS.

CABLEGRAM FOR DESPATCH.

CODED [redacted]

TIME SENT

GROUPS

COST

TYPED BY

DISTRIBUTION

ADDRESS

AUSTEMBA BANGKOK

SECRET

253

7281/56.

Serial No. *Classification* SECRET

Letter

Your ~~telegram~~ 512. Ref to para 3 of your telegram 512.

~~Paragraph~~ 3. We do not understand purpose of your enquiry to Soviet Chargé and hope the result of refuting what he said does not embarrass you with the French.

Mrs Burrows

Sylvia.

SECRET

COPIES

SECRETARY

A.S. (DIV. 1)

A.S. (DIV. 2)

A.S. (DIV. 3)

A.S. (DIV. 4)

L. & T. (DIV. 5)

U.N. TA ER CR

PAC & AM EA AM & SP

S & SEA SA SEA

E. AF & ME E AF & ME

INF DL MT

C & P

ANT

ADMIN PERS PROP

FIN TRAV

EX. COMMS

AUTHORIZED BY

E.A. FILE NO.

DATE 18/8/60

252

DEPARTMENT OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS

LS. I.19264.

INWARD CABLEGRAM

Sent: 18th August, 1960
0900
Recd: 18th August, 1960
1645.

FROM:

Australian Embassy,
BANGKOK.

512 CONFIDENTIAL IMMEDIATE.

LAOS.

Following items may be of interest -

1. Prince Wan told me that Phoumi had stationed himself at a place 50 miles from Vientiane. It was not known what forces he had with him but troops were moving north from Savannaket by river and road.

2. According to Whittington, British assessment is that owing to rains it would take a long time for Phoumi to assemble an effective fighting force within striking distance of Vientiane. He still thought it unlikely that there would be a military clash.

3. I asked Soviet Charge d'Affairs whether he thought that Pathet Lao were behind the revolt. He said he believed that the revolt had been engineered by the French Embassy in Vientiane. It was "well known" that Souvanna Phoumi was a favourite of the French. When I passed this on to Clarac, he reacted very defensively. He said he had expected that this allegation would be made and that it was baseless.

4. Thanat told the press that the Thai Government had not yet made any move to recognise the new Government. There were several reasons to believe that things may go on changing.

MIN. & DEPT. E.A.
MIN. & DEPT. DEFENCE.
J.I.C.
P.M.'S.

18th August, 1960

SEC A/Ss MR.EASTMAN UN PAC&AM EA AM&SP S&SEA SA SEA@ E.AF&ME INF DL MT INTELL.

G.

KARACHI KUALA LUMPUR LONDON NEW DELHI NEW YORK(UN) OTTAWA PARIS PHNOM PENH RANGOON SAIGON SINGAPORE TOKYO VIENTIANE WASHINGTON WELLINGTON.

CONFIDENTIAL

250

May it please Your Majesty,

I have the honour to present Letters whereby Her Majesty Queen Elizabeth II has accredited me to be Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary for the Commonwealth of Australia, and the Letters of Recall of my distinguished predecessor, Mr. John Keith Waller.

In tendering these Letters I desire to convey on behalf of the Government and the people of Australia their most cordial good wishes for Your Majesty's personal welfare and the continued happiness and prosperity of the people of Thailand.

The increasingly close relations which have developed between our two countries since the establishment of diplomatic relations is the source of the utmost gratification to my Government. Our peoples are alike dedicated to maintain the freedom and independence of our countries, and this is reflected in our partnership in the South East Asia Collective Defence Treaty. The establishment of the headquarters of the Treaty in Bangkok serves to emphasise the great importance of Thailand to the defence of the free world. The co-operation which has existed between the representatives of our twocountries in promoting the development of the Treaty Organisation has greatly strengthened our ties of friendship in the diplomatic, civil and military spheres.

Our common membership of the Colombo Plan for co-operative economic development also plays an increasing part in deepening understanding between our peoples. In the personal contacts that have developed as a result of Colombo Plan programmes Thais and Australians have worked together in a spirit of deep friendship and mutual respect in the advancement of their common objectives and ideals.

It will be my constant desire and earnest endeavour to strengthen still further the bonds of friendship between our two countries. In the discharge of the task, I shall most deeply appreciate Your Majesty's help and co-operation.

.....

TRANSLATION

MINISTRY OF FOREIGN AFFAIRS.
SARANROM PALACE.

REPLY OF HIS MAJESTY THE KING

Monsieur l'Ambassadeur,

It is with great pleasure that I receive from Her Majesty Queen Elizabeth II the Letters of Credence accrediting you as Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary of the Commonwealth of Australia to My Court and the Letters of Recall of your predecessor, and I wish to extend to you a warm welcome.

I note with gratification your reference to the close bonds of friendship and good understanding between Australia and Thailand, which, as you have rightly said, have been greatly developed and further strengthened by their mutual cooperation in the South East Asia Treaty Organization and the Colombo Plan. I am deeply appreciative of your desire to strive for closer relations between the two countries. With such noble intention and personal acquaintances of the Thai and Australian officials, I do hope that your mission will be accomplished successfully. On My part, I can assure you that you will receive My wholehearted support as well as that of the Thai Government, who will accord you all possible assistance and facilities in the fulfilment of your functions.

In conclusion, I wish to thank you sincerely for the kind sentiments of goodwill expressed to Me and My people, and to ask you to convey to the Australian Government and people My warm wishes for their increasing welfare and prosperity.

****

DEPARTMENT OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS.

3010/10/6

OUTWARD CABLEGRAM.

248

JT/JS

O. 4073

Sent: 9th March, 1960.
1000

TO:

Australian Embassy,
BANGKOK.

228. UNCLASSIFIED.

For Waller.

Your 156.

Agree you should depart Bangkok 27th April, spend four-five weeks in Canberra on consultation, travel by "Australia" due Genoa 7th July, spend two weeks consultation London and then sail for Leningrad by Baltika leaving 22nd July.

E.A. (1252/15/5)

(COST £5/5/0)
9th March, 1960.

SEC A/Ss S&SEA SEA E.AF&ME ADMIN PERS PROP FIN TRAV

→File please 30/10/10/6

DEPARTMENT OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS

SECRET

247

INWARD CABLEGRAM

RJW:JT

I.20380

Dated: 6th November, 1959.
1800
Rec'd: 7th November, 1959.
0830

FROM:

Australian Embassy,
BANGKOK.

544. SECRET.

Your Savingram 57.

Cambodia - Thailand Relations.

I discussed possible action with United States Ambassador today. We agree -

(a) that there is little point in speaking to Thanad, who is already doing what he can to calm officials and public excitement about Khao Phra Vihara. Johnson read me telegram from Trimble reporting Cambodian accusation of plot by Sam Sary and Son Ngoc Thanh with Sarit to invade Cambodia with three Thai divisions plus aid amounting to United States dollars 1,000,000. This is obviously nonsense, but the fact that Cambodia takes it seriously may further exacerbate relations. So far there has been no press reference to it. Johnson thinks the Soviet Embassy here is the most likely source of the report. Report is obviously a plant but to us Chinese source seems more likely.

(b) Cambodian Ambassador Ty Kim Sour, who has never been replaced, is a constant spur to bad relations since he is credulous of any anti-Cambodian reports and very anti-Thailand. However, we agree there was little we could do about this. Ty protested in writing to Sarit about attacks in the Thai press but Sarit has replied midly.

(c) We should continue to urge Thailand that tension with Cambodia plays into Communist hands. We have both been doing this and Peachey and I spoke to Thanad and Prince Wongsa recently on these lines. Seems doubtful whether special approach would achieve anything.

(d) Thai insistence on the right of granting political asylum is frequently injudicious and they might be encouraged to get rid of people such as Sao Khun Sook and Sam Sary.

Johnson is convinced Son Ngoc Thanh has already left Thailand and that there are no present Thai intrigues with Sam Sary. He agrees that Thailand should be encouraged to urge those seeking political asylum to move on as soon as

DEPARTMENT OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS SECRET 246

INWARD CABLEGRAM

possible, but says he believes the Thais are already trying to do this with Sam Sary.

2. Although the Thais are probably not doing anything venal some anti-Sihanouk intrigues are probably current and I believe Johnson accepts Thai assurances too readily. I have no evidence in support of this belief.

A/MIN. & DEPT. E.A.
MIN. & DEPT. DEFENCE
J.I.C.
P.M'S.

7th November, 1959.

SEC A/Ss MR.EASTMAN UN PAC&AM EA AM&SP
S&SEA SA SEA@ E.AF&ME E INF DL MT INTELL

LONDON NEWDELHI OTTAWA PARIS PHNOMPENH SAIGON
SINGAPORE

SECRET

3010/10/6

245

DEPARTMENT OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS.

OUTWARD CABLEGRAM.

PM/JS

O. 11391

Sent: 1st September, 1959.
1840

TO:

Australian Embassy,
BANGKOK.

447. UNCLASSIFIED.

ECAFE Working Party on Economic Development and planning.

2. We are recommending to Acting Minister that Vawdrey act as Australian representative with Mr. A.G. Tyler, Department of the Treasury, Canberra, as alternate. We would anticipate that Tyler would attend continuously with Vawdrey providing guidance and assistance only as necessary.

3. Please confirm that these arrangements will be suitable to you.

4. Tyler arrives Bangkok by Flight CX 724 at 0945 hours 14 September. Grateful if you would arrange accommodation and extend courtesies.

A/MIN. & DEPT. E.A. (702/27/3/1/2) (COST £9/0/0)
MIN. & DEPT. DEPT. TRADE (C) (S-M)
P.M.'s. DEPT.
P.M.'s. 2nd September, 1959.
TREASURY
N.D.
SEC A/Ss ER@ S&SEA SEA INF

Ref: 1/2/1

F.3010/10/6

VISIT TO NORTHEAST THAILAND

Itinerary

I left Bangkok by Landrover on Tuesday, 26th May, drove to Korat (270 kms.), left next day for Roi-et (300 kms.) and drove to Ubol (170 kms.) on the following morning (28th May).

2. At Korat, Roi-et and Ubol (one night in each) I stayed, by arrangement with the Ministry of Public Health, at the hospitals, all of which have comfortable rest houses.

3. At 1330 hours on Friday, 29th May, I left Ubol by train and arrived at Sisaket at 1530 hours. I stayed by arrangement with the Ministry of Interior, with the Governor. Next day I visited (by Jeep) Kmer temple of Kao Phra Viharn, on the Cambodian border about 90 kms. from Sisaket.

4. I left that same evening by train for Bangkok, arriving at 0930 Sunday, 31st May.

5. The Landrover returned from Ubol by road.

Roads

6. The road from Bangkok to Korat is paved. Part of it was built recently with American aid (Friendship Highway). It was amusing to see several small teams of elephants striding along this fine new highway.

7. From Korat to Roi-et, the condition of the road varied from fair to fiendish. Near Korat and Roi-et, it was possible to travel in reasonable comfort over fairly even corrugations. At other times, the corrugations were sprinkled liberally with potholes, and it was decidedly uncomfortable.

8. Fortunately, there had been only enough rain to lay the dust. In the middle of the wet season, large sections of this road would have been nearly impassable and certainly rather hazardous at almost any speed.

9. The road from Roi-et to Ubol is unpaved, but not too badly corrugated and it was possible to make good time ($3\frac{1}{2}$ hours for the 170 kms.)

10. Opinions differ on whether it is possible to drive from Ubol to Sisaket (170 kms.) Anyone planning to do so should avoid the wet season, carry an axe and a crowbar to remove fallen trees, and use a jeep rather than a land-rover or passenger car.

11. From Sisaket to Kantalak (65 kms.), the road is fair (corrugated but not too badly so). From Kantalak, there is only a rough cart track to the foot of the mountain. Any vehicle other than a jeep would have difficulty in getting through. A good deal of rain had fallen in the previous week and there were stretches of water more than a foot deep at the foot of the mountain.

12. There are numerous bridges on all sections of the road between Bangkok and Ubol and Sisaket and Kao Phra Viharn. Most of them were small, and made of wood. In and near Ubol there are three or four impressive concrete bridges, including one in Ubol over the Moon River which is said to be the longest in Thailand.

13. Between Korat and Roi-et, where the road was at its worst, gangs of labourers were seen at frequent intervals filling pot-holes and wheel ruts with soil or gravel, using baskets and hand-tools. No mechanical equipment was seen, although between Roi-et and Ubol I saw a scraper and a steamroller.

14. The Director of the Hospital at Roi-et said that the Highways Department maintained some mechanical equipment at a few centres, and that there was one grader for every 300 kms. of road. The method of filling in deep pot-holes and corrugations with loose soil or gravel is largely ineffective. On the other hand, use of a grader alone would probably not be effective where the road

/surface ...

surface had been eroded by water.

15. There was not a great deal of traffic on the roads and what there was consisted mainly of buses carrying passengers or both passengers and freight. Within the limits set by the roads themselves, the North-East seems to be reasonably well served by a network of bus services. From Korat, there is a 20 minute service to Bangkok. Buses are loading in Roi-et throughout the entire day for services to other towns in the centre of the North-East.

16. I formed the opinion that the most pressing need for the development of the North-East, is the extension of the paved highway from Korat to Ubol, and probably Udorn (although I did not go that way) and the construction of good feeder roads to the smaller towns, notably Sisaket and (from what I was told) Surin. This opinion was confirmed by the Governors of Ubol and Sisaket (among others). The railway alone is not providing the stimulus to development in the North-East which might have been expected of it.

Agriculture

17. Between Bangkok and Ubol, rice cultivation is the main support of the people. Near Bangkok, where the soil is fertile and good rains had already fallen, ploughing was in an advanced stage. There seems to be very little spare land in this area.

18. Around Korat, the land is less closely settled and the soil is much less rich. Throughout the North-East, there are extensive areas of unused land, quite heavily wooded, and often very sandy. The soil is particularly poor in the province of Sisaket, one of the least prosperous areas in Thailand. Although even here there were no obvious signs of distress.

19. About 90 per cent of the rice grown from Roi-et onwards is of the glutinous type. The 1958/59 year was or should have been a relatively good one for the North-Eastern rice farmers. Export prices for glutinous rice were high, and the crop was sold without difficulty. The millers as usual fared much better than the farmers, despite the fact that the mills were working under capacity and the millers had to send their buyers out into the country to persuade the farmers to sell.

20. I was told that despite their relatively less prosperous circumstances, rice farmers in the North-East have been able to avoid falling into debt, at least to the extent of mortgaging their rice. About 75 per cent of the rice farmers sell direct to the millers. According to the mill manager I met, there is no forward buying by the millers.

21. Ploughing had not begun in the North-East and although some rain had fallen it was still too soon to form any opinion about prospects for the crop which will be planted during the next few months.

Hospitals

22. I was shown over the hospitals at Korat (270 beds, serving a local population of 40,000 and a district with 1 million), Roi-et (100 beds for a local population of 30,000) and Ubol (160 beds).

23. Buildings comprised in each case a modern brick and concrete administrative block, one or two wards of similar construction and several old wooden buildings (much cooler than the modern structures), with old style wooden houses for the staff.

24. None of the hospitals seemed to me to be over-abundantly supplied with equipment (although they all had X-ray plants), but all had large medical staffs (10 doctors in Korat, 7 in Roi-et for example).

25. At Korat there is a school of nursing (four-year course) and at Ubol there is a school of practical nursing (one or two-year course). I gained the impression that there were insufficient nurses with post-graduate training. On the other hand, the running of the hospitals is very much in the hands of the doctors, and for the time being, nurses with some forms of specialized training would probably be wasted.

/26. ...

2 of 2

26. In Korat, there was a special ward for opium addicts, some sent to the hospital by the Government (as part of the plan to abolish opium smoking). Hospitals are required to provide 10 or 12 beds for dealing with the addicts whose supplies are expected to be cut off. None of the doctors to whom I spoke seemed enthusiastic about the prospects of doing very much for these patients.

27. In Korat and Ubol, the wards were crowded and some patients slept on mats on the floor.

28. None of the hospitals seemed over clean, although none were conspicuously dirty. At Korat, failure to eliminate stagnant water from beneath one of the wards is quite inexcusable.

29. All three hospital directors complained of shortages of funds. Most of their patients receive free treatment: only a few can afford voluntary contributions. At both Korat and Roi-et, wealthy citizens had donated new buildings.

30. In the surgical wards, the majority of cases were being treated for stones in the bladder. At Ubol, 400 operations for this complaint are performed each year. The cause is believed to be a diet deficiency, possibly lack of proteins. At Ubol, the Director of the Hospital, in his twenty years of service there, has collected a vast collection of stones, some larger than cricket balls.

31. I noticed an X-ray plant and power plant at Roi-et which had been supplied under the American Aid Programme.

32. At each of the three hospitals, there was a Willys-Jeep Ambulance, with very few fittings, used as a run-about as well as an ambulance. (Actually, the vehicle at Roi-et was in Bangkok for repairs).

33. I gained the impression that at the moment there is no effective ambulance service anywhere in the North-East. However, at Roi-et for example, the Director of the Hospital thought that a service would develop when it became known (a) that the hospital had a special vehicle for the purpose and (b) that it was prepared to use it on request.

34. The lack of communications probably means that the ambulances to be supplied by Australia will be used, for quite some time, almost exclusively in and around the towns. At Roi-et, the doctor in charge seemed to think that any vehicle at all would shake to pieces on the country roads (which are very bad in his area).

35. So far as I could tell, service facilities in all centres I visited were adequate for the care of our ambulances. Drivers also seemed capable (with the exception of the doctors in charge at Korat and Ubol, both of whom had expensive cars, and both of whom drove shockingly).

Schools

36. Possibly the feature which impressed me most of all, during the entire journey, was the number of schools and the high standard of school buildings. In Korat particularly, schools are prolific, but even in not very well populated country districts, I saw quite impressive wooden school buildings. There were also several large, modern teacher-training centres in the main centres. In Korat particularly, the school children were very well dressed, with blue shorts or skirts, white shirts or tunics, and neat tropical hats.

37. In the Province of Ubol there are 5,000 teachers, I was informed, for a total population of 1 million.

38. I visited a girl's junior and secondary school in Roi-et, just after closing time. There were signs of over-much concentration on subjects such as biology. The little I saw of the English teaching was far from encouraging. I left some information material there.

TUFEC (Ubol)

39. I had only a short time at the training centre at Ubol known as the Thai UNESCO Fundamental Education Centre. The emphasis is on education and the

/objective ...

241

objective is to train district officials in ways and methods of inducing country people to help themselves, through community development schemes of various kinds. A new class (2-year course) had only just arrived, and the centre was more or less at rest.

40. I was shown over the farm where a most efficient looking well had been constructed for use with the windmill Australia is supplying under the Colombo Plan.

41. TUFEC has its uses, particularly in a country which is administratively rather backward, but at best its efforts will yield significant results only in the long term.

Korat (Nakornrajsima) - 40,000 people

42. Korat seemed prosperous, the shops were well stocked with in many cases a large variety of high quality goods (e.g. shoes, radios), restaurants looked reasonably clean, schools and school children abounded. On the other hand, there were a number of beggars about (from Sisaket and Surin I believe), and there is not much for the tourist to see (except at Pimai, 50 miles away, where there are Kmer ruins).

43. Outside Korat, there is a jute mill and a sugar factory run by the Government's National Economic Development Corporation. The jute bags are said to be of inferior quality (the Minister for Industries admitted this was so, on return from a visit to the area).

46. The Navy, the Army and the Air Force each have radio stations at Korat. There is a branch of the United States Information Service there, and a small detachment of JUSMAG.

47. The main hotel serves reasonably good food, but the rooms are said to be 'not too clean'.

48. The American Ground Water Survey operation (USOM activity) has a station at Korat.

Roi-et - 30,000 people(?)

48. Roi-et seems to be a much smaller place than Korat and the population, if in fact it numbers 30,000, is probably more widely spread.

49. The shops are not impressive, but there are one or two fairly old temples. The town was once encircled by a wall and a wide moat, and the remains of both are visible.

50. The hospital is the most impressive set of buildings. Water supply is derived from a nearby irrigation tank (capacity 2,100,000 cubic metres) and the town pump and tank were provided under American Aid.

51. There are a few small hotels in the town, none of them recommended. As a stopover, it is more attractive than any intermediary town (from Korat). Some of the best silk in the country is woven at Roi-et and I saw some five examples. It has also a reputation for breeding good horses.

Ubol

52. Ubol gives the impression of being quite a substantial town. It has few if any good buildings, but it seems clean and reasonably prosperous. The main hotel serves quite palatable European food.

53. The Provincial offices are old and badly in need of paint, and very crowded within.

54. There is an impressive concrete bridge over the Moon River (to the railway station on the opposite side to the main part of the town).

55. I saw the area set aside for the Annamite refugees, of whom there are about 4,000 in Ubol. They are said to be industrious and to do quite well for themselves.

/56 ...

240

56. The most impressive places nearby are TUFEC and the Teacher Training Centre nearby, and the Mental Hospital. The Teacher Training Centre was more ambitiously than soundly planned, and is not yet finished.

57. There is practically no industry in Ubol, or anywhere else after leaving Korat. There is a small laquer factory on the river, using resin obtained locally, which exports to the United States.

Sisaket

58. Although located in one of the poorest parts of Thailand, Sisaket is one of the prettiest towns I have seen. The streets are in good condition, usually made of an attractive brown gravel, and bordered with trees. There are no fine buildings, nothing in fact much better than the Governor's simple wooden two-storey house (where I stayed).

59. Although the people in this part are said to have an income on the average of only about 1,000 baht per year, there are no obvious signs of distress. Most of the younger men migrate to Bangkok (where they drive samlors, very often) once the rice is harvested.

60. The province is building up a reputation for its interest in community development activities (the Governor's work primarily). So far, little seems to have been accomplished. An area has been set aside for land settlement, and some improvements have been made in village sanitation.

61. I met an American who is drilling wells between Sisaket and Surin, as part of USOM's ground water exploration survey. He said that Sisaket compared most favourably with Buriram and Surin, where conditions are apparently much more depressed.

62. He seemed keenly interested in our experimental windmill for TUFEC and said that if it worked satisfactorily it may well fit in with USOM's well-digging programme. I suggested that he should get in touch with TUFEC in a few months.

63. I was shown an Agricultural School with quite a large farm attached to it. The headmaster seemed a capable person. I was told that the school has very little equipment for working the farm (watered from a nearby irrigation tank). This may be a suitable subject for Colombo Plan assistance. Possibly, the Canadian agriculturalist attached to TUFEC in Ubol could be induced to inspect the school and submit recommendations for items most urgently needed (within financial limits nominated beforehand, perhaps).

Kao Phra Viharn

64. One of the main objectives of the visit was to see the 1,000 year-old Kmer temple of Kao Phra Viharn, which has been and will probably continue to be for some time the subject of dispute between Thailand and Cambodia.

65. The Governor provided a Jeep and driver, and two district officials accompanied me. We left Sisaket at 0630 hours, drove to Kandalak and picked up another district official and a police officer, and then proceeded along a bush track which gradually ascended the mountain to a point a few hundred yards from the steps leading up to the temple.

66. We called at a border police post (about 300 men) at the foot of the mountain. This post was established about a year ago. It is adjacent to a small village which is now experiencing something of a minor boom.

67. The police were undergoing rifle practice on the mountain when we passed by.

68. There is a small police post at the top of the mountain a mile or more from the summit of the temple.

69. A telephone line connects the far point of the temple, on the cliff edge looking down and out onto Cambodia, with the police post near the foot of the temple. The Thai flag flys boldly in the breeze on the edge of the cliff (probably invisible to the inhabitants of the only Cambodian village in site Ban Pai, at least 20 miles away).

/70. ...

70. The temple has been built in four sections or stages. The first consists of a series of more than 200 steps (still in good condition) leading up to a typical Kmer gateway and gate-house. To the left of the steps is a side track leading to a magnificent swimming pool, cut deep into the mountain, and terraced downwards and inwards in rock ledges. The steps were originally flanked by pillars but most of these have toppled over.

71. The second stage is similar, but the gateway and associated rooms are more numerous and spacious.

72. There is a much smaller swimming pool to the left of the second flight of steps (possibly used by the head of the temple).

73. The third flight of steps is shorter and steeper than the others, and the building at the top more extensive again. On the pillars supporting the doorway into the central building, there are inscriptions etched into the stone.

74. The fourth flight of steps leads to the temple proper, which is built of massive stone, and surrounded by cloisters. Both the inner temple and the cloisters are in fair condition. There is a lot of fallen stone around the main temple, some of it beautifully carved.

75. A few yards from the far wall of the cloisters is the edge of the mountain, a declivity (I was told) of about 2000 feet, falling sheer to the plain. This forbidding and almost unscalable cliff face extends East and West well beyond the limits of sight.

76. I was told that prior to the establishment of the police post about a year ago, an official of the Fine Arts Department lived on the mountain and acted as a kind of caretaker. Apart from the police, there were a few monks living at the foot of the temple (near the police post). The Highways Department has built an attractive guest house not far from the temple

77. I can believe that before so much of it had fallen into ruin, Kao Phra Viharn was one of the most graceful and delicate examples of Kmer architecture. It is a little too far gone now to appeal a great deal to the average tourist, and is probably not worth travelling all the way from say Bangkok to see it when a visit to Angkor Wat could be arranged much more easily.

78. The most striking feature of Kao Viharn at present is probably its geographical position. No-one having seen the site could imagine for a moment that the border was intended to be anywhere else but along the edge of the cliff (which puts the temple within Thai territory). I doubt whether access to the site from Cambodian territory could be effected without first passing through Laos. In any case, Cambodian claims to the temple, whatever their legal merits, are surely bound to fail on strategic grounds if no other. In the same way, international control of the mountain seems out of the question.

79. Although the Governor, genuinely I think, professed little interest in the fuss over Kao Phra Viharn, district officials are keenly interested in the matter and ready to dispute any Cambodian claims. In particular, they are quick to correct any tendency to identify the Cambodians of today with the ancient Kom people who built the temple (and from whom the Thais obtained it, I was told by local officials, as part of a settlement following their conquest of the Koms).

80. For anyone planning to visit the temple in future, the only practicable course seems to be to call on the Governor for hospitality and transport. There is no Government guest house, I believe, and the Governor gave up his room so that I would have the convenience of a bathroom attached to the bedroom.

81. It may be possible during the dry season to drive from Ubol to the mountain and stay at the police post at the top. This would depend upon the state of the road at the time and the availability of a suitable vehicle. People who know the road from Ubol to Sisaket and who have had experience of driving along the track at the foot of and up the mountain seem to think that a Landrover would not be suitable.

82. From Sisaket to the temple takes about 4 hours. It is not difficult to do that trip both ways in one day but it would not be possible to drive from Ubol to the temple and back to Ubol (or Sisaket) in less than two days.

/83. ...

238

Personalities

83. By far the most impressive people I met on the trip were the Director of the Hospital at Roi-et (Dr. Chalard) and the Governor of Sisaket (Voravit Rangsiyothai).

84. The doctor was the most experienced in Western ways of anyone I met. He grew up in Ubol during the war, joined the Free Thais, trained in India and parachuted into North Thailand (or Laos?).

85. After finishing his medical course in Bangkok, he studied in the United States.

86. He seems keenly interested in the possibilities of area hospitals, with small clinics in the villages, and developing communications so that medical treatment can be made available when and where it is needed.

87. He and his wife (who is also a doctor at the hospital) seems to have built up a good team spirit, and their hospital is well spoken of elsewhere. By contrast, Drs. Nuam and Cholvit (Korat and Ubol) seemed to have settled down to the rather hum-drum life of country doctors, content with their lot but not interested a great deal in change of any kind.

88. Govenor Voravit is a more colourful personality. He is big for a Thai has a happy disposition and an equally jolly wife.

89. I was made as welcome as I have ever been anywhere, but not unnecessarily fussed over.

90. On taking me up to my room, the Governor, who speaks very little English but understands a certain amount, went to a table in the hall, consulted what was clearly an English language text, and returned to the door to say "Please make yourself at home".

91. Both that evening and the next (before my train left), we talked a good deal with the help of two officials, one of whom spoke English fairly and the other (educated in Vietnam) French.

92. The Governor's main interest is the economic development of the province, and he is obviously frustrated by the fact that he has few facilities for doing anything but encourage the villagers in self-help development schemes.

93. He agreed that communications were the most important deficiency, in the area, but seemed concerned also about markets for new products.

94. He worked strongly on the American well-digger (Mr. Scott) to provide wells for the prison and hospital when he started work in Sisaket.

95. Realistically, perhaps, he was not hopeful about co-operatives as he foresaw little prospect of getting funds to start them.

96. I gained the impression that the Governor hoped my visit would lead to some practical help from Australia. I did not even discuss the possibility, taking refuge in the language difficulty when I saw the subject looming up on a couple of occasions. I believe we should do something in this area, under the Colombo Plan, on the grounds that the need is there and the Americans have not yet done much. Whatever we do is likely to command a good deal more public attention than aid provided for Bangkok, for example. (The hospital at Sisaket will of course receive one of our ambulances).

97. The Governor enquired about agricultural studies in Australia. He is hoping to send his son (17 years) there to take a University course in agriculture, with a view to entering the Ministry of Agriculture here. The son is keen to be a lawyer apparently, but as his father grew up on a rice farm near Ayuthia, parental pressure is in the direction of an agricultural career. Incidentally, all the district officials (and the Governor himself) seemed quite pleased about the rise from farmer's son to provincial governor.

98. I undertook to make enquiries about agricultural courses.

/99. ...

237

99. The Governor also expressed interest in visiting Australia. I think there might be some value in showing him something of our cattle industry, perhaps in association with senior members of the livestock department of the Ministry of Agriculture. Many people believe that the prospects for developing a suitable cattle industry in the North-East are good. A combination of effort by the central government and provincial officials will probably be necessary if any progress is to be made. A visit of this kind would be especially worthwhile, from a Colombo Plan point of view, if some form of follow-up assistance could be devised.

Conclusions

100. It is risky to attempt to sum up too conclusively after such a brief visit to such a large area, but from what I have read before hand, and from what I was told, some of which I had the opportunity of partially testing, my broad impression are as follows:

Economic

(a) In many parts of the North-East, particularly around Sisaket where the soil is very poor, the farmers make a bare subsistence living,

(b) any small comforts which they enjoy are derived from the earnings of the younger men, who obtain employment in Bangkok and other places between rice seasons,

(c) real hardship is avoided (with the possible exception of a few areas, notably Buriram, which I did not visit) primarily because there is enough land and water for even the poorest people to grow much of the food they require,

(d) even in a good year (good crop, high prices) the millers rather than the farmers receive the bulk of the higher returns,

(e) part of the incomes of the North-eastern farmers depend a good deal on general level of economic activity in Bangkok (particularly) and real hardship could develop quickly if business conditions in Bangkok deteriorate greatly,

(f) considerable sums of Government money will have to be spent if any noticeable improvement is to be made in this area, particularly on roads (so that the prosperity of the central plain and Bangkok can be shared more easily by the North-East) and on irrigation and perhaps land clearance,

(g) Government assistance in substantial quantities is required for setting up of new industries, of which livestock production might well prove the most useful,

(h) neither the present state of the Thai budget, nor the irresponsibility of the Government in apportioning its revenues, present hopeful auguries for the future of the North-East,

(i) on the score of need, there is a strong case for foreign aid, and perhaps, because there is a genuine recognition in the area that help is required, foreign aid may yield better returns, in terms of goodwill, than usual.

Political

(j) the separatist tendencies which have been reported from this area in the past have largely if not entirely disappeared (the Governor in Ubol, who served until recently in Nongkai, obviously attached no importance to the subject),

(k) provincial officials do not seem to be concerned about Communism except among Vietnamese refugees,

(l) there is widespread faith in the value of education (the Director of the Hospital at Korat said he would prefer to put an extra pound

/into ...

into education rather than into health services, because only the uneducated (poor) present a health problem. 236

Administration

(m) there is too much authority in Bangkok and too little scope for initiative at the provincial level. This may not be a disadvantage if officials at the centre were more competent and if financial control were better,

Other

(n) the road from Korat to Roi-et is only to be recommended to those who particularly wish to see this part of the country,

(o) the landrover performed well (the only mishaps were a burnt-out generator and one puncture) but the steel and glass cabin creates a terrific clatter on rough roads,

(p) to get the best results from such trips, an interpretor is required. In Korat, Roi-et and Ubol, the Directors of the Hospitals were invaluable in this respect, particularly at Ubol.

A list of officials and others to whom I talked is attached.

(W. A. Vawdrey)
First Secretary.

The Australian Embassy,
BANGKOK.

4th June, 1959.

List of people Mr. Vawdrey has met during his trip to North-East Thailand :-

1. Dr. Nuam Settabutr,
   Director of Korat Hospital,
   KORAT.

2. Dr. Chalard,
   Director of Roi-Ed Hospital,
   ROI-ED.

3. Dr. Cholvit,
   Director of Ubol Hospital,
   UBOL.

4. Mr. Kamjad Patisuwan,
   Governor of Ubol Province,
   UBOL.

5. Economic Affairs Officer,
   UBOL.

6. Mr. Sia Huam,
   Ubol Rice Mill Co.,Ltd.
   UBOL.

7. Mr. Voravit Rangsiyotha,
   Governor.
   SRI-SAKET.

8. Mr. Svasdhi Promdireg,
   Chief of District of Sri-Saket,
   SRI-SAKET.

9. Mr. Sman Khuanming,
   Cadastral Service,
   Land Officer of District,
   SRI-SAKET.

10. Mr. Pramoon Chantrachamnong,
    Assistant of the District,
    SRI-SAKET.

11. Head-Master,
A   Agricultural School,
    SRI-SAKET

12. Sub-Lt. Wirat,
    Border Police,
    Kao Phra Viharn,
    SRI-SAKET.

.../...

General

→ 3010/10/6

234

B. Post 6.8.59

Captain J.P. Stevenson, R.A.N., newly-appointed Services Attache at the Australian Embassy, arrived in Bangkok on Monday, accompanied by his wife and small son.

Captain Stevenson takes the place of Lieutenant Colonel E.F. Aitken, O.B.E., who left Bangkok recently. B.P. 6

CONFIDENTIAL

AUSTRALIAN EMBASSY,
BANGKOK.

In reply quote No.: .....

Memo No.: 1035

31st July 1959

233

DEPARTMENT OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS
5 AUG 1959
CANBERRA

The Secretary,
Department of External Affairs,
CANBERRA.

Visit to South East Thailand

I accompanied the Ambassador and Mrs. Waller on a visit to South East Thailand on 20-22nd July. The first day we drove to Sattaheeb, the second to Chantaburi and back to Sattaheeb, and on the third we returned to Bangkok.

2. The journey to Sattaheeb, 177 kilometres, is moderately interesting in the early stages, with rice and salt farming along the way. Once past Bangsaen, Sarit's seaside resort, the country improves; tapioca flourishes, coconuts and fruit are plentiful. We made a detour to a seaside village, Cha-Bang, to leave two sets of batteries for a wireless receiving set, one of the 150 sets supplied to the Ministry of the Interior in 1956. The local officials seemed pleased that we had come a second time and more pleased when the wireless worked. Cha Bang has a reputation as an enterprising community; certainly the public buildings are better built than is usual in small places; well laid out with clean surroundings. Cha Bang is a Ministry of the Interior and USOM Community Development project and although not as advanced as some, has a number of worthwhile features. USOM has supplied several varieties of water pumps to ensure an adequate water supply in the village. Sweet water is available at about five metres and the five pumps should provide good drinking water and sufficient for cultivation. Little domestic cultivation was being attempted and the village seemed to subsist mainly on fishing.

3. Near Cholburi, the scene of arrests a little while ago of arms smugglers and alleged gangsters, we inspected a new shaving board factory. It has modern German equipment and, according to the German manager, since production began a year ago maintains an output of 2,000 sheets per day. Wood for the shavings from an adjacent (and much older) sawmill and match factory. The finished product is relatively inexpensive and used increasingly in building here. The Royal Family is reported to have capital invested in this enterprise. We also over a dilapidated, rather primitive tapioca factory, one of a great many which line the road from Cholburi to Rayong. The tapioca roots are boiled, crushed, sifted and the result is a coarse flour, something like pollard, which is exported to neighbouring countries.

4. At Sattaheeb, the main Thai Base, we stayed in a Navy rest house outside the Base. The Base is on a wide bay sheltered from the open sea by a string of islands. It covers some 60 square kilometres consisting of barracks, married quarters, supply stores, engineering workshops and a hospital. Our guide, an engineer officer, said the base was 75 years old and the biggest outside Bangkok. There was a new L shaped wharf built with U.S. funds at which several rusty L.S.T's and four small patrol vessels, one of them belonging to the Police, were moored. One was armed with a 2"-3" gun and were told it was used for coast guard patrol. The water at the wharf was 10 metres deep. (There has been talk of using Sattaheeb as a commercial port. A good deal of improvement, e.g. storage facilities, cranes, better roads, would be required before this could be done.) On an island across the bay were five oil storage tanks and a radio and radar station. Our guide claimed, perhaps inaccurately, that they had a 75-ton crane for heavy loads, but we saw no sign of it. The station's main activities appeared to be engineering repair shops and training school and a general rearment and training centre. We were told there were 15,000 personnel there, but this figure may include wives and children. American trucks and anti-aircraft guns (I counted 12) were stored a little way inland. We drove through the Marine Corps area, which seems to be run independently. The Marines were better equipped (U.S. issue), trained and armed than their naval counterparts and appeared smarter and more efficient. On the other (south-east) side of the bay was an Air Force station, which we did not have an opportunity to see. It is reported to have

Copy secretary
Henderson
Hamilton
Quinn
E.+I.A.
D.L.
J.C.

D.S. 5/VIII

CONFIDENTIAL

232

small landing strip. My general impression was of a comfortable and adequate station run with reasonable but not taxing efficiency.

5. The next day we drove by Landrover to Chantaburi and back to Sattaheeb. The road to Rayong is rough in parts and with frequent pot holes, but with current improvements will be easily motorable. From Rayong to Chantaburi the road alternates between macadam and gravel (much like country roads around Canberra). There are numerous wooden bridges, nearly all of which are being replaced with concrete bridges with the assistance of USOM funds and personnel - one of the most useful but unpublicised American activities in Thailand. The country becomes more attractive, with wooded hills, a refreshing sight after the flatness of Bangkok. Tapioca, coconuts, rubber, sugar, fruit and rice are plentiful. Good soil and rainfall make this area perhaps the most prosperous in Thailand. Chantaburi, a large market town, is the fifth biggest in Thailand.

... 6. I attach a summary of road conditions from Sattaheeb to Chantaburi.

M J Wilson

(M. J. Wilson)
Second Secretary

REPORT ON ROAD FROM BANGKOK TO CHANTABURI.

231

Bangkok - Sataheeb - 177 kilometres

This road has been sealed throughout and is in first class condition except for the last 20 kilometres where the surface is undulating and fast driving is uncomfortable.

Sataheeb to ~~Chantaburi~~ - KM.211 - Sealed but undulating.

KM 211 - 221 - Metalled but unsealed - very rough but additional metal and screening being accumulated for surfacing and sealing.

Rayong (KM221) - KM230. - Laterite, slightly corrugated but is in quite good condition - we travelled over this stretch in the Landrover at speeds around 80 K.P.H.

KM230 - 231-5 - Sealed road in good condition.

KM231-5 - 255 - Laterite in very good condition.

KM255 - 282 - Sealed road in good condition.

KM282 - 302 - Laterite in very good condition. We reached speeds of 100 K.P.H.

KM302 - 306 - Sealed road in good condition.

KM313-5 - 315 - Sealed road in good condition

KM315 - 324 - Laterite in good condition

KM324 - 327 - Turn off to Chantaburi - sealed in good condition.

U.S.O.M. are building concrete bridges at the following points -

KM 224	KM 263	KM 291 .5
234	264	292 (2 bridges)
240	265	298 .5
241	269 .5	299
244 (2 bridges)	270	302.5
245	270.5	303
247	276	304 (Double span)
248	277	306
249	277.5	309
252	282.5	311
255	285	312
259	287	313
261	289	315
		318
		321
		323

All bridges are of concrete to standard USOM patterns. Temporary bridges are in use at present but all construction is well advanced and should be completed within 4-6 months. In addition about 15 culverts constructed on 3 foot concrete pipes are being installed.

File 3010/10/2

DEPARTMENT OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS, CANBERRA.

Name of Paper Daily Telegraph File No. 30th July, 1959 230

Published at Sydney Date



R.A.N. man for Bangkok

CANBERRA, Wed. — The Federal Government has appointed Captain J. P. Stevenson, R.A.N., Australian Services Attache in Bankok.

Captain Stevenson, in 1956, was Equerry to the Duke of Edinburgh.

He will leave for Bankok on July 30 with his wife and son.

The Minister for External Affairs (Mr. Casey) said today Captain Stevenson would succeed Lieutenant-Colonel F. E. Aitken.

Mr Henderson
Mr Jaffett

229

FOR THE PRESS

RELEASED ONLY IN CANBERRA

DEPARTMENT OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS
CANBERRA
PR. 99

29th July 1959

F-3010/10/1/6

APPOINTMENT OF AUSTRALIAN SERVICES ATTACHE TO BANGKOK

The Minister for External Affairs, Mr. R.G. Casey today announced the appointment of Captain J.P. Stevenson, R.A.N., as Australian Services Attache, Bangkok. Captain Stevenson succeeds Lt.-Col. F.E. Aitken.

Mr. Casey said that Captain Stevenson, who is 38, had had a distinguished service career. He had spent most of his career at sea, principally as a navigating officer, and had held three commands, the last being H.M.A.S. Anzac in 1947-58. He had also been Deputy-Director and Director of Plans at the Navy Office. In 1956 he had served as equerry to H.R.H. Prince Philip and most recently he had attended the foreign officers' command course in the United States of America.

Captain Stevenson will leave for Bangkok by air with his wife and son on July 30.

pic.

F.3010/10/6

→ F.3010/10/6

228

Thai People 11.7.59

"Thai People" Profile

Foundation Member



THE AUSTRALIAN Ambassador, Mr. J.K. Waller, presenting a Colombo Plan Certificate of Training to Dr. Krasae Vajarapana, of the Department of Health, who has just completed a year's post-graduate medical course in Australia.

The Certificate, signed by the Australian Minister of External Affairs, Mr. R.G. Casey, records that Dr. Krasae studied in Australia under the Technical Cooperation Scheme of the Colombo Plan.

Dr. Krasae took a post-graduate course in paediatric and general medicine at Melbourne University and observed clinical work at the Queen Victoria Memorial Hospital, Melbourne, and at the Royal Alexandra Hospital for Children, Sydney.

มิสเตอร์ออสบอร์นกล่าวว่า การบินของเครื่องบินเน็บธูนเที่ยวนี้จะได้ผ่านไปทางฟีจิ เกาะแคนต์ตน แหลมบาร์เบอร์ส (ฮาไวอิ) และอลาเมด้า (ใกล้ๆซานฟรานซิสโก)

การเคลื่อนไปสู่สหรัฐอเมริกาและกลับของหมู่เครื่องบินดังกล่าวนี้ จะเป็นการซ้อมฝึกการบินระยะยาว ที่มีค่าและกว้างขวางมากที่สุด

— — — — — — — — — — —

AUSTRALIAN FILM FOR VENICE FESTIVAL

ภาพยนตร์ของออสเตรเลียสำหรับงานประกวดภาพยนตร์ในเวนิส

ซิดนี่ย์ (เอไอเอส) ภาพยนตร์ของออสเตรเลียเรื่อง " Desert Conquest" จะถูกนำออกฉายที่งานฉลองประกวดภาพยนตร์นานาชาติแห่งนครเวนิซในเดือนนี้

ภาพยนตร์เรื่องนี้เป็นเรื่องที่กล่าวถึงวิวัฒนาการของพื้นภูมิประเทศทะเลทรายจำนวน ๔๐ ไมล์ในรัฐออสเตรเลียใต้ ที่ได้กระทำไปโดยสมาคมคิดถึงกาลภายหน้าร่วมกันแห่งออสเตรเลีย

ผู้สร้างภาพยนตร์เรื่องนี้คือ มิสเตอร์เล็กซ์ ฮอลลิเดย์ แห่งออสเตรเลียนอินสทรักเชนนัล ฟิล์มส แห่งนครซิดนี่ย์

— — — — — — — — — — —

BOOKS FOR INDONESIA

หนังสือสำหรับอินโดนิเซีย

แคนเบอรา (เอไอเอส) ท่านรัฐมนตรีว่าการกระทรวงการต่างประเทศ มิสเตอร์ อาร์. จี. เคซี่ย์ กล่าวเมื่อสัปดาห์ที่แล้วนี้ว่า ออสเตรเลียจะได้จัดส่งหนังสือเกี่ยวกับออสเตรเลีย ที่ได้รับการคัดเลือกแล้ว ๑๔ เล่มๆละ ๒,๐๐๐ ฉะบับ ไปให้สำหรับใช้ในการสอนภาษาอังกฤษในโรงเรียนต่างๆของอินโดนิเซีย ภายใต้แผนการโคลัมโบ

มิสเตอร์เคซี่ย์กล่าวว่า ขณะนี้ภาษาอังกฤษเป็นภาษาต่างประเทศชั้นนำ ที่ดำเนินการสอนกันอยู่ในอินโดนิเซีย และได้มีการขาดแคลนหนังสือภาษาอังกฤษ ที่จะหามาให้นักศึกษาได้เป็นอย่างมาก

อินโดนิเซียได้ขอหนังสือดังกล่าวนี้ สำหรับใช้ในระดับโรงเรียนมัธยมทั้งชั้นต่ำและชั้นสูง หนังสือเหล่านี้ทั้งหมดเป็นหนังสือที่แต่งขึ้นโดยนักประพันธ์ชาวออสเตรเลียน

มิสเตอร์เคซี่ย์กล่าวว่า ท่านหวังว่าเยาวชนชาวอินโดนิเซียนคงจะได้รับความพอใจจากเรื่องราวต่างๆเหล่านี้ มากเท่าๆกันกับที่บรรดาเยาวชนชาวออสเตรเลียนได้รับมาแล้ว ในขณะที่พวกเขาก้าวหน้าไปในด้านความรู้ภาษาอังกฤษของเขา เขาก็จะได้เรียนรู้ถึงชีวิตในออสเตรเลียอีกอย่างมากมายไปด้วย ท่านเชื่อแน่ว่าการทั้งนี้จะมีส่วนช่วยให้บังเกิดความเข้าใจซึ่งกันและกันยิ่งขึ้นไปอีก ระหว่างประชาชาวอินโดนิเซียนกับประชาชาวออสเตรเลียนทั้งหลาย

— — — — — — — — — — —

"Thai People" 11.7.59

F. 3010/10/6

"THAI PEOPLE" PROFILE

FOUNDATION MEMBER

JOHN Keith Waller, Australia's Ambassador to Thailand since April, 1957, is one of the foundation member's of the Australian diplomatic service.

Born on February 19, 1914, he was educated at Scotch College, Melbourne, and Melbourne University.

When Mr. Waller joined the Australian diplomatic service at 22 the department was on the eve of a period of growth. Originally set up in 1901, as a Commonwealth gesture in the year of federation, it soon lapsed into domestic activity and was not revived as a separate Ministry until 1936.

In those days, indeed up to 1937, there were no Australian posts in foreign countries. External Affairs were interpreted as relations with the United Kingdom plus attention to matters arising out of Australia's position in the Pacific.

★ ★ ★

During World War, the department lapsed altogether and its duties were divided between the Prime Minister's and other departments.

But the 1930's was a time of tumult and shouting in international affairs during which the Australian people showed increasing concern about the dangers from Mussolini's grandiloquence and Hitler's meglomania.

In 1936, therefore, the Australian Department of External Affairs was reconstituted under Lieutenant-Colonel W.R. Hodgson. Since then, Australia has been drawn more and more into world affairs. Today, the Department has 35 overseas posts.

★ ★ ★

Young Keith Waller's introduction to diplomacy was exciting and stormy. He was appointed Private Secretary to the fiery, irrepressible William Morris Hughes, then Australia's Minis- for External Affairs in 1937.

"Billy" Hughes, who died in 1952 at the age of 88, is still an Australian political legend. Working for him was like being hitched to a tornado; keeping up with his volatile moods required the finesse of sports reporter sent to cover a Dior fashion parade.

Dozens of newspapermen and civil servants worked at one time or the other as private secretary to "Billy" Hughes. They usually lasted about six months each. Some did not survive six weeks before they were ejected in a gust of Celtic wrath or tossed overboard in an excess of impish homour.

★ ★ ★

Keith Waller's term lasted from 1937 to 1940, when "Billy" left the Department to become Minister for the Navy.

At this time, the wily, astringent, quick-witted little Welshman had dominated Australian national affairs for more than thirty years.

And when Australia spoke in international affairs the voice of her people was often heard in the caustic accents of "Billy" Hughes.

Sometimes it was "Billy" speaking what Billy alone thought. But often he said loudly and clearly what many people, inside and outside Australia, were thinking.

For instance, when Mr. Chamberlain returned from Munich with his celebrated and pathetic piece of paper, Mr Hughes expressed himself in forthright terms.

"If the road from Sydney to Broken Hill was paved with Bibles," he said, "and that man Hilter sworn an oath on every one of them, I wouldn't believe a dammed word he said"

Characteristically, he added, "Otherwise, I've got nothing to say. I'm not supposed to talk. I'm only the Foreign Minister."

★ ★ ★

When war came, Mr. Waller went as second secretary to the newly-established Australian Legation at Chungkings, headquarters of Chiang Kai-shek's pro-Allied Nationalist Government of China.

There he met Darrell Berrigan, now a well-known Bangkok journalist, who remembers that the Wallers (they were married in 1943) had the best selection of comfortable baths in the war-torn capital.

At Chungking, Mr. Waller served under another Australian notability, Sir Frederic Eggleston, a scholarly expert in Asian history, who was Australia's first Envoy Extraordinary and Minister Plenipotentiary to China.

Tolerant, adroit and learned, Sir Frederic was far different from the explosive Mr. Hughes. During his term in China he won widespread affection and regard.

★ ★ ★

In 1945, Mr. Waller went as Secretary General of the Australian Delegation to the United Nations Conference at San Francisco convened to draft the Charter of the United Nations organisations.

From San Francisco, Mr. Waller rose rapidly in the expanding Department of External Affairs. He was first secretary at Rio de Janeiro, 1945 Charge d'Affaires, 1846, First Secretary, Washington, 1647 Consul-General, Manila, 1948; Officer in Charge of Political Intelligence, Canberra, 1950; External Affairs Officer in London, 1951; and in 1953 Assistant Secretary of the External Affairs Department.

★ ★ ★

Since coming to Thailand, Mr. Waller has made every effort to know the country outside Bangkok. He has visited Songkla, Puket, Pangnga, Takuapa, Chiengmai, Nongkhai, Mukdhaban and Ubol. Nor has his experience been confined to easy journeys and official receptions. He has travelled mostly by Land Rover or train and met many hardworking people.

In Bangkok, Mr. Waller's diplomatic and social duties curtail his widespread interests. However, he snatches time to keep up with his main intellectual interest, history. His favourite period is the nineteenth and twentieth century.

★ ★ ★

Mrs. Waller shares her husband's interests in travel, in reading and in social activity. She is a keen gardener and the official residence in Sathorn Road, which was taken for the Ambassador's home during Mr. Waller's tenure, already shows the effect of her taste and care. Mrs. Waller also takes a great interest in contemporary art. She has attended every exhibition of Thai art since she has has been in Bangkok and has bought several paintings by Thai artists. She likes paintings to reflect their time and place but is not attracted by the more abstract flights of modern art. She finds the traditional Thai crafts delightful. Chamras Khietkong, who has exhibited his work in Australia, is at present engaged on a portrait of Mrs. Waller.

The Wallers have two daughters, Anne and Gillian who are at school in Australia. They have already paid two visits to Bangkok and will spend eight weeks at Christmas with their parents.

สำนักงานแถลงข่าวออสเตรเลีย

สถานเอกอัครราชทูตออสเตรเลีย ถนนสีลม พระนคร

สถานเอกอัครราชทูตออสเตรเลีย
กรุงเทพฯ
วันที่ ๔ กุมภาพันธ์ พ.ศ.๒๕๐๒

WEEKLY NEWSLETTER

ข่าวประจำสัปดาห์

MR. CASEY TO VISIT JAPAN AND KOREA

มิสเตอร์เคซี่ย์จะไปเยือนประเทศญี่ปุ่นและเกาหลี

แคนเบอรา (เอไอเอส) ท่านรัฐมนตรีว่าการกระทรวงต่างประเทศ มิสเตอร์ อาร์.จี. เคซี่ย์ ได้แถลงออกมาว่าตั้งแต่วันที่ ๒๓ ถึง ๓๐ มีนาคมนี้ ท่านจะไปเยือนประเทศญี่ปุ่น ในฐานะที่เป็นแขกของรัฐบาลญี่ปุ่น และตั้งแต่วันที่ ๓๐ มีนาคมถึงวันที่ ๑ เมษายน ท่านจะไปเยือนสาธารณรัฐเกาหลี

มิสเตอร์เคซี่ย์กล่าวว่า ท่านมีความยินดีเป็นอย่างมาก ในการรับคำเชิญของรัฐบาลญี่ปุ่น และรัฐบาลเกาหลี ท่านเคยได้ไปเยือนอาณาบริเวณดังกล่าวนี้ครั้งหลังสุดในปี ๑๙๕๑

ท่านรัฐมนตรีกล่าวว่า ออสเตรเลียกับญี่ปุ่นนั้นพัวพันอยู่ในปัญหาต่างๆร่วมกันโดยทางภูมิศาสตร์ในด้านมหาสมุทรแปซิฟิค และญี่ปุ่นที่มีความแข็งแรงมั่นคงในทางการเศรษฐกิจ มีส่วนช่วยอย่างสำคัญแก่ความเจริญก้าวหน้าของอาณาบริเวณแห่งนี้

ส่วนสาธารณรัฐเกาหลีก็ได้ครอบครองตำแหน่งพิเศษ อยู่ในบรรดานโยบายต่างๆของออสเตรเลีย เหล่าทหารของเราก็เคยได้สู้รบเคียงบ่าเคียงไหล่ ณ ที่นั้น กับเหล่าทหารเกาหลีและสหประชาชาติ ในการป้องกันเอกราชของชาตินั้น

นอกจากนั้นมิสเตอร์เคซี่ย์ยังได้แถลงอีกด้วยว่า ตั้งแต่วันที่ ๓๐ มีนาคมจนถึงวันที่ ๔ เมษายนนี้ จะได้มีการประชุมเหล่าหัวหน้าบรรดาสำนักการทูตของออสเตรเลียในเอเชียใต้และเอเชียอาคเณย์ ในสิงคโปร์

- - - - - - - - - - - - -

SYDNEY WOMAN BECOMES TRAINEE DIPLOMAT

หญิงสาวชาวนครซิดนี่ย์ได้เข้าเป็นนักฝึกงานการทูต

แคนเบอรา (เอไอเอส) เด็กสาวชาวนครซิดนี่ย์ผู้หนึ่ง ได้เป็นผู้หญิงคนแรกในระยะเวลาเจ็ดปี ที่ได้รับเลือกเข้ารับราชการฝ่ายการทูตของออสเตรเลีย

เธอคือมิสจิลเลียน แอนเดอร์สัน อายุ ๒๒ ปี แห่งวาห์รูนก้า นครซิดนี่ย์

มิสแอนเดอร์สันเป็นผู้หนึ่งในบรรดานักศึกษาที่จบจากมหาวิทยาลัยจำนวนแปดคน ที่ได้มีประกาศแต่งตั้งให้เข้าประจำอยู่ในกระทรวงการต่างประเทศ เมื่อสัปดาห์ที่แล้วนี้

๒/....

226

DEPARTMENT OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS,
CANBERRA.

2036/6
In reply quote No. 2032/17/5
Memorandum No. 2032/6

611

8th July, 1959.

The Australian Embassy,
BANGKOK.

COLOMBO PLAN AID TO NORTH EAST THAILAND

I refer to paragraph 2 of your memorandum No. 763 of 5th June, 1959 (your file 1/2/1).

2. We would be glad to consider assisting projects in the North East, as in other areas of Thailand. Possibilities which have occurred to us include more windmills, provided the windmill now being provided is successful, and stump jump ploughs for the settlement areas. The Minister is at present discussing with Mr. B.J. Callinan, Melbourne consulting engineer, a trip by him to some countries of South East Asia including possibly Thailand. We have in mind that Mr. Callinan might move around in rural areas and examine possible projects which would of course need to be supported by our missions and the Governments concerned. If Callinan's visit eventuates on the lines we at present envisage, you may be able to arrange for him to spend some time in the North East.

3. As regards development of a cattle industry in the North East we will forward to you when available a copy of the report by Colonel Rose (formerly Director of Animal Industry in the Northern Territory) who recently visited Laos in connection with a request by Laos for assistance in establishing a cattle industry there. If any similar experts subsequently visit the area, we could let you know in good time in case you wish to recommend that they also visit North East Thailand.

(G. N. Upton)
for the Secretary.

SEA to see
file 3010/10/6

225

3010/10/6 E

193

29th June, 1959.

The Australian Legation,
PHNOM PENH.

VISIT TO NORTH-EAST THAILAND BY MR. W.A. VAWDREY

I enclose, for your information, an extract from a Report on a recent tour of North-East Thailand, undertaken by Mr. W.A. Vawdrey, First Secretary of the Australian Embassy, Bangkok. The extract concerns a visit to the Khmer Temple of Kao Phra Viharn near the Thai-Cambodian border.

2. Mr. Vawdrey left Bangkok by Landrover Tuesday 26th May and returned on Sunday 31st May. He visited the Khmer Temple by jeep on 30th May.

(T. P. Quinn)
for the Secretary

Enc. 1

PTQ:MAC

→ to Sat/Bi 24

P: 3010/10/6

673/213

16th June, 1959.

BRIEFING FOR SERVICES ATTACHE DESIGNATE, BANGKOK.

MR. HEYDON
MR. EASTMAN
MR. QUINN
MR. LANDALE
MR. ANDERSON
MR. BORDER
MR. PRITCHETT
MR. HAMILTON

Capt. J.P. Stevenson, Services Attache Designate, Bangkok, will be in the Department on Thursday 25th June and Friday 26th June for briefing. It would be appreciated if you would indicate whether the following suggested programme is convenient and satisfactory.

Thursday 25th June

~~9.30 am. Mr. H.G. Gilchrist, Head I.C. Branch.~~
10.15 am. Mr. P.R. Heydon, A/S. Div. I. (Functions of Department; conditions at overseas posts; relationship with Head of Mission and colleagues etc.)

11.00 am. Mr. A.J. Eastman A/S. (Functions of Attaches; role in the joint intelligence structure).

2.00 pm. Mr. W.G.A. Landale, Head, C. & P. Branch. (Protocol and procedure)

2.45 pm. Mr. W.B. Pritchett, Head Admin. Branch, Mr. P. Sullivan, Property Officer, etc.

Friday 26th June

9.30 am. Mr. H.D. Anderson, Head, D.C. Branch.

10.15 am. Mr. L.H. Border, Head, M.T. Branch.

11.15 am. Mr. J.P. Quinn, Head, S. & S.E.A. Branch.

2.00 pm. Mr. R.N. Hamilton and Mr. P.G.F. Henderson, S.E.A. Section.

(H.G. Gilchrist)

AUSTRALIAN EMBASSY,
BANGKOK.

223

DEPARTMENT OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS
11 JUN 1959
3010/10/6
CANBERRA

In reply quote No. 1/2/1

Memorandum No. 763

5th June 1959

GR

The Secretary,
Department of External Affairs,
CANBERRA.

Visit to North-East - Report by Mr. Vawdrey

I attach an interesting report by Mr. W. A. Vawdrey on a recent trip to the North East of Thailand by Landrover. This is the second trip we have been able to make with this vehicle within a month of having it on the road in Bangkok and it has already demonstrated how essential it is if the Embassy is to study conditions outside Bangkok. This trip is one of a series which are designed to familiarise all officers of the Embassy, within their two-year tour of duty, with the principal regions of Thailand. These visits are of course essential to an understanding of the country but we have abundant evidence whenever we visit towns or villages where other members of the Embassy have gone, that they are greatly appreciated by the Thais.

2. I support Mr. Vawdrey's suggestion that we should endeavour to find a Colombo Plan project for North East Thailand. If the Department thought this should be followed up and there was some prospect of £15-20,000 being available, we could make a detailed study of what might be possible.

(J. K. Waller)
Ambassador

Copy circulated to Mr Henderson
" Quinn
I.C. Mr 7/7
E.R. 8 7/VI

GR.
→ Room 7

Copy to Property
E + TA (To hold)

F. 3010/10/6

Ref: 1/2/1 22

VISIT TO NORTHEAST THAILAND

Itinerary

I left Bangkok by Landrover on Tuesday, 26th May, drove to Korat (270 kms.), left next day for Roi-et (300 kms.) and drove to Ubol (170 kms.) on the following morning (28th May).

2. At Korat, Roi-et and Ubol (one night in each) I stayed, by arrangement with the Ministry of Public Health, at the hospitals, all of which have comfortable rest houses.

3. At 1330 hours on Friday, 29th May, I left Ubol by train and arrived at Sisaket at 1530 hours. I stayed by arrangement with the Ministry of Interior, with the Governor. Next day I visited (by Jeep) Khmer temple of Kao Phra Viharn, on the Cambodian border about 90 kms. from Sisaket.

4. I left that same evening by train for Bangkok, arriving at 0930 Sunday, 31st May.

5. The Landrover returned from Ubol by road.

Roads

6. The road from Bangkok to Korat is paved. Part of it was built recently with American aid (Friendship Highway). It was amusing to see several small teams of elephants striding along this fine new highway.

7. From Korat to Roi-et, the condition of the road varied from fair to fiendish. Near Korat and Roi-et, it was possible to travel in reasonable comfort over fairly even corrugations. At other times, the corrugations were sprinkled liberally with potholes, and it was decidedly uncomfortable.

8. Fortunately, there had been only enough rain to lay the dust. In the middle of the wet season, large sections of this road would have been nearly impassable and certainly rather hazardous at almost any speed.

9. The road from Roi-et to Ubol is unpaved, but not too badly corrugated and it was possible to make good time ($3\frac{1}{2}$ hours for the 170 kms.)

10. Opinions differ on whether it is possible to drive from Ubol to Sisaket (170 kms.) Anyone planning to do so should avoid the wet season, carry an axe and a crowbar to remove fallen trees, and use a jeep rather than a land-rover or passenger car.

11. From Sisaket to Kantalak (65 kms.), the road is fair (corrugated but not too badly so). From Kantalak, there is only a rough cart track to the foot of the mountain. Any vehicle other than a jeep would have difficulty in getting through. A good deal of rain had fallen in the previous week and there were stretches of water more than a foot deep at the foot of the mountain.

12. There are numerous bridges on all sections of the road between Bangkok and Ubol and Sisaket and Kao Phra Viharn. Most of them were small, and made of wood. In and near Ubol there are three or four impressive concrete bridges, including one in Ubol over the Moon River which is said to be the longest in Thailand.

13. Between Korat and Roi-et, where the road was at its worst, gangs of labourers were seen at frequent intervals filling pot-holes and wheel ruts with soil or gravel, using baskets and hand-tools. No mechanical equipment was seen, although between Roi-et and Ubol I saw a scraper and a steamroller.

14. The Director of the Hospital at Roi-et said that the Highways Department maintained some mechanical equipment at a few centres, and that there was one grader for every 300 kms. of road. The method of filling in deep pot-holes and corrugations with loose soil or gravel is largely ineffective. On the other hand, use of a grader alone would probably not be effective where the road

/surface ...

221

surface had been eroded by water.

15. There was not a great deal of traffic on the roads and what there was consisted mainly of buses carrying passengers or both passengers and freight. Within the limits set by the roads themselves, the North-East seems to be reasonably well served by a network of bus services. From Korat, there is a 20 minute service to Bangkok. Buses are loading in Roi-et throughout the entire day for services to other towns in the centre of the North-East.

16. I formed the opinion that the most pressing need for the development of the North-East, is the extension of the paved highway from Korat to Ubol, and probably Udorn (although I did not go that way) and the construction of good feeder roads to the smaller towns, notably Sisaket and (from what I was told) Surin. This opinion was confirmed by the Governors of Ubol and Sisaket (among others). The railway alone is not providing the stimulus to development in the North-East which might have been expected of it.

Agriculture

17. Between Bangkok and Ubol, rice cultivation is the main support of the people. Near Bangkok, where the soil is fertile and good rains had already fallen, ploughing was in an advanced stage. There seems to be very little spare land in this area.

18. Around Korat, the land is less closely settled and the soil is much less rich. Throughout the North-East, there are extensive areas of unused land, quite heavily wooded, and often very sandy. The soil is particularly poor in the province of Sisaket, one of the least prosperous areas in Thailand. Although even here there were no obvious signs of distress.

19. About 90 per cent of the rice grown from Roi-et onwards is of the glutinous type. The 1958/59 year was or should have been a relatively good one for the North-Eastern rice farmers. Export prices for glutinous rice were high, and the crop was sold without difficulty. The millers as usual fared much better than the farmers, despite the fact that the mills were working under capacity and the millers had to send their buyers out into the country to persuade the farmers to sell.

20. I was told that despite their relatively less prosperous circumstances, rice farmers in the North-East have been able to avoid falling into debt, at least to the extent of mortgaging their rice. About 75 per cent of the rice farmers sell direct to the millers. According to the mill manager I met, there is no forward buying by the millers.

21. Ploughing had not begun in the North-East and although some rain had fallen it was still too soon to form any opinion about prospects for the crop which will be planted during the next few months.

Hospitals

22. I was shown over the hospitals at Korat (270 beds, serving a local population of 40,000 and a district with 1 million), Roi-et (100 beds for a local population of 30,000) and Ubol (160 beds).

23. Buildings comprised in each case a modern brick and concrete administrative block, one or two wards of similar construction and several old wooden buildings (much cooler than the modern structures), with old style wooden houses for the staff.

24. None of the hospitals seemed to me to be over-abundantly supplied with equipment (although they all had X-ray plants), but all had large medical staffs (10 doctors in Korat, 7 in Roi-et for example).

25. At Korat there is a school of nursing (four-year course) and at Ubol there is a school of practical nursing (one or two-year course). I gained the impression that there were insufficient nurses with post-graduate training. On the other hand, the running of the hospitals is very much in the hands of the doctors, and for the time being, nurses with some forms of specialized training would probably be wasted.

/26. ...

26. In Korat, there was a special ward for opium addicts, some sent to the hospital by the Government (as part of the plan to abolish opium smoking). Hospitals are required to provide 10 or 12 beds for dealing with the addicts whose supplies are expected to be cut off. None of the doctors to whom I spoke seemed enthusiastic about the prospects of doing very much for these patients.

27. In Korat and Ubol, the wards were crowded and some patients slept on mats on the floor.

28. None of the hospitals seemed over clean, although none were conspicuously dirty. At Korat, failure to eliminate stagnant water from beneath one of the wards is quite inexcusable.

29. All three hospital directors complained of shortages of funds. Most of their patients receive free treatment: only a few can afford voluntary contributions. At both Korat and Roi-et, wealthy citizens had donated new buildings.

30. In the surgical wards, the majority of cases were being treated for stones in the bladder. At Ubol, 400 operations for this complaint are performed each year. The cause is believed to be a diet deficiency, possibly lack of proteins. At Ubol, the Director of the Hospital, in his twenty years of service there, has collected a vast collection of stones, some larger than cricket balls.

31. I noticed an X-ray plant and power plant at Roi-et which had been supplied under the American Aid Programme.

32. At each of the three hospitals, there was a Willys-Jeep ambulance, with very few fittings, used as a run-about as well as an ambulance. (Actually, the vehicle at Roi-et was in Bangkok for repairs).

33. I gained the impression that at the moment there is no effective ambulance service anywhere in the North-East. However, at Roi-et for example, the Director of the Hospital thought that a service would develop when it became known (a) that the hospital had a special vehicle for the purpose and (b) that it was prepared to use it on request.

34. The lack of communications probably means that the ambulances to be supplied by Australia will be used, for quite some time, almost exclusively in and around the towns. At Roi-et, the doctor in charge seemed to think that any vehicle at all would shake to pieces on the country roads (which are very bad in his area).

35. So far as I could tell, service facilities in all centres I visited were adequate for the care of our ambulances. Drivers also seemed capable (with the exception of the doctors in charge at Korat and Ubol, both of whom had expensive cars, and both of whom drove shockingly).

Schools

36. Possibly the feature which impressed me most of all, during the entire journey, was the number of schools and the high standard of school buildings. In Korat particularly, schools are prolific, but even in not very well populated country districts, I saw quite impressive wooden school buildings. There were also several large, modern teacher-training centres in the main centres. In Korat particularly, the school children were very well dressed, with blue shorts or skirts, white shirts or tunics, and neat tropical hats.

37. In the Province of Ubol there are 5,000 teachers, I was informed, for a total population of 1 million.

38. I visited a girl's junior and secondary school in Roi-et, just after closing time. There were signs of over-much concentration on subjects such as biology. The little I saw of the English teaching was far from encouraging. I left some information material there.

TUFEC (Ubol)

39. I had only a short time at the training centre at Ubol known as the Thai [illegible] Education Centre. The emphasis is on education and the

/object[illegible]

objective is to train district officials in ways and methods of inducing country people to help themselves, through community development schemes of various kinds. A new class (2-year course) had only just arrived, and the centre was more or less at rest.

40. I was shown over the farm where a most efficient looking well had been constructed for use with the windmill Australia is supplying under the Colombo Plan.

41. TUTEC has its uses, particularly in a country which is administratively rather backward, but at best its efforts will yield significant results only in the long term.

Korat (Nakornrajsima) - 40,000 people

42. Korat seemed prosperous, the shops were well stocked with in many cases a large variety of high quality goods (e.g. shoes, radios), restaurants looked reasonably clean, schools and school children abounded. On the other hand, there were a number of beggars about (from Sisaket and Surin I believe), and there is not much for the tourist to see (except at Pimai, 50 miles away, where there are Khmer ruins).

43. Outside Korat, there is a jute mill and a sugar factory run by the Government's National Economic Development Corporation. The jute bags are said to be of inferior quality (the Minister for Industries admitted this was so, on return from a visit to the area).

46. The Navy, the Army and the Air Force each have radio stations at Korat. There is a branch of the United States Information Service there, and a small detachment of JUSMAG.

47. The main hotel serves reasonably good food, but the rooms are said to be 'not too clean'.

48. The American Ground Water Survey operation (USOM activity) has a station at Korat.

Roi-et - 30,000 people(?)

48. Roi-et seems to be a much smaller place than Korat and the population, if in fact it numbers 30,000, is probably more widely spread.

49. The shops are not impressive, but there are one or two fairly old temples. The town was once encircled by a wall and a wide moat, and the remains of both are visible.

50. The hospital is the most impressive set of buildings. Water supply is derived from a nearby irrigation tank (capacity 2,100,000 cubic metres) and the town pump and tank were provided under American Aid.

51. There are a few small hotels in the town, none of them recommended. As a stopover, it is more attractive than any intermediary town (from Korat). Some of the best silk in the country is woven at Roi-et and I saw some five examples. It has also a reputation for breeding good horses.

Ubol

52. Ubol gives the impression of being quite a substantial town. It has few if any good buildings, but it seems clean and reasonably prosperous. The main hotel serves quite palatable European food.

53. The Provincial offices are old and badly in need of paint, and very crowded within.

54. There is an impressive concrete bridge over the Moon River (to the railway station on the opposite side to the main part of the town).

55. I saw the area set aside for the Annamite refugees, of whom there are about 4,000 in Ubol. They are said to be industrious and to do quite well for themselves.

56. The most impressive places ~~nearby~~ are TUFEC and the Teacher Training Centre nearby, and the Mental Hospital. The Teacher Training Centre was more ambitiously than soundly planned, and is not yet finished.

57. There is practically no industry in Ubol, or anywhere else after leaving Korat. There is a small laquer factory on the river, using resin obtained locally, which exports to the United States.

Sisaket

58. Although located in one of the poorest parts of Thailand, Sisaket is one of the prettiest towns I have seen. The streets are in good condition, usually made of an attractive brown gravel, and bordered with trees. There are no fine buildings, nothing in fact much better than the Governor's simple wooden two-storey house (where I stayed).

59. Although the people in this part are said to have an income on the average of only about 1,000 baht per year, there are no obvious signs of distress. Most of the younger men migrate to Bangkok (where they drive samlors, very often) once the rice is harvested.

60. The province is building up a reputation for its interest in community development activities (the Governor's work primarily). So far, little seems to have been accomplished. An area has been set aside for land settlement, and some improvements have been made in village sanitation.

61. I met an American who is drilling wells between Sisaket and Surin, as part of USOM's ground water exploration survey. He said that Sisaket compared most favourably with Puriram and Surin, where conditions are apparently much more depressed.

62. He seemed keenly interested in our experimental windmill for TUFEC and said that if it worked satisfactorily it may well fit in with USOM's well-digging programme. I suggested that he should get in touch with TUFEC in a few months.

63. I was shown an Agricultural School with quite a large farm attached to it. The headmaster seemed a capable person. I was told that the school has very little equipment for working the farm (watered from a nearby irrigation tank). This may be a suitable subject for Colombo Plan assistance. Possibly, the Canadian agriculturalist attached to TUFEC in Ubol could be induced to inspect the school and submit recommendations for items most urgently needed (within financial limits nominated beforehand, perhaps).

Kao Phra Vihern

64. One of the main objectives of the visit was to see the 1,000 year-old Khmer temple of Kao Phra Vihern, which has been and will probably continue to be for some time the subject of dispute between Thailand and Cambodia.

65. The Governor provided a Jeep and driver, and two district officials accompanied me. We left Sisaket at 0630 hours, drove to Kandalak and picked up another district official and a police officer, and then proceeded along a bush track which gradually ascended the mountain to a point a few hundred yards from the steps leading up to the temple.

66. We called at a border police post (about 300 men) at the foot of the mountain. This post was established about a year ago. It is adjacent to a small village which is now experiencing something of a minor boom.

67. The police were undergoing rifle practice on the mountain when we passed by.

68. There is a small police post at the top of the mountain a mile or more from the summit of the temple.

69. A telephone line connects the far point of the temple, on the cliff edge looking down and out onto Cambodia, with the police post near the foot of the temple. The Thai flag flys boldly in the breeze on the edge of the cliff (probably invisible to the inhabitants of the only Cambodian village in site Ban Pai, at least 20 miles away).

/70. ...

70. The temple has been built in four sections or stages. The first consists of a series of more than 200 steps (still in good condition) leading up to a typical Khmer gateway and gate-house. To the left of the steps is a side track leading to a magnificent swimming pool, cut deep into the mountain, and terraced downwards and inwards in rock ledges. The steps were originally flanked by pillars but most of these have toppled over.

71. The second stage is similar, but the gateway and associated rooms are more numerous and spacious.

72. There is a much smaller swimming pool to the left of the second flight of steps (possibly used by the head of the temple).

73. The third flight of steps is shorter and steeper than the others, and the building at the top more extensive again. On the pillars supporting the doorway into the central building, there are inscriptions etched into the stone.

74. The fourth flight of steps leads to the temple proper, which is built of massive stone, and surrounded by cloisters. Both the inner temple and the cloisters are in fair condition. There is a lot of fallen stone around the main temple, some of it beautifully carved.

75. A few yards from the far wall of the cloisters is the edge of the mountain, a declivity (I was told) of about 2000 feet, falling sheer to the plain. This forbidding and almost unscalable cliff face extends East and West well beyond the limits of sight.

76. I was told that prior to the establishment of the police post about a year ago, an official of the Fine Arts Department lived on the mountain and acted as a kind of caretaker. Apart from the police, there were a few monks living at the foot of the temple (near the police post). The Highways Department has built an attractive guest house not far from the temple

77. I can believe that before so much of it had fallen into ruin, Kao Phra Viharn was one of the most graceful and delicate examples of Khmer architecture. It is a little too far gone now to appeal a great deal to the average tourist, and is probably not worth travelling all the way from say Bangkok to see it when a visit to Anchor Wat could be arranged much more easily.

78. The most striking feature of Kao Viharn at present is probably its geographical position. No-one having seen the site could imagine for a moment that the border was intended to be anywhere else but along the edge of the cliff (which puts the temple within Thai territory). I doubt whether access to the site from Cambodian territory could be effected without first passing through Laos. In any case, Cambodian claims to the temple, whatever their legal merits, are surely bound to fail on strategic grounds if no other. In the same way, international control of the mountain seems out of the question.

79. Although the Governor, genuinely I think, professed little interest in the fuss over Kao Phra Viharn, district officials are keenly interested in the matter and ready to dispute any Cambodian claims. In particular, they are quick to correct any tendency to identify the Cambodians of today with the ancient Khm people who built the temple (and from whom the Thais obtained it, I was told by local officials, as part of a settlement following their conquest of the Khms).

80. For anyone planning to visit the temple in future, the only practicable course seems to be to call on the Governor for hospitality and transport. There is no Government guest house, I believe, and the Governor gave up his room so that I would have the convenience of a bathroom attached to the bedroom.

81. It may be possible during the dry season to drive from Ubol to the mountain and stay at the police post at the top. This would depend upon the state of the road at the time and the availability of a suitable vehicle. People who know the road from Ubol to Sisaket and who have had experience of driving along the track at the foot of and up the mountain seem to think that a Landrover would not be suitable.

82. From Sisaket to the temple takes about 4 hours. It is not difficult to do that trip both ways in one day but it would not be possible to drive from Ubol to the temple and back to Ubol (or Sisaket) in less than two days.

/83. ...

Personalities

83. By far the most impressive people I met on the trip were the Director of the Hospital at Roi-et (Dr. Chalard) and the Governor of Sisaket (Voravit Rangsiyothai).

84. The doctor was the most experienced in Western ways of anyone I met. He grew up in Ubol during the war, joined the Free Thais, trained in India and parachuted into North Thailand (or Laos?).

85. After finishing his medical course in Bangkok, he studied in the United States.

86. He seems keenly interested in the possibilities of area hospitals, with small clinics in the villages, and developing communications so that medical treatment can be made available when and where it is needed.

87. He and his wife (who is also a doctor at the hospital) seem to have built up a good team spirit, and their hospital is well spoken of elsewhere. By contrast, Drs. Nuam and Cholvit (Korat and Ubol) seemed to have settled down to the rather hum-drum life of country doctors, content with their lot but not interested a great deal in change of any kind.

88. Governor Voravit is a more colourful personality. He is big for a Thai has a happy disposition and an equally jolly wife.

89. I was made as welcome as I have ever been anywhere, but not unnecessarily fussed over.

90. On taking me up to my room, the Governor, who speaks very little English but understands a certain amount, went to a table in the hall, consulted what was clearly an English language text, and returned to the door to say "Please make yourself at home".

91. Both that evening and the next (before my train left), we talked a good deal with the help of two officials, one of whom spoke English fairly and the other (educated in Vietnam) French.

92. The Governor's main interest is the economic development of the province, and he is obviously frustrated by the fact that he has few facilities for doing anything but encourage the villagers in self-help development schemes.

93. He agreed that communications were the most important deficiency, in the area, but seemed concerned also about markets for new products.

94. He worked strongly on the American well-digger (Mr. Scott) to provide wells for the prison and hospital when he started work in Sisaket.

95. Realistically, perhaps, he was not hopeful about co-operatives as he foresaw little prospect of getting funds to start them.

96. I gained the impression that the Governor hoped my visit would lead to some practical help from Australia. I did not even discuss the possibility, taking refuge in the language difficulty when I saw the subject looming up on a couple of occasions. I believe we should do something in this area, under the Colombo Plan, on the grounds that the need is there and the Americans have not yet done much. Whatever we do is likely to command a good deal more public attention than aid provided for Bangkok, for example. (The hospital at Sisaket will of course receive one of our ambulances).

97. The Governor enquired about agricultural studies in Australia. He is hoping to send his son (17 years) there to take a University course in agriculture, with a view to entering the Ministry of Agriculture here. The son is keen to be a lawyer apparently, but as his father grew up on a rice farm near Ayuthia, parental pressure is in the direction of an agricultural career. Incidentally, all the district officials (and the Governor himself) seemed quite pleased about the rise from farmer's son to provincial governor.

98. I undertook to make enquiries about agricultural courses.

/99. ...

99. The Governor also expressed interest in visiting Australia. I think there might be some value in showing him something of our cattle industry, perhaps in association with senior members of the livestock department of the Ministry of Agriculture. Many people believe that the prospects for developing a suitable cattle industry in the North-East are good. A combination of effort by the central government and provincial officials will probably be necessary if any progress is to be made. A visit of this kind would be especially worthwhile, from a Colombo Plan point of view, if some form of follow-up assistance could be devised.

Conclusions

100. It is risky to attempt to sum up too conclusively after such a brief visit to such a large area, but from what I have read before hand, and from what I was told, some of which I had the opportunity of partially testing, my broad impression are as follows:

Economic

(a) In many parts of the North-East, particularly around Sisaket where the soil is very poor, the farmers make a bare subsistence living,

(b) any small comforts which they enjoy are derived from the earnings of the younger men, who obtain employment in Bangkok and other places between rice seasons,

(c) real hardship is avoided (with the possible exception of a few areas, notably Burirum, which I did not visit) primarily because there is enough land and water for even the poorest people to grow much of the food they require,

(d) even in a good year (good crop, high prices) the millers rather than the farmers receive the bulk of the higher returns,

(e) part of the incomes of the North-eastern farmers depend a good deal on general level of economic activity in Bangkok (particularly) and real h hardship could develop quickly if business conditions in Bangkok deteriorates greatly,

(f) considerable sums of Government money will have to be spent if any noticeable improvement is to be made in this area, particularly on roads (so that the prosperity of the central plain and Bangkok can be shared more easily by the North-East) and on irrigation and perhaps land clearance,

(g) Government assistance in substantial quantities is required for setting up of new industries, of which livestock production might well prove the most useful,

(h) neither the present state of the Thai budget, nor the irresponsibility of the Government in apportioning its revenues, present hopeful auguries for the future of the North-East.

(i) on the score of need, there is a strong case for foreign aid, and perhaps, because there is a genuine recognition in the area that help is required, foreign aid may yield better returns, in terms of goodwill, than usual.

Political

(j) the separatist tendencies which have been reported from this area in the past have largely if not entirely disappeared (the Governor in Ub who served until recently in Nongkai, obviously attached no importanc to the subject),

(k) provincial officials do not seem to be concerned about Communism except among Vietnamese refugees,

(l) there is widespread faith in the value of education (the Director of the Hospital at Korat said he would prefer to put an extra pound

/into ...

into education rather than into health services, because only the uneducated (poor) present a health problem.

Administration

(m) there is too much authority in Bangkok and too little scope for initiative at the provincial level. This may not be a disadvantage if officials at the centre were more competent and if financial control were better,

Other

(n) the road from Korat to Roi-et is only to be recommended to those who particularly wish to see this part of the country,

(o) the landrover performed well (the only mishaps were a burnt-out generator and one puncture) but the steel and glass cabin creates a terrific clatter on rough roads,

(p) to get the best results from such trips, an interpreter is required. In Korat, Roi-et and Ubol, the Directors of the Hospitals were invaluable in this respect, particularly at Ubol.

... A list of officials and others to whom I talked is attached.

(W. A. Vawdrey)
First Secretary.

The Australian Embassy,
BANGKOK.

4th June, 1959.

List of people Mr. Vawdrey has met during his trip to North-East Thailand :-

1. Dr. Nuam Settabutr,
   Director of Korat Hospital,
   KORAT.

2. Dr. Chalard,
   Director of Roi-Ed Hospital,
   ROI-ED.

3. Dr. Cholvit,
   Director of Ubol Hospital,
   UBOL.

4. Mr. Kamjad Patisuwan,
   Governor of Ubol Province,
   UBOL.

5. Economic Affairs Officer,
   UBOL.

6. Mr. Sia Huam,
   Ubol Rice Mill Co.,Ltd.
   UBOL.

7. Mr. Voravit Rangsiyotha,
   Governor.
   SRI-SAKET.

8. Mr. Svasdhi Promdireg,
   Chief of District of Sri-Saket,
   SRI-SAKET.

9. Mr. Sman Khuanming,
   Cadastral Service,
   Land Officer of District,
   SRI-SAKET.

10. Mr. Pramoon Chantrachamnong,
    Assistant of the District,
    SRI-SAKET.

11. Head-Master,
    Agricultural School,
    SRI-SAKET

12. Sub-Lt. Wirat,
    Border Police,
    Kao Phra Viharn,
    SRI-SAKET.

.../...

13. Police Capt. Chun,
Governor's Police,
ROI-ED

14. Mr. Heydon, Peputy-Director,
TUFEC
UBOL.

15. Mr. Bailey,
Canadian Colombo Plan Agriculturalist,
TUFEC
UBOL.

16. Mr. Scott,
USOM Deep Well Technician,
SRI-SAKET.

Ref: 1/2/1

VISIT TO NORTHEAST THAILAND

Itinerary

I left Bangkok by Landrover on Tuesday, 26th May, drove to Korat (270 kms.), left next day for Roi-et (300 kms.) and drove to Ubol (170 kms.) on the following morning (28th May).

2. At Korat, Roi-et and Ubol (one night in each) I stayed, by arrangement with the Ministry of Public Health, at the hospitals, all of which have comfortable rest houses.

3. At 1330 hours on Friday, 29th May, I left Ubol by train and arrived at Sisaket at 1530 hours. I stayed by arrangement with the Ministry of Interior, with the Governor. Next day I visited (by Jeep) Khmer temple of Kao Phra Viharn, on the Cambodian border about 90 kms. from Sisaket.

4. I left that same evening by train for Bangkok, arriving at 0930 Sunday, 31st May.

5. The Landrover returned from Ubol by road.

Roads

6. The road from Bangkok to Korat is paved. Part of it was built recently with American aid (Friendship Highway). It was amusing to see several small teams of elephants striding along this fine new highway.

7. From Korat to Roi-et, the condition of the road varied from fair to fiendish. Near Korat and Roi-et, it was possible to travel in reasonable comfort over fairly even corrugations. At other times, the corrugations were sprinkled liberally with potholes, and it was decidedly uncomfortable.

8. Fortunately, there had been only enough rain to lay the dust. In the middle of the wet season, large sections of this road would have been nearly impassable and certainly rather hazardous at almost any speed.

9. The road from Roi-et to Ubol is unpaved, but not too badly corrugated and it was possible to make good time (3½ hours for the 170 kms.)

10. Opinions differ on whether it is possible to drive from Ubol to Sisaket (170 kms.) Anyone planning to do so should avoid the wet season, carry an axe and a crowbar to remove fallen trees, and use a jeep rather than a landrover or passenger car.

11. From Sisaket to Kantalak (65 kms.), the road is fair (corrugated but not too badly so). From Kantalak, there is only a rough cart track to the foot of the mountain. Any vehicle other than a jeep would have difficulty in getting through. A good deal of rain had fallen in the previous week and there were stretches of water more than a foot deep at the foot of the mountain.

12. There are numerous bridges on all sections of the road between Bangkok and Ubol and Sisaket and Kao Phra Viharn. Most of them were small, and made of wood. In and near Ubol there are three or four impressive concrete bridges, including one in Ubol over the Moon River which is said to be the longest in Thailand.

13. Between Korat and Roi-et, where the road was at its worst, gangs of labourers were seen at frequent intervals filling pot-holes and wheel ruts with soil or gravel, using baskets and hand-tools. No mechanical equipment was seen, although between Roi-et and Ubol I saw a scraper and a steamroller.

14. The Director of the Hospital at Roi-et said that the Highways Department maintained some mechanical equipment at a few centres, and that there was one grader for every 300 kms. of road. The method of filling in deep pot-holes and corrugations with loose soil or gravel is largely ineffective. On the other hand, use of a grader alone would probably not be effective where the road

/surface ...

surface had been eroded by water.

15. There was not a great deal of traffic on the roads and what there was consisted mainly of buses carrying passengers or both passengers and freight. Within the limits set by the roads themselves, the North-East seems to be reasonably well served by a network of bus services. From Korat, there is a 20 minute service to Bangkok. Buses are loading in Roi-et throughout the entire day for services to other towns in the centre of the North-East.

16. I formed the opinion that the most pressing need for the development of the North-East, is the extension of the paved highway from Korat to Ubol, and probably Udorn (although I did not go that way) and the construction of good feeder roads to the smaller towns, notably Sisaket and (from what I was told) Surin. This opinion was confirmed by the Governors of Ubol and Sisaket (among others). The railway alone is not providing the stimulus to development in the North-East which might have been expected of it.

Agriculture

17. Between Bangkok and Ubol, rice cultivation is the main support of the people. Near Bangkok, where the soil is fertile and good rains had already fallen, ploughing was in an advanced stage. There seems to be very little spare land in this area.

18. Around Korat, the land is less closely settled and the soil is much less rich. Throughout the North-East, there are extensive areas of unused land, quite heavily wooded, and often very sandy. The soil is particularly poor in the province of Sisaket, one of the least prosperous areas in Thailand. Although even here there were no obvious signs of distress.

19. About 90 per cent of the rice grown from Roi-et onwards is of the glutinous type. The 1958/59 year was or should have been a relatively good one for the North-Eastern rice farmers. Export prices for glutinous rice were high, and the crop was sold without difficulty. The millers as usual fared much better than the farmers, despite the fact that the mills were working under capacity and the millers had to send their buyers out into the country to persuade the farmers to sell.

20. I was told that despite their relatively less prosperous circumstances, rice farmers in the North-East have been able to avoid falling into debt, at least to the extent of mortgaging their rice. About 75 per cent of the rice farmers sell direct to the millers. According to the mill manager I met, there is no forward buying by the millers.

21. Ploughing had not begun in the North-East and although some rain had fallen it was still too soon to form any opinion about prospects for the crop which will be planted during the next few months.

Hospitals

22. I was shown over the hospitals at Korat (270 beds, serving a local population of 40,000 and a district with 1 million), Roi-et (100 beds for a local population of 30,000) and Ubol (160 beds).

23. Buildings comprised in each case a modern brick and concrete administrative block, one or two wards of similar construction and several old wooden buildings (much cooler than the modern structures), with old style wooden houses for the staff.

24. None of the hospitals seemed to me to be over-abundantly supplied with equipment (although they all had X-ray plants), but all had large medical staffs (10 doctors in Korat, 7 in Roi-et for example).

25. At Korat there is a school of nursing (four-year course) and at Ubol there is a school of practical nursing (one or two-year course). I gained the impression that there were insufficient nurses with post-graduate training. On the other hand, the running of the hospitals is very much in the hands of the doctors, and for the time being, nurses with some forms of specialized training would probably be wasted.

/26. ...

209

26. In Korat, there was a special ward for opium addicts, some sent to the hospital by the Government (as part of the plan to abolish opium smoking). Hospitals are required to provide 10 or 12 beds for dealing with the addicts whose supplies are expected to be cut off. None of the doctors to whom I spoke seemed enthusiastic about the prospects of doing very much for these patients.

27. In Korat and Ubol, the wards were crowded and some patients slept on mats on the floor.

28. None of the hospitals seemed over clean, although none were conspicuously dirty. At Korat, failure to eliminate stagnant water from beneath one of the wards is quite inexcusable.

29. All three hospital directors complained of shortages of funds. Most of their patients receive free treatment: only a few can afford voluntary contributions. At both Korat and Roi-et, wealthy citizens had donated new buildings.

30. In the surgical wards, the majority of cases were being treated for stones in the bladder. At Ubol, 400 operations for this complaint are performed each year. The cause is believed to be a diet deficiency, possibly lack of proteins. At Ubol, the Director of the Hospital, in his twenty years of service there, has collected a vast collection of stones, some larger than cricket balls.

31. I noticed an X-ray plant and power plant at Roi-et which had been supplied under the American Aid Programme.

32. At each of the three hospitals, there was a Willys-Jeep ambulance, with very few fittings, used as a run-about as well as an ambulance. (Actually, the vehicle at Roi-et was in Bangkok for repairs).

33. I gained the impression that at the moment there is no effective ambulance service anywhere in the North-East. However, at Roi-et for example, the Director of the Hospital thought that a service would develop when it became known (a) that the hospital had a special vehicle for the purpose and (b) that it was prepared to use it on request.

34. The lack of communications probably means that the ambulances to be supplied by Australia will be used, for quite some time, almost exclusively in and around the towns. At Roi-et, the doctor in charge seemed to think that any vehicle at all would shake to pieces on the country roads (which are very bad in his area).

35. So far as I could tell, service facilities in all centres I visited were adequate for the care of our ambulances. Drivers also seemed capable (with the exception of the doctors in charge at Korat and Ubol, both of whom had expensive cars, and both of whom drove shockingly).

Schools

36. Possibly the feature which impressed me most of all, during the entire journey, was the number of schools and the high standard of school buildings. In Korat particularly, schools are prolific, but even in not very well populated country districts, I saw quite impressive wooden school buildings. There were also several large, modern teacher-training centres in the main centres. In Korat particularly, the school children were very well dressed, with blue shorts or skirts, white shirts or tunics, and neat tropical hats.

37. In the Province of Ubol there are 5,000 teachers, I was informed, for a total population of 1 million.

38. I visited a girl's junior and secondary school in Roi-et, just after closing time. There were signs of over-much concentration on subjects such as biology. The little I saw of the English teaching was far from encouraging. I left some information material there.

TUFEC (Ubol)

39. I had only a short time at the training centre at Ubol known as the Thai UNESCO Fundamental Education Centre. The emphasis is on education and the

/objective ...

objective is to train district officials in ways and methods of inducing country people to help themselves, through community development schemes of various kinds. A new class (2-year course) had only just arrived, and the centre was more or less at rest.

40. I was shown over the farm where a most efficient looking well had been constructed for use with the windmill Australia is supplying under the Colombo Plan.

41. TUFSD has its uses, particularly in a country which is administratively rather backward, but at best its efforts will yield significant results only in the long term.

Korat (Nakornrajsima) - 40,000 people

42. Korat seemed prosperous, the shops were well stocked with in many cases a large variety of high quality goods (e.g. shoes, radios), restaurants looked reasonably clean, schools and school children abounded. On the other hand, there were a number of beggars about (from Sisaket and Surin I believe), and there is not much for the tourist to see (except at Pimai, 50 miles away, where there are Kmer ruins).

43. Outside Korat, there is a jute mill and a sugar factory run by the Government's National Economic Development Corporation. The jute bags are said to be of inferior quality (the Minister for Industries admitted this was so, on return from a visit to the area).

46. The Navy, the Army and the Air Force each have radio stations at Korat. There is a branch of the United States Information Service there, and a small detachment of JUSMAG.

47. The main hotel serves reasonably good food, but the rooms are said to be 'not too clean'.

48. The American Ground Water Survey operation (USOM activity) has a station at Korat.

Roi-et - 30,000 people(?)

48. Roi-et seems to be a much smaller place than Korat and the population, if in fact it numbers 30,000, is probably more widely spread.

49. The shops are not impressive, but there are one or two fairly old temples. The town was once encircled by a wall and a wide moat, and the remains of both are visible.

50. The hospital is the most impressive set of buildings. Water supply is derived from a nearby irrigation tank (capacity 2,100,000 cubic metres) and the town pump and tank were provided under American Aid.

51. There are a few small hotels in the town, none of them recommended. As a stopover, it is more attractive than any intermediary town (from Korat). Some of the best silk in the country is woven at Roi-et and I saw some five examples. It has also a reputation for breeding good horses.

Ubol

52. Ubol gives the impression of being quite a substantial town. It has few if any good buildings, but it seems clean and reasonably prosperous. The main hotel serves quite palatable European food.

53. The Provincial offices are old and badly in need of paint, and very crowded within.

54. There is an impressive concrete bridge over the Moon River (to the railway station on the opposite side to the main part of the town).

55. I saw the area set aside for the Annamite refugees, of whom there are about 4,000 in Ubol. They are said to be industrious and to do quite well for themselves.

287

56. The most impressive places ~~nearby~~ are TUFEC and the Teacher Training Centre nearby, and the Mental Hospital. The Teacher Training Centre was more ambitiously than soundly planned, and is not yet finished.

57. There is practically no industry in Ubol, or anywhere else after leaving Korat. There is a small lacquer factory on the river, using resin obtained locally, which exports to the United States.

Sisaket

58. Although located in one of the poorest parts of Thailand, Sisaket is one of the prettiest towns I have seen. The streets are in good condition, usually made of an attractive brown gravel, and bordered with trees. There are no fine buildings, nothing in fact much better than the Governor's simple wooden two-storey house (where I stayed).

59. Although the people in this part are said to have an income on the average of only about 1,000 baht per year, there are no obvious signs of distress. Most of the younger men migrate to Bangkok (where they drive sampans, very often) once the rice is harvested.

60. The province is building up a reputation for its interest in community development activities (the Governor's work primarily). So far, little seems to have been accomplished. An area has been set aside for land settlement, and some improvements have been made in village sanitation.

61. I met an American who is drilling wells between Sisaket and Surin, as part of USOM's ground water exploration survey. He said that Sisaket compared most favourably with Buriram and Surin, where conditions are apparently much more depressed.

62. He seemed keenly interested in our experimental windmill for TUFEC and said that if it worked satisfactorily it may well fit in with USOM's well-digging programme. I suggested that he should get in touch with TUFEC in a few months.

63. I was shown an Agricultural School with quite a large farm attached to it. The headmaster seemed a capable person. I was told that the school has very little equipment for working the farm (watered from a nearby irrigation tank). This may be a suitable subject for Colombo Plan assistance. Possibly, the Canadian agriculturalist attached to TUFEC in Ubol could be induced to inspect the school and submit recommendations for items most urgently needed (within financial limits nominated beforehand, perhaps).

Kao Phra Vihern

64. One of the main objectives of the visit was to see the 1,000 year-old Khmer temple of Kao Phra Vihern, which has been and will probably continue to be for some time the subject of dispute between Thailand and Cambodia.

65. The Governor provided a Jeep and driver, and two district officials accompanied me. We left Sisaket at 0630 hours, drove to Kandalak and picked up another district official and a police officer, and then proceeded along a bush track which gradually ascended the mountain to a point a few hundred yards from the steps leading up to the temple.

66. We called at a border police post (about 300 men) at the foot of the mountain. This post was established about a year ago. It is adjacent to a small village which is now experiencing something of a minor boom.

67. The police were undergoing rifle practice on the mountain when we passed by.

68. There is a small police post at the top of the mountain a mile or more from the summit of the temple.

69. A telephone line connects the far point of the temple, on the cliff edge looking down and out onto Cambodia, with the police post near the foot of the temple. The Thai flag flys boldly in the breeze on the edge of the cliff (probably invisible to the inhabitants of the only Cambodian village in sight Ban Pai, at least 20 miles away).

/70. ...

70. The temple has been built in four sections or stages. The first consists of a series of more than 200 steps (still in good condition) leading up to a typical Khmer gateway and gate-house. To the left of the steps is a side track leading to a magnificent swimming pool, cut deep into the mountain, and terraced downwards and inwards in rock ledges. The steps were originally flanked by pillars but most of these have toppled over.

71. The second stage is similar, but the gateway and associated rooms are more numerous and spacious.

72. There is a much smaller swimming pool to the left of the second flight of steps (possibly used by the head of the temple).

73. The third flight of steps is shorter and steeper than the others, and the building at the top more extensive again. On the pillars supporting the doorway into the central building, there are inscriptions etched into the stone.

74. The fourth flight of steps leads to the temple proper, which is built of massive stone, and surrounded by cloisters. Both the inner temple and the cloisters are in fair condition. There is a lot of fallen stone around the main temple, some of it beautifully carved.

75. A few yards from the far wall of the cloisters is the edge of the mountain, a declivity (I was told) of about 2000 feet, falling sheer to the plain. This forbidding and almost unscalable cliff face extends East and West well beyond the limits of sight.

76. I was told that prior to the establishment of the police post about a year ago, an official of the Fine Arts Department lived on the mountain and acted as a kind of caretaker. Apart from the police, there were a few monks living at the foot of the temple (near the police post). The Highways Department has built an attractive guest house not far from the temple

77. I can believe that before so much of it had fallen into ruin, Kao Phra Viharn was one of the most graceful and delicate examples of Khmer architecture. It is a little too far gone now to appeal a great deal to the average tourist, and is probably not worth travelling all the way from say Bangkok to see it when a visit to Anchor Wat could be arranged much more easily.

78. The most striking feature of Kao Viharn at present is probably its geographical position. No-one having seen the site could imagine for a moment that the border was intended to be anywhere else but along the edge of the cliff (which puts the temple within Thai territory). I doubt whether access to the site from Cambodian territory could be effected without first passing through Laos. In any case, Cambodian claims to the temple, whatever their legal merits, are surely bound to fail on strategic grounds if no other. In the same way, international control of the mountain seems out of the question.

79. Although the Governor, genuinely I think, professed little interest in the fuss over Kao Phra Viharn, district officials are keenly interested in the matter and ready to dispute any Cambodian claims. In particular, they are quick to correct any tendency to identify the Cambodians of today with the ancient Khm people who built the temple (and from whom the Thais obtained it, I was told by local officials, as part of a settlement following their conquest of the Khms).

80. For anyone planning to visit the temple in future, the only practicable course seems to be to call on the Governor for hospitality and transport. There is no Government guest house, I believe, and the Governor gave up his room so that I would have the convenience of a bathroom attached to the bedroom.

81. It may be possible during the dry season to drive from Ubol to the mountain and stay at the police post at the top. This would depend upon the state of the road at the time and the availability of a suitable vehicle. People who know the road from Ubol to Sisaket and who have had experience of driving along the track at the foot of and up the mountain seem to think that a Landrover would not be suitable.

82. From Sisaket to the temple takes about 4 hours. It is not difficult to do that trip both ways in one day but it would not be possible to drive from Ubol to the temple and back to Ubol (or Sisaket) in less than two days.

/83. ...

Personalities

83. By far the most impressive people I met on the trip were the Director of the Hospital at Roi-et (Dr. Chalard) and the Governor of Sisaket (Voravit Rangsiyothai).

84. The doctor was the most experienced in Western ways of anyone I met. He grew up in Ubol during the war, joined the Free Thais, trained in India and parachuted into North Thailand (or Laos?).

85. After finishing his medical course in Bangkok, he studied in the United States.

86. He seems keenly interested in the possibilities of area hospitals, with small clinics in the villages, and developing communications so that medical treatment can be made available when and where it is needed.

87. He and his wife (who is also a doctor at the hospital) seems to have built up a good team spirit, and their hospital is well spoken of elsewhere. By contrast, Drs. Muan and Cholvit (Korat and Ubol) seemed to have settled down to the rather hum-drum life of country doctors, content with their lot but not interested a great deal in change of any kind.

88. Governor Voravit is a more colourful personality. He is big for a Thai has a happy disposition and an equally jolly wife.

89. I was made as welcome as I have ever been anywhere, but not unnecessarily fussed over.

90. On taking me up to my room, the Governor, who speaks very little English but understands a certain amount, went to a table in the hall, consulted what was clearly an English language text, and returned to the door to say "Please make yourself at home".

91. Both that evening and the next (before my train left), we talked a good deal with the help of two officials, one of whom spoke English fairly and the other (educated in Vietnam) French.

92. The Governor's main interest is the economic development of the province, and he is obviously frustrated by the fact that he has few facilities for doing anything but encourage the villagers in self-help development schemes.

93. He agreed that communications were the most important deficiency, in the area, but seemed concerned also about markets for new products.

94. He worked strongly on the American well-digger (Mr. Scott) to provide wells for the prison and hospital when he started work in Sisaket.

95. Realistically, perhaps, he was not hopeful about co-operatives as he foresaw little prospect of getting funds to start them.

96. I gained the impression that the Governor hoped my visit would lead to some practical help from Australia. I did not even discuss the possibility, taking refuge in the language difficulty when I saw the subject looming up on a couple of occasions. I believe we should do something in this area, under the Colombo Plan, on the grounds that the need is there and the Americans have not yet done much. Whatever we do is likely to command a good deal more public attention than aid provided for Bangkok, for example. (The hospital at Sisaket will of course receive one of our ambulances).

97. The Governor enquired about agricultural studies in Australia. He is hoping to send his son (17 years) there to take a University course in agriculture, with a view to entering the Ministry of Agriculture here. The son is keen to be a lawyer apparently, but as his father grew up on a rice farm near Ayuthia, parental pressure is in the direction of an agricultural career. Incidentally, all the district officials (and the Governor himself) seemed quite pleased about the rise from farmer's son to provincial governor.

98. I undertook to make enquiries about agricultural courses.

/99. ...

99. The Governor also expressed interest in visiting Australia. I think there might be some value in showing him something of our cattle industry, perhaps in association with senior members of the livestock department of the Ministry of Agriculture. Many people believe that the prospects for developing a suitable cattle industry in the North-East are good. A combination of effort by the central government and provincial officials will probably be necessary if any progress is to be made. A visit of this kind would be especially worthwhile, from a Colombo Plan point of view, if some form of follow-up assistance could be devised.

Conclusions

100. It is risky to attempt to sum up too conclusively after such a brief visit to such a large area, but from what I have read before hand, and from what I was told, some of which I had the opportunity of partially testing, my broad impression are as follows:

Economic

(a) In many parts of the North-East, particularly around Sisaket where the soil is very poor, the farmers make a bare subsistence living,

(b) any small comforts which they enjoy are derived from the earnings of the younger men, who obtain employment in Bangkok and other places between rice seasons,

(c) real hardship is avoided (with the possible exception of a few areas, notably Buriram, which I did not visit) primarily because there is enough land and water for even the poorest people to grow much of the food they require,

(d) even in a good year (good crop, high prices) the millers rather than the farmers receive the bulk of the higher returns,

(e) part of the incomes of the North-eastern farmers depend a good deal on general level of economic activity in Bangkok (particularly) and real hardship could develop quickly if business conditions in Bangkok deteriorates greatly,

(f) considerable sums of Government money will have to be spent if any noticeable improvement is to be made in this area, particularly on roads (so that the prosperity of the central plain and Bangkok can be shared more easily by the North-East) and on irrigation and perhaps land clearance,

(g) Government assistance in substantial quantities is required for setting up of new industries, of which livestock production might well prove the most useful,

(h) neither the present state of the Thai budget, nor the irresponsibility of the Government in apportioning its revenues, present hopeful auguries for the future of the North-East.

(i) on the score of need, there is a strong case for foreign aid, and perhaps, because there is a genuine recognition in the area that help is required, foreign aid may yield better returns, in terms of goodwill, than usual.

Political

(j) the separatist tendencies which have been reported from this area in the past have largely if not entirely disappeared (the Governor in Ubol who served until recently in Nongkai, obviously attached no importance to the subject),

(k) provincial officials do not seem to be concerned about Communism except among Vietnamese refugees,

(l) there is widespread faith in the value of education (the Director of the Hospital at Korat said he would prefer to put an extra pound

/into ...

into education rather than into health services, because only the uneducated (poor) present a health problem.

Administration

(m) there is too much authority in Bangkok and too little scope for initiative at the provincial level. This may not be a disadvantage if officials at the centre were more competent and if financial control were better,

Other

(n) the road from Korat to Roi-et is only to be recommended to those who, particularly wish to see this part of the country,

(o) the landrover performed well (the only mishaps were a burnt-out generator and one puncture) but the steel and glass cabin creates a terrific clatter on rough roads,

(p) to get the best results from such trips, an interpretor is required. In Korat, Roi-et and Ubol, the Directors of the Hospitals were invaluable in this respect, particularly at Ubol.

... A list of officials and others to whom I talked is attached.

(W. A. Vawdrey)
First Secretary.

The Australian Embassy,
BANGKOK.

4th June, 1959.

List of people Mr. Vawdrey has met during his trip to North-East Thailand :-

1. Dr. Nuam Settabutr,
   Director of Korat Hospital,
   KORAT.

2. Dr. Chalard,
   Director of Roi-Ed Hospital,
   ROI-ED.

3. Dr. Cholvit,
   Director of Ubol Hospital,
   UBOL.

4. Mr. Kamjad Patisuwan,
   Governor of Ubol Province,
   UBOL.

5. Economic Affairs Officer,
   UBOL.

6. Mr. Sia Huam,
   Ubol Rice Mill Co.,Ltd.
   UBOL.

7. Mr. Voravit Rangsiyotha,
   Governor.
   SRI-SAKET.

8. Mr. Svasdhi Promdireg,
   Chief of District of Sri-Saket,
   SRI-SAKET.

9. Mr. Sman Khuanming,
   Cadastral Service,
   Land Officer of District,
   SRI-SAKET.

10. Mr. Pramoon Chantrachamnong,
    Assistant of the District,
    SRI-SAKET.

11. Head-Master,
A   Agricultural School,
    SRI-SAKET

12. Sub-Lt. Wirat,
    Border Police,
    Kao Phra Viharn,
    SRI-SAKET.

.../...

13. Police Capt. Chun,
Governor's Police,
ROI-ED

14. Mr. Heydon, Peputy-Director,
TUFEC
UBOL.

15. Mr. Bailey,
Canadian Colombo Plan Agriculturalist,
TUFEC
UBOL.

16. Mr. Scott,
USOM Deep Well Technician,
SRI-SAKET.

Ref: 1/2/1

VISIT TO NORTHEAST THAILAND

Itinerary

I left Bangkok by Landrover on Tuesday, 26th May, drove to Korat (270 kms.), left next day for Roi-et (300 kms.) and drove to Ubol (170 kms.) on the following morning (28th May).

2. At Korat, Roi-et and Ubol (one night in each) I stayed, by arrangement with the Ministry of Public Health, at the hospitals, all of which have comfortable rest houses.

3. At 1330 hours on Friday, 29th May, I left Ubol by train and arrived at Sisaket at 1530 hours. I stayed by arrangement with the Ministry of Interior, with the Governor. Next day I visited (by Jeep) Khmer temple of Khao Phra Viharn, on the Cambodian border about 90 kms. from Sisaket.

4. I left that same evening by train for Bangkok, arriving at 0930 Sunday, 31st May.

5. The Landrover returned from Ubol by road.

Roads

6. The road from Bangkok to Korat is paved. Part of it was built recently with American aid (Friendship Highway). It was amusing to see several small teams of elephants striding along this fine new highway.

7. From Korat to Roi-et, the condition of the road varied from fair to fiendish. Near Korat and Roi-et, it was possible to travel in reasonable comfort over fairly even corrugations. At other times, the corrugations were sprinkled liberally with potholes, and it was decidedly uncomfortable.

8. Fortunately, there had been only enough rain to lay the dust. In the middle of the wet season, large sections of this road would have been nearly impassable and certainly rather hazardous at almost any speed.

9. The road from Roi-et to Ubol is unpaved, but not too badly corrugated and it was possible to make good time (3½ hours for the 170 kms.)

10. Opinions differ on whether it is possible to drive from Ubol to Sisaket (170 kms.) Anyone planning to do so should avoid the wet season, carry an axe and a crowbar to remove fallen trees, and use a jeep rather than a land-rover or passenger car.

11. From Sisaket to Kantalak (65 kms.), the road is fair (corrugated but not too badly so). From Kantalak, there is only a rough cart track to the foot of the mountain. Any vehicle other than a jeep would have difficulty in getting through. A good deal of rain had fallen in the previous week and there were stretches of water more than a foot deep at the foot of the mountain.

12. There are numerous bridges on all sections of the road between Bangkok and Ubol and Sisaket and Khao Phra Viharn. Most of them were small, and made of wood. In and near Ubol there are three or four impressive concrete bridges, including one in Ubol over the Moon River which is said to be the longest in Thailand.

13. Between Korat and Roi-et, where the road was at its worst, gangs of labourers were seen at frequent intervals filling pot-holes and wheel ruts with soil or gravel, using baskets and hand-tools. No mechanical equipment was seen, although between Roi-et and Ubol I saw a scraper and a steamroller.

14. The Director of the Hospital at Roi-et said that the Highways Department maintained some mechanical equipment at a few centres, and that there was one grader for every 300 kms. of road. The method of filling in deep pot-holes and corrugations with loose soil or gravel is largely ineffective. On the other hand, use of a grader alone would probably not be effective where the road

/surface ...

surface had been eroded by water.

15. There was not a great deal of traffic on the roads and what there was consisted mainly of buses carrying passengers or both passengers and freight. Within the limits set by the roads themselves, the North-East seems to be reasonably well served by a network of bus services. From Korat, there is a 20 minute service to Bangkok. Buses are leading in Roi-et throughout the entire day for services to other towns in the centre of the North-East.

16. I formed the opinion that the most pressing need for the development of the North-East, is the extension of the paved highway from Korat to Ubol, and probably Udorn (although I did not go that way) and the construction of good feeder roads to the smaller towns, notably Sisaket and (from what I was told) Surin. This opinion was confirmed by the Governors of Ubol and Sisaket (among others). The railway alone is not providing the stimulus to development in the North-East which might have been expected of it.

Agriculture

17. Between Bangkok and Ubol, rice cultivation is the main support of the people. Near Bangkok, where the soil is fertile and good rains had already fallen, ploughing was in an advanced stage. There seems to be very little spare land in this area.

18. Around Korat, the land is less closely settled and the soil is much less rich. Throughout the North-East, there are extensive areas of unused land, quite heavily wooded, and often very sandy. The soil is particularly poor in the province of Sisaket, one of the least prosperous areas in Thailand. Although even here there were no obvious signs of distress.

19. About 90 per cent of the rice grown from Roi-et onwards is of the glutinous type. The 1958/59 year was or should have been a relatively good one for the North-Eastern rice farmers. Export prices for glutinous rice were high, and the crop was sold without difficulty. The millers as usual fared much better than the farmers, despite the fact that the mills were working under capacity and the millers had to send their buyers out into the country to persuade the farmers to sell.

20. I was told that despite their relatively less prosperous circumstances, rice farmers in the North-East have been able to avoid falling into debt, at least to the extent of mortgaging their rice. About 75 per cent of the rice farmers sell direct to the millers. According to the mill manager I met, there is no forward buying by the millers.

21. Ploughing had not begun in the North-East and although some rain had fallen it was still too soon to form any opinion about prospects for the crop which will be planted during the next few months.

Hospitals

22. I was shown over the hospitals at Korat (270 beds, serving a local population of 40,000 and a district with 1 million), Roi-et (100 beds for a local population of 30,000) and Ubol (160 beds).

23. Buildings comprised in each case a modern brick and concrete administrative block, one or two wards of similar construction and several old wooden buildings (much cooler than the modern structures), with old style wooden houses for the staff.

24. None of the hospitals seemed to me to be over-abundantly supplied with equipment (although they all had X-ray plants), but all had large medical staffs (10 doctors in Korat, 7 in Roi-et for example).

25. At Korat there is a school of nursing (four-year course) and at Ubol there is a school of practical nursing (one or two-year course). I gained the impression that there were insufficient nurses with post-graduate training. On the other hand, the running of the hospitals is very much in the hands of the doctors, and for the time being, nurses with some forms of specialised training would probably be wasted.

/26. ...

26. In Korat, there was a special ward for opium addicts, some sent to the hospital by the Government (as part of the plan to abolish opium smoking). Hospitals are required to provide 10 or 12 beds for dealing with the addicts whose supplies are expected to be cut off. None of the doctors to whom I spoke seemed enthusiastic about the prospects of doing very much for these patients.

27. In Korat and Ubol, the wards were crowded and some patients slept on mats on the floor.

28. None of the hospitals seemed over clean, although some were conspicuously dirty. At Korat, failure to eliminate stagnant water from beneath one of the wards is quite inexcusable.

29. All three hospital directors complained of shortages of funds. Most of their patients receive free treatment: only a few can afford voluntary contributions. At both Korat and Roi-et, wealthy citizens had donated new buildings.

30. In the surgical wards, the majority of cases were being treated for stones in the bladder. At Ubol, 400 operations for this complaint are performed each year. The cause is believed to be a diet deficiency, possibly lack of proteins. At Ubol, the Director of the Hospital, in his twenty years of service there, has collected a vast collection of stones, some larger than cricket balls.

31. I noticed an X-ray plant and power plant at Roi-et which had been supplied under the American Aid Programme.

32. At each of the three hospitals, there was a Willys-Jeep ambulance, with very few fittings, used as a run-about as well as an ambulance. (Actually, the vehicle at Roi-et was in Bangkok for repairs).

33. I gained the impression that at the moment there is no effective ambulance service anywhere in the North-East. However, at Roi-et for example, the Director of the Hospital thought that a service would develop when it became known (a) that the hospital had a special vehicle for the purpose and (b) that it was prepared to use it on request.

34. The lack of communications probably means that the ambulances to be supplied by Australia will be used, for quite some time, almost exclusively in and around the towns. At Roi-et, the doctor in charge seemed to think that any vehicle at all would shake to pieces on the country roads (which are very bad in his area).

35. So far as I could tell, service facilities in all centres I visited were adequate for the care of our ambulances. Drivers also seemed capable (with the exception of the doctors in charge at Korat and Ubol, both of whom had expensive cars, and both of whom drove shockingly).

Schools

36. Possibly the feature which impressed me most of all, during the entire journey, was the number of schools and the high standard of school buildings. In Korat particularly, schools are prolific, but even in not very well populated country districts, I saw quite impressive wooden school buildings. There were also several large, modern teacher-training centres in the main centres. In Korat particularly, the school children were very well dressed, with blue shorts or skirts, white shirts or tunics, and neat tropical hats.

37. In the Province of Ubol there are 5,000 teachers, I was informed, for a total population of 1 million.

38. I visited a girl's junior and secondary school in Roi-et, just after closing time. There were signs of over-much concentration on subjects such as biology. The little I saw of the English teaching was far from encouraging. I left some information material there.

UNESCO (Ubol)

39. I had only a short time at the training centre at Ubol known as the Thai UNESCO Fundamental Education Centre. The emphasis is on education and the

/objective

objective is to train district officials in ways and methods of inducing country people to help themselves, through community development schemes of various kinds. A new class (2-year course) had only just arrived, and the centre was more or less at rest.

40. I was shown over the farm where a most efficient looking well had been constructed for use with the windmill Australia is supplying under the Colombo Plan.

41. TUNED has its uses, particularly in a country which is administratively rather backward, but at best its efforts will yield significant results only in the long term.

Korat (Nakornrajsima) - 40,000 people

42. Korat seemed prosperous, the shops were well stocked with in many cases a large variety of high quality goods (e.g. shoes, radios), restaurants looked reasonably clean, schools and school children abounded. On the other hand, there were a number of beggars about (from Sisaket and Surin I believe), and there is not much for the tourist to see (except at Pimai, 50 miles away, where there are Khmer ruins).

43. Outside Korat, there is a jute mill and a sugar factory run by the Government's National Economic Development Corporation. The jute bags are said to be of inferior quality (the Minister for Industries admitted this was so, on return from a visit to the area).

46. The Navy, the Army and the Air Force each have radio stations at Korat. There is a branch of the United States Information Service there, and a small detachment of JUSMAG.

47. The main hotel serves reasonably good food, but the rooms are said to be 'not too clean'.

48. The American Ground Water Survey operation (USOM activity) has a station at Korat.

Roi-et - 30,000 people(?)

48. Roi-et seems to be a much smaller place than Korat and the population, if in fact it numbers 30,000, is probably more widely spread.

49. The shops are not impressive, but there are one or two fairly old temples. The town was once encircled by a wall and a wide moat, and the remains of both are visible.

50. The hospital is the most impressive set of buildings. Water supply is derived from a nearby irrigation tank (capacity 2,100,000 cubic metres) and the town pump and tank were provided under American Aid.

51. There are a few small hotels in the town, none of them recommended. As a stopover, it is more attractive than any intermediary town (from Korat). Some of the best silk in the country is woven at Roi-et and I saw some five examples. It has also a reputation for breeding good horses.

Ubol

52. Ubol gives the impression of being quite a substantial town. It has few if any good buildings, but it seems clean and reasonably prosperous. The main hotel serves quite palatable European food.

53. The Provincial offices are old and badly in need of paint, and very crowded within.

54. There is an impressive concrete bridge over the Mun River (to the railway station on the opposite side to the main part of the town).

55. I saw the area set aside for the Annamite refugees, of whom there are about 4,000 in Ubol. They are said to be industrious and to do quite well for themselves.

56. The most impressive places ~~nearby~~ are TUFEC and the Teacher Training Centre nearby, and the Mental Hospital. The Teacher Training Centre was more ambitiously than soundly planned, and is not yet finished.

57. There is practically no industry in Ubol, or anywhere else after leaving Korat. There is a small lacquer factory on the river, using resin obtained locally, which exports to the United States.

Sisaket

58. Although located in one of the poorest parts of Thailand, Sisaket is one of the prettiest towns I have seen. The streets are in good condition, usually made of an attractive brown gravel, and bordered with trees. There are no fine buildings, nothing in fact much better than the Governor's simple wooden two-storey house (where I stayed).

59. Although the people in this part are said to have an income on the average of only about 1,000 baht per year, there are no obvious signs of distress. Most of the younger men migrate to Bangkok (where they drive samlors, very often) once the rice is harvested.

60. The province is building up a reputation for its interest in community development activities (the Governor's work primarily). So far, little seems to have been accomplished. An area has been set aside for land settlement, and some improvements have been made in village sanitation.

61. I met an American who is drilling wells between Sisaket and Surin, as part of USOM's ground water exploration survey. He said that Sisaket compared most favourably with Buriram and Surin, where conditions are apparently much more depressed.

62. He seemed keenly interested in our experimental windmill for TUFEC and said that if it worked satisfactorily it may well fit in with USOM's well-digging programme. I suggested that he should get in touch with TUFEC in a few months.

63. I was shown an Agricultural School with quite a large farm attached to it. The headmaster seemed a capable person. I was told that the school has very little equipment for working the farm (watered from a nearby irrigation tank). This may be a suitable subject for Colombo Plan assistance. Possibly, the Canadian agriculturalist attached to TUFEC in Ubol could be induced to inspect the school and submit recommendations for items most urgently needed (within financial limits nominated beforehand, perhaps).

Khao Phra Viharn

64. One of the main objectives of the visit was to see the 1,000 year-old Khmer temple of Khao Phra Viharn, which has been and will probably continue to be for some time the subject of dispute between Thailand and Cambodia.

65. The Governor provided a Jeep and driver, and two district officials accompanied me. We left Sisaket at 0630 hours, drove to Kandalak and picked up another district official and a police officer, and then proceeded along a bush track which gradually ascended the mountain to a point a few hundred yards from the steps leading up to the temple.

66. We called at a border police post (about 300 men) at the foot of the mountain. This post was established about a year ago. It is adjacent to a small village which is now experiencing something of a minor boom.

67. The police were undergoing rifle practice on the mountain when we passed by.

68. There is a small police post at the top of the mountain a mile or more from the summit of the temple.

69. A telephone line connects the far point of the temple, on the cliff edge looking down and out onto Cambodia, with the police post near the foot of the temple. The Thai flag flys boldly in the breeze on the edge of the cliff (probably invisible to the inhabitants of the only Cambodian village in site Ban Pai, at least 20 miles away).

/70. ...

70. The temple has been built in four sections or stages. The first consists of a series of more than 200 steps (still in good condition) leading up to a typical Khmer gateway and gate-house. To the left of the steps is a side track leading to a magnificent swimming pool, cut deep into the mountain, and terraced downwards and inwards in rock ledges. The steps were originally flanked by pillars but most of these have toppled over.

71. The second stage is similar, but the gateway and associated rooms are more numerous and spacious.

72. There is a much smaller swimming pool to the left of the second flight of steps (possibly used by the head of the temple).

73. The third flight of steps is shorter and steeper than the others, and the building at the top more extensive again. On the pillars supporting the doorway into the central building, there are inscriptions etched into the stone.

74. The fourth flight of steps leads to the temple proper, which is built of massive stone, and surrounded by cloisters. Both the inner temple and the cloisters are in fair condition. There is a lot of fallen stone around the main temple, some of it beautifully carved.

75. A few yards from the far wall of the cloisters is the edge of the mountain, a declivity (I was told) of about 2000 feet, falling sheer to the plain. This forbidding and almost unscalable cliff face extends East and West well beyond the limits of sight.

76. I was told that prior to the establishment of the police post about a year ago, an official of the Fine Arts Department lived on the mountain and acted as a kind of caretaker. Apart from the police, there were a few monks living at the foot of the temple (near the police post). The Highways Department has built an attractive guest house not far from the temple

77. I can believe that before so much of it had fallen into ruin, Khao Phra Viharn was one of the most graceful and delicate examples of Khmer architecture. It is a little too far gone now to appeal a great deal to the average tourist, and is probably not worth travelling all the way from say Bangkok to see it when a visit to Angkor Wat could be arranged much more easily.

78. The most striking feature of Khao Viharn at present is probably its geographical position. No-one having seen the site could imagine for a moment that the border was intended to be anywhere else but along the edge of the cliff (which puts the temple within Thai territory). I doubt whether access to the site from Cambodian territory could be effected without first passing through Laos. In any case, Cambodian claims to the temple, whatever their legal merits, are surely bound to fail on strategic grounds if no other. In the same way, international control of the mountain seems out of the question.

79. Although the Governor, genuinely I think, professed little interest in the fuss over Khao Phra Viharn, district officials are keenly interested in the matter and ready to dispute any Cambodian claims. In particular, they are quick to correct any tendency to identify the Cambodians of today with the ancient Khmer people who built the temple (and from whom the Thais obtained it, I was told by local officials, as part of a settlement following their conquest of the Khmers).

80. For anyone planning to visit the temple in future, the only practicable course seems to be to call on the Governor for hospitality and transport. There is no Government guest house, I believe, and the Governor gave up his room so that I would have the convenience of a bathroom attached to the bedroom.

81. It may be possible during the dry season to drive from Ubol to the mountain and stay at the police post at the top. This would depend upon the state of the road at the time and the availability of a suitable vehicle. People who know the road from Ubol to Sisaket and who have had experience of driving along the track at the foot of and up the mountain seem to think that a Landrover would not be suitable.

82. From Sisaket to the temple takes about 4 hours. It is not difficult to do that trip both ways in one day but it would not be possible to drive from Ubol to the temple and back to Ubol (or Sisaket) in less than two days.

/83. ...

Personalities

83. By far the most impressive people I met on the trip were the Director of the Hospital at Roi-et (Dr. Chalard) and the Governor of Sisaket (Veravit Rangsiyothai).

84. The doctor was the most experienced in Western ways of anyone I met. He grew up in Ubol during the war, joined the Free Thais, trained in India and parachuted into North Thailand (or Laos?).

85. After finishing his medical course in Bangkok, he studied in the United States.

86. He seems keenly interested in the possibilities of area hospitals, with small clinics in the villages, and developing communications so that medical treatment can be made available when and where it is needed.

87. He and his wife (who is also a doctor at the hospital) seems to have built up a good team spirit, and their hospital is well spoken of elsewhere. By contrast, Drs. Nuan and Cholvit (Korat and Ubol) seemed to have settled down to the rather hum-drum life of country doctors, content with their lot but not interested a great deal in change of any kind.

88. Governor Veravit is a more colourful personality. He is big for a Thai has a happy disposition and an equally jolly wife.

89. I was made as welcome as I have ever been anywhere, but not unnecessarily fussed over.

90. On taking me up to my room, the Governor, who speaks very little English but understands a certain amount, went to a table in the hall, consulted what was clearly an English language text, and returned to the door to say "Please make yourself at home".

91. Both that evening and the next (before my train left), we talked a good deal with the help of two officials, one of whom spoke English fairly and the other (educated in Vietnam) French.

92. The Governor's main interest is the economic development of the province, and he is obviously frustrated by the fact that he has few facilities for doing anything but encourage the villagers in self-help development schemes.

93. He agreed that communications were the most important deficiency, in the area, but seemed concerned also about markets for new products.

94. He worked strongly on the American well-digger (Mr. Scott) to provide wells for the prison and hospital when he started work in Sisaket.

95. Realistically, perhaps, he was not hopeful about co-operatives as he foresaw little prospect of getting funds to start them.

96. I gained the impression that the Governor hoped my visit would lead to some practical help from Australia. I did not even discuss the possibility, taking refuge in the language difficulty when I saw the subject looming up on a couple of occasions. I believe we should do something in this area, under the Colombo Plan, on the grounds that the need is there and the Americans have not yet done much. Whatever we do is likely to command a good deal more public attention than aid provided for Bangkok, for example. (The hospital at Sisaket will of course receive one of our ambulances).

97. The Governor enquired about agricultural studies in Australia. He is hoping to send his son (17 years) there to take a University course in agriculture, with a view to entering the Ministry of Agriculture here. The son is keen to be a lawyer apparently, but as his father grew up on a rice farm near Ayuthia, parental pressure is in the direction of an agricultural career. Incidentally, all the district officials (and the Governor himself) seemed quite pleased about the rise from farmer's son to provincial governor.

98. I undertook to make enquiries about agricultural courses.

/99. ...

193

99. The Governor also expressed interest in visiting Australia. I think there might be some value in showing him something of our cattle industry, perhaps in association with senior members of the livestock department of the Ministry of Agriculture. Many people believe that the prospects for developing a suitable cattle industry in the North-East are good. A combination of effort by the central government and provincial officials will probably be necessary if any progress is to be made. A visit of this kind would be especially worthwhile, from a Colombo Plan point of view, if some form of follow-up assistance could be devised.

Conclusions

100. It is risky to attempt to sum up too conclusively after such a brief visit to such a large area, but from what I have read before hand, and from what I was told, most of which I had the opportunity of partially testing, my broad impression are as follows:

Economic

(a) In many parts of the North-East, particularly around Sisaket where the soil is very poor, the farmers make a bare subsistence living,

(b) any small comforts which they enjoy are derived from the earnings of the younger men, who obtain employment in Bangkok and other places between rice seasons,

(c) real hardship is avoided (with the possible exception of a few areas, notably Buriram, which I did not visit) primarily because there is enough land and water for even the poorest people to grow much of the food they require,

(d) even in a good year (good crop, high prices) the millers rather than the farmers receive the bulk of the higher returns,

(e) part of the incomes of the North-eastern farmers depend a good deal on general level of economic activity in Bangkok (particularly) and real hardship could develop quickly if business conditions in Bangkok deteriorated greatly,

(f) considerable sums of Government money will have to be spent if any noticeable improvement is to be made in this area, particularly on roads (so that the prosperity of the central plain and Bangkok can be shared more easily by the North-East) and on irrigation and perhaps land clearance,

(g) Government assistance in substantial quantities is required for setting up of new industries, of which livestock production might well prove the most useful,

(h) neither the present state of the Thai budget, nor the irresponsibility of the Government in apportioning its revenues, present hopeful auguries for the future of the North-East.

(i) on the score of need, there is a strong case for foreign aid, and perhaps, because there is a genuine recognition in the area that help is required, foreign aid may yield better returns, in terms of goodwill, than usual.

Political

(j) the separatist tendencies which have been reported from this area in the past have largely if not entirely disappeared (the Governor in Ubol who served until recently in Nongkai, obviously attached no importance to the subject),

(k) provincial officials do not seem to be concerned about Communism except among Vietnamese refugees,

(l) there is widespread faith in the value of education (the Director of the Hospital at Korat said he would prefer to put an extra pound

/into ...

192

into education rather than into health services, because only the uneducated (poor) present a health problem.

Administration

(m) there is too much authority in Bangkok and too little scope for initiative at the provincial level. This may not be a disadvantage if officials at the centre were more competent and if financial control were better,

Other

(n) the road from Korat to Roi-et is only to be recommended to those who particularly wish to see this part of the country,

(o) the landrover performed well (the only mishaps were a burnt-out generator and one puncture) but the steel and glass cabin creates a terrific clatter on rough roads,

(p) to get the best results from such trips, an interpreter is required. In Korat, Roi-et and Ubol, the Directors of the Hospitals were invaluable in this respect, particularly at Ubol.

... A list of officials and others to whom I talked is attached.

(W. A. Vawdrey)
First Secretary.

The Australian Embassy,
BANGKOK.

4th June, 1959.

List of people Mr. Vawdrey has met during his trip to North-East Thailand :-

1. Dr. Nuam Settabutr,
   Director of Korat Hospital,
   KORAT.

2. Dr. Chalard,
   Director of Roi-Ed Hospital,
   ROI-ED.

3. Dr. Cholvit,
   Director of Ubol Hospital,
   UBOL.

4. Mr. Kamjad Patisuwan,
   Governor of Ubol Province,
   UBOL.

5. Economic Affairs Officer,
   UBOL.

6. Mr. Sia Huam,
   Ubol Rice Mill Co.,Ltd.
   UBOL.

7. Mr. Voravit Rangsiyotha,
   Governor.
   SRI-SAKET.

8. Mr. Svasdhi Promdireg,
   Chief of District of Sri-Saket,
   SRI-SAKET.

9. Mr. Sman Khuanming,
   Cadastral Service,
   Land Officer of District,
   SRI-SAKET.

10. Mr. Pramoon Chantrachamnong,
    Assistant of the District,
    SRI-SAKET.

11. Head-Master,
A   Agricultural School,
    SRI-SAKET

12. Sub-Lt. Wirat,
    Border Police,
    Kao Phra Viharn,
    SRI-SAKET.

.../...

190

13. Police Capt. Chun,
Governor's Police,
ROI-ED

14. Mr. Heydon, Peputy-Director,
TUFEC,
UBOL.

15. Mr. Bailey,
Canadian Colombo Plan Agriculturalist,
TUFEC
UBOL.

16. Mr. Scott,
USOM Deep Well Technician,
SRI-SAKET.

189

AUSTRALIAN EMBASSY,
BANGKOK.

30/10/10/6

In reply quote No. 1/2/2

Memorandum No. 620

8th May 1959

Cabinet Attachment
Mr. Quinn
E.R.
Information
I.C. (for J.I.B?)
Mc. 19.5.59.

The Secretary,
Department of External Affairs,
CANBERRA.

Visit to Ranong

On 29th April, I paid an official visit to Ranong, one of the principal towns on the Isthmus and a busy tin mining centre in which there are five Australian families. My wife and I travelled by air, a proceeding which some of our Bangkok friends had warned us was hazardous in the extreme but which in the event proved to be both interesting and comfortable.

2. We were met on arrival by the Commercial Counsellor, Mr. L. C. Holmes, who had travelled to Ranong by car, by the provincial Governor and his officials and by members of the local Australian community. This was the first visit the community had had for at least nine years and they were unfeignedly glad to see us. We inspected the various mine workings, dredges, workshops etc. and made a brief visit by launch to Victoria Point, a somewhat derelict reminder of the British Raj at the southernmost point of Burma.

3. Ranong seemed prosperous, with a larger percentage than usual of Chinese, Indian and Malay residents. It had the usual quota of schools, administrative offices etc. which typify Thai provincial towns, all well maintained, more particularly so as the King had only recently paid his first State visit to Ranong. The Governor claimed that in spite of its small population and large jungle areas, Ranong was one of the richest provinces, largely owing to rubber production. It is also a busy fishing centre and fish packed in ice is sent by truck to Bangkok where I was told it fetches Tcs. 3,000 per truck load. Giant prawns are also being exported to America. The state of the tin industry is described in Mr. Holmes' report of which I attach a copy. Like all southern towns, it is curiously remote from Bangkok, looking to Penang and Malaya rather than to Central Thailand.

4. On 1st May we travelled by road as far as Hua Hin. The road winds through attractive hilly but sparsely populated jungle up the estuary and across the Isthmus to Chumporn on the east coast. It is well engineered with modern concrete bridges, all of which have been completed with the exception of one a few kilometres from Ranong. The last twenty miles west of Chumporn are sealed. The remainder is a solid laterite road which with reasonable maintenance should permit easy travel in all weathers. From Chumporn to Prachuab Kirikan, there is a wide laterite road running through level country between the central hills of the Isthmus and the coast of the Gulf of Siam. Although unsealed we had no difficulty in travelling on this road at 60 or 70 m.p.h. The bridges here are all primitive wooden affairs generally wide enough for only one vehicle at a time and mostly in indifferent repair, although maintenance work was going on. From Prachuab to Pranburi, the road is being re-gravelled and was therefore somewhat rough. From there to Bangkok, the road is sealed and in good condition with wide concrete bridges throughout.

(J. K. Waller)
Ambassador

ER

3010/10/6 188

DEPARTMENT OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS

CONFIDENTIAL

INWARD CABLEGRAM.

..:JD. I.7528.

FROM: Sent: 30th April, 1959. 1158.

Australian Embassy, BANGKOK. Recd: 30th April, 1959. 1525.

197. CONFIDENTIAL.

For D.M.I.

Reference my telegram 185. Advice required urgently as Aitken due to depart Bangkok 1st May if to attend conference.

ARMY
E.A.
DEFENCE
P.M.'S.

1st May, 1959.

SEC A/Ss MR.EASTMAN PAC&AM EA S&SEA SEA DL INTELL ADMIN PERS INV TRAV

HONG KONG

DEPARTMENT OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS.

INWARD CABLEGRAM.

187

:HC

I.6055

Dated: 7th April, 1959.
1810
Rec'd: 8th April, 1959.
0830

F 3010/10/6

FROM:

Australian Embassy,
BANGKOK.

169. UNCLASSIFIED.

Wilson and family arrived 11.30 a.m. 7th April.

E.A.

8th April, 1959.

SEC A/Ss LA S&SEA SEA INF C&P ADMIN@ PERS
PROP FIN INV TRAV EX.COMMS

3010/10/6

186

DEPARTMENT OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS.

INWARD SAVINGRAM. CONFIDENTIAL

BC: I.4745

Dated: 14th March, 1959

Rec'd: 17th March, 1959

FROM:

Austra lian Embassy,
BANGKOK

SAV. 4 CONFIDENTIAL

CAMBODIA

During S.E.A.T.O. Exercise "Air Progress" two Thai "Hellcat" fighters returning from the U B.O.L. Region apparently lost their bearings, flew until their fuel was exhausted and finally crashed near Battambang in Cambodia. Pilots were hospitalised by Cambodians who reported accident to Bangkok. Thais feared at first that Cambodia might attempt to make fresh trouble about the accident and link it with Dap Ghhoun. However, after brief initial press reports the matter has dropped from the news and Thais now assume Cambodians do not wish to make capital out of what was clearly an accident.

2. Cambodian Government has invited Sarit and Foreign Minister Thanat to visit Cambodia.

3. German Ambassador in Bangkok who returned from private visit to Phnom Penh recently believes Sihanouk will use internal troubles suchas the Dap Chhoun incident as a prelude to or excuse for recognising North Vietnam Government.

SARIT

4. Field Marshall Sarit has left hospital and is going to the seaside resort of Bang Saen for his convalescence. From there, he will be in direct radio contact with Bangkok and has announced his intention of supervising all major policy questions.

ECONOMIC

5. The Government has announced that it is considering selling outright or handing over to foreign investors to run on a partnership basis with Thais, four factories established under the Pibul Government by the National Economic Development Commission. These are sugar factories at Supanburi and Cholburi, a jute factory at Korat and a paper mill, still under congtruction at Bang Pa-in.

6. Press reports still unconfirmed state that a new economic treaty between Thailand and Laos, to replace the provisional Treaty of 1955, is to be negotiated. This will deal with goods in transit through Thailand, border traffic etc. Chinese press reports that Laos has taken steps to ban Communist Chinese goods entering Laos from Thailand. Reason is said to be that followingthe Thai ban, they were selling at give-away prices.

DEPARTMENT OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS.

INWARD SAVINGRAM. CONFIDENTIAL

VIETNAMESE REFUGEES

7. Minister of Interior Prapart stated on 12th March that the Government had agreed to use the services of M. Andre Durand, a representa tive of the International Red Cross, to negotiate with the North Vietnamese Government for the return of Vietnamese refugees. Cabinet had agreed on the following principles: (a) that the North Vietnam Government must confirm that the refugees are no longer political refugees but are now illegal immigrants in Thailand. (b) The North Vietnam Government will meet half the costs of removal. (c) The North Vietnam Government will enter into discussion about property assets in Thailand of the refugees.

PERSONNEL

8. The United States Government has given agreement for appointment of Visutr as Thai Ambassador to Washington. Nai Direk Jayanama, a former Foreign Minister and Ambassador to London but now living in retirement, is to be appointed Ambassador to Bonn, the post for which Visutr was originally destined. Nai Thitinant na Renong told me that while it had been planned to send him to Australia, he believed the Government had now decided to appoint a soldier. Sarasin however thinks Konthi will remain in Canerra, possibly after a period of local leave.

BURMA

9. Local papers have given prominence to a Reuter report that Thakin Thau Tun had established his Headquarters in the Papun area, near the western border of Thailand, but there has been no comment.

MALAYA

10. Malayan Prime Minister is to visit Thailand.

MIN & DEPT. E.A.
MIN & DEPT. DEFENCE

17th March, 1959

DEPARTMENT OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS.

INWARD CABLEGRAM.

3010/10/6.
184

BMW

I.2760

Sent: 13th February, 1959.
1930
Rec'd: 14th February, 1959.
0830

FROM:

Australian Embassy,
BANGKOK.

57. UNCLASSIFIED.

Ambassador and Mrs. Waller arrived 1100 hours 13th February.

MIN. & DEPT. E.A. 14th February, 1959.

SEC A/Ss LA UN CR PAC&AM AM&SP S&SEA SEA EAF&ME INF DL INTELL C&P ADMIN PERS FIN INV TRAV MR. EASTMAN

F

File 3010/10/6. → Mr. Waller

EXTERNAL AFFAIRS.

F 183

MR. ANDERSON (D.L.)

Mr. Waller would like to make calls on the Secretary of the Department of Defence and the Chiefs of Staff, next week. He will not be available on 3rd February or on 6th February when he will be going to Melbourne.

Would you please set this in train?

(J. P. Quinn)
Actg. Assistant Secretary.

28/1/1959

File 3010/10/6

DEPARTMENT OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS.

F. 3010/10/6

OUTWARD TELETYPE MESSAGE.

"EX COMMS BRANCH"

MESSAGE NUMBER 309. 21.1.59 1130 1959 JAN 21 AM 11:33

TO MR WALLER EXTERNAL AFFAIRS SYDNEY

FROM QUINN EXTERNA AFFAIRS CANBERRA

======

THE ONLY SIGNIFICANT PEOPLE LEFT IN DEFENCE MELBOURNE AFTER 27TH JANUARY WILL BE KING AND HARRY. I THINK IF YOU ALLOWED HALF A DAY FOR KING AND SAY A LUNCH HOUR FOR HARRY YOU WOULD BE ABLE TO DISCUSS MATTERS AS FAR AS NECESSARY. THE ACTUAL DATE TO GO DOWN IS IMMATERIAL (THERE IS A DAILY SERVICE FROM HERE AT 0845 WITH A RETURN FLIGHT AT 1905). IF YOU SHOULD HAVE ANY PRIVATE BUSINESS IN MELBOURNE I SUGGEST THAT YOU LET US KNOW WHAT DAY WOULD SUIT YOU TO GO DOWN AND WE SHALL MAKE ARRANGEMENTS ACCORDINGLY. OTHERWISE I WOULD SUGGEST THURSDAY THE 29TH OR FRIDAY 30TH. WE CAN LINE UP APPOINTMENTS WITH CHIEF OF STAFF AND HICKS AND HIS OFFICERS IN CANBERRA AT RELATIVELY SHORT NOC++ NOTICE. PROBABLY THE WEEK BEGINNING 2ND FEBRUARY WOULD BE THE BEST.

2. YOU MIGHT ALSO KEEP IN MIND THAT MELBOURNE IS LIKELY TO BE THE BEST PLACE TO TZL++ TALK TO THE MINISTER. THERE IS LIKELY TO BE A CABINET ON THE 5TH HERE BUT IT IS VERY DOUBTFUL WHETHER THE MINISTER WILL HAVE MUCH FREE TIME ON HIS PROGRAMME, PARTICULARLY AS WE HAVE THE SUBANDRIO VISIT STARTING ON THE 9TH.

MESSAGE ENDS MMC

DEPARTMENT OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS.

INWARD TELETYPE MESSAGE.

181

281

MESSAGE NO ~~280~~ 20.9.59

TO MR QUINN DEPARTMENT OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS CANBERRA

FROM MR.WALLER EXTERNAL AFFAIRS SYDNEY

GRATEFUL IF YOU WOULD TELL ME WHAT DAYS YOU THINK I SHOULD VISIT MELBOURNE. AM ARRIVING CANBERRA JANUARY 27TH RETURNING BANGKOK FEBRUARY 10TH.

MESSAGE ENDS

"EXTERNAL AFFAIRS BRANCH"

1959 JAN 20 PM 4:07

EXTERNAL AFFAIRS.

180

File No.....

Date 7th January, 1959

SUBJECT LEAVE AND CONSULTATION : J.K. WALLER

FOR MR. PLIMSOLL
MR. MOODIE
MR. QUINN
MR. PRITCHETT

Copy : Personnel

Sean Plimsoll 8/1/59

Mr Quinn

Mr. Waller will be in the Department on leave and consultation from 27th January to 10th February. I suggest that Mr. Quinn assume responsibility for his programme which would include talks with Defence and, probably, a visit to Melbourne to see J.I.B.

(D.O. Hay)
Assistant Secretary

DOH:RJD

3010/10/6.

DEPARTMENT OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS.

INWARD CABLEGRAM.

179

REW:ABK

I.21004.

Dated: 1st December, 1958.
1521.
Rec'd: 2nd December, 1958.
0830.

FROM:

Australian Embassy,
BANGKOK.

301 UNCLASSIFIED PRIORITY

Ambassador and Mrs. Waller departed 2045 hours 30th November by BA704, due Sydney approximately 2200 hours today.

MIN. & DEPT. E.A. 2nd December, 1958.

SEC A/Ss LA UN ER CR PAC&AM AM&SP S&SEA E.AF&ME E
INF DL MT C&P ADMIN PERS FIN TRAV INV EXCOMMS

F

3010/10/6.

178

14th August, 1958

J.K. WALLER : ABSENCE FROM BANGKOK

THE MINISTER

Copies :
The Secretary
Mr. Quinn

Waller writes that he intends to be away from Bangkok (in Ubol) for three days from 18th August. He will be in touch with Bangkok by JUSMAG radio if necessary.

2. Waller also mentioned that you had last year suggested to him that he exchange visits with Phnom Penh from time to time. Waller writes that he has not so far been able to visit Phnom Penh but that he has full and adequate contact with Stuart by bag and so he is not pressing this particular suggestion.

(D.O. Hay)
Assistant Secretary

Mr Quinn
Mr Buttrock
Miss Nelson
Mr Curtis 19/8/58
F: 3010/10/6

FFT

AUSTRALIAN EMBASSY,
BANGKOK.

DEPARTMENT OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS
6 MAY 1958
3010/10/6
CANBERRA

In reply quote No. 101/5/2.
Memorandum No. 481/58.

29th April, 1958.

The Secretary,
Department of External Affairs,
CANBERRA.

ANZAC DAY - 1958

The Anzac Day Commemoration Service was again held at the Cenotaph in the grounds of the British Embassy at 1730 hours. Approximately eighty members of the Australian, New Zealand and British communities were present and, at the conclusion of the Service, all present were invited to take refreshments at the residence of the New Zealand Charge-d'Affaires.

2. The Service was conducted as follows:-

Address by the New Zealand Charge d'Affaires
Laying of wreaths by:
The British Ambassador,
The New Zealand Charge d'Affaires
The Australian Charge d'Affaires a.i.
Two minutes silence
Sounding of Last Post and Reveille by two members of the Royal Thai Army
Prayers and Benediction
National Anthem.

3. On Sunday, 27th April, a pilgrimage was made to the Imperial War Graves cemeteries at Kanchanaburi and Chungkai. The Service at Kanchanaburi took the following form:-

Prayers
Laying of Wreaths by:
The British Ambassador
New Zealand Charge d'Affaires
The Australian Services Attache.
Two minutes silence
Prayers and Benediction.

Copy to Mrs Nelson y C&P y

4. Both Services were conducted with quiet dignity.

E.F. Aitken

(E.F. Aitken)
Lieutenant-Colonel
Armed Services Attache.

RESTRICTED



176

AUSTRALIAN EMBASSY,
BANGKOK.

In reply quote No. 201/2/1.

Memorandum No. 1712/57.

27th November, 1957.

The Secretary,
Department of External Affairs,
CANBERRA. A.C.T.

My wife and I had our audience with the King and Queen on 21st November 1957. This had been delayed owing to the birth of their fourth child.

I found the King as generally unresponsive as ever and the only items of interest in the interview were that he denied specifically newspaper reports that he was contemplating a series of visits to neighbouring countries and the United States.

Copy to
Mrs Nelson
Mr Curtis

(J. K. Waller)
Ambassador.

RESTRICTED

3010/10/6 175

DEPARTMENT OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS.

OUTWARD CABLEGRAM.

O.5578

Sent: 2nd May, 1958.
1555

:HB

TO:

Australian Embassy,
BANGKOK. 165

REPEATED:

Australian Embassy,
RANGOON. 65

UNCLASSIFIED

For Waller.

Trade have formally advised their intention transfer trade Commissioner Rangoon to Bangkok to open 1st July. Glad your cabled comment including confirmation that office space adequate and any consequential changes in Estimates.

(Bangkok £5.17.0)
(Rangoon £1.12.6)
5th May, 1958.

E.A.
TRADE (C-M)

SEC A/Ss 1,3 &4. ER S&SEA ADMIN PERS
PROP FIN.

F 3008/10/6

DEPARTMENT OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS. CONFIDENTIAL 174

OUTWARD CABLEGRAM.

VA:AS

0.13772.

Sent: 1st November, 1957.
1200.

TO:

Australian Commission,
SINGAPORE.....700.

3010/10/6

Repeated to:

Australian Embassy,
BANGKOK.....SAV.76.

CONFIDENTIAL.

H.M.A.S. "Anzac".

Our memorandum 1341.

Waller has not yet applied for clearance. He has told C.IN.C.F.E.S. that in view of Thai elections on 15th December, visit on 18th December to Bangkok was most inadvisable. British Ambassador agreed.

2. We are inclined also to agree, but before taking matter any further, glad of your advice whether C.IN.C.F.E.S. proposes to adhere to the original schedule.

A/MIN&DEPT E.A. (671/4)
MIN&DEPT DEFENCE
MIN&DEPT NAVY
P.M'S

(Cost £4/1/8)
1st November, 1957.

SEC A/Ss LA S&SEA SEA INF DL© M© C&P

Hill

CONFIDENTIAL

RESTRICTED

173

DEPARTMENT OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS
1 OCT 1957
3010/10/6
CANBERRA

AUSTRALIAN EMBASSY,
BANGKOK.

In reply quote No. 1/2/1.

Memorandum No. 1394/57.

24th September, 1957.

The Secretary,
Department of External Affairs,
CANBERRA. A.C.T.

Copy to Miss Nelson
Mr Lucas
D.C. to retain

VISIT TO CHIENGMAI

I visited Chiengmai, the "Northern Capital" of Thailand from 19th to 22nd September. I called on the Governor, Khun Prasert, the Mayor, Khun Suchart, the Nai Amphur of Jomtong, the British and American Consuls and spoke to a number of other local people.

Political -

2. My visit followed closely upon the Coup d'etat in Bangkok and I was interested to find out local reactions to it. In general the people had little knowledge of or concern about recent events in the Capital. The Governor had been in Bangkok at the time of the Coup attending a meeting of Provincial Governors and had been briefed on the situation. He returned on the day of my arrival and was planning to hold a meeting of local officials to explain the situation to them. He did not feel that the change of Government would have any immediate effect on his administration. In the political sphere one effect was that the by-elections in Chiengmai were cancelled as the Assembly was being dissolved and new general elections were to be held in December. The Mayor, Khun Suchart, who is the leader of the Seri Manangasila Party in the district said that he did not know what the future of his party would be. But he did not show any great concern about the situation and I gained the impression that he would readily adjust himself to the new circumstances. He said in jest that he imagined Marshal Pibul and the American Ambassador would be taking the same plane, to the United States. He said he did not intend being present at the Governor's meeting but would send a deputy. I took this to mean not that he would not accept the new regime but that to do so too readily would rather brand him as a turncoat.

3. The Governor struck me as an able man and I understand his administration is reasonably effective. It nevertheless suffers from the same dilatoriness and corruption which exists elsewhere in Thailand. I was told by the British Consul of a number of public works which had been delayed or postponed as a result of the budgets not proving sufficient both to complete the works and meet the "squeeze".

Economic -

4. Economically, the Chiengmai district is prosperous. The soil in the river valley is rich and the people appear more industrious and more skilled than in other parts of the country. There are for instance a number of cottage or village industries which are not seen elsewhere: silver work, cotton and silk weaving, lacquer work, umbrella making and so on. The rice crop in the district is moderately good this year despite the late arrival of the rains and subsequent floods. One rice crop a year is grown on most of the land but two crops are planted on the irrigated portions. Soya beans are sometimes grown as second crop. Quite a prosperous tobacco industry exists in the district. I was told that a British tobacco company had been interested in purchasing good quality tobacco from the district but this chance of earning foreign

exchange had been lost as a result of the Thai Tobacco Monopoly having been given all the best leaf.

5. American aid is being given to the area for road and bridge construction and machinery is being supplied to the local technical college. There is an American project to extend the Chiengmai air strip to enable it to take jet aircraft but work on this has not yet got under way.

Hill Tribes -

6. The mountains surrounding Chiengmai, the highest of which rises to 8,400 ft., are the home of the hill tribes: Mious, Yaos, Lissus, Akas and Karenns. They tend to be nomadic, clearing a piece of jungle for their crops and village and, when the soil has been exhausted, move on to another site. They grow some food crops but their main source of revenue comes from the cultivation of the opium poppy. However, only a relatively small proportion of the opium that reaches Bangkok is actually grown in Thailand. The rest is smuggled across the border from Laos, Yunnan and Burma. A number of the former KMT troops from Burma have settled on the Thai side of the border and are active in the opium trade. The trade is winked at if not actually encouraged by local officialdom. One missionary in the area claims to have successfully persuaded some tribes not to grown opium crops only to find that pressure was brought to bear by the police on the tribesmen to resume the cultivation of opium. The missionaries are active amongst the tribesmen and have had some success in converting them to Christianity. Where Christianity has been accepted it has brought comfort to people who were formerly plagued with spirits and devils who had constantly to be appeased.

Conclusion -

7. In general the people in the Chiengmai area have little political consciousness and are not particularly concerned by political events in the capital. The military coup had been carried out quietly in Chiengmai as elsewhere with little realisation by the people of what was involved. The only evidence of the military takeover was a small group of rather weary soldiers on guard at the administrative buildings and at the airport. Amongst those who were sophisticated enough to have opinions there was a feeling that a change of Government was not a bad thing and it did not seem to worry them that the change had been brought about by a military coup. In any case, I am sure that no one in Chiengmai felt his life would be any different as a result of the political changes.

(M. L. Johnston)
Second Secretary.

DEPARTMENT OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS
16 SEP 1957
3010/10/6
CANBERRA

AUSTRALIAN EMBASSY, BANGKOK. 171

In reply quote No.....

Memorandum No. 1345/57.

12th September, 1957.

The Secretary,
Department of External Affairs,
CANBERRA. A.C.T.

I forward herewith an interesting report by the Second Secretary of the Embassy, Mr. W.L. Morrison, on a recent visit to Central Thailand, made largely in his own time.

2. This report underlines the growing anxiety about the rice situation following late and inadequate rains.

(J.K. Waller)
Ambassador.

Copy to Min Nelec
E.A.

J.L.A.

File

RESTRICTED

170

AUSTRALIAN EMBASSY,
BANGKOK.

In reply quote No......

Memorandum No......

12th September, 1957.

FOR THE AMBASSADOR.

VISIT TO CENTRAL THAILAND

A brief report on my visit to Central Thailand between 30th August and 1st September is attached.

2. Central Thailand is the most productive rice area in the country and produces the major part of Thailand's export quality rice. A significant drop in production in this area would have serious consequences for the Thai economy.

3. The primary purpose of the visit was to gain some first hand information on the condition of this season's rice crop. The late arrival of the rain has affected the normal progress of the crop, and a number of press reports suggested that production would be so low as to lead to a rice shortage in Thailand itself. The position is by no means as bad as this. On present indications however, production will be significantly lower than last season's record crop of eight million tons.

4. On the basis of the information obtained during the visit, the production in Central Thailand will be about 70 to 75 per cent of last season's production. The district officers in the areas most adversely affected are more pessimistic, whilst officials in Bangkok are far more optimistic. Nevertheless the recent introduction of rice export quotas portrays an official anxiety about the amount of rice that will be available for export next year.

5. From a conversation with the representative of the Rice Department in Lopburi, I obtained some views about the position of the rice farmer, which conflict with the generally held view that peasant proprietorship of land prevails in Thailand.

W L Morrison

(W. L. Morrison)
Second Secretary.

RESTRICTED

REPORT ON VISIT TO CENTRAL THAILAND

THE RICE SITUATION

The north road from Bangkok runs along a raised embankment three or four feet above the water which now lies on the paddy fields on either side. The crop for the first fifty kilometres looked healthy and well advanced. From the Ayuthia turn-off at the 66 kilometre mark the condition of the crop fell off noticeably. The rice in this area is broadcast rather than transplanted. The land is ploughed both before and after broadcasting. The second ploughing (usually cross ploughing) is designed to protect the seeds against birds and rats, strong winds and the sun. Ideally heavy rain should fall within fifteen to twenty days from the second ploughing. Unhappily this condition was not fulfilled this year and most of the seeds deteriorated. Those that survived are now competing with weeds, which in the absence of the deep water which usually drowns them, are flourishing. The District Officer in Ayuthia told me that production in the area this year will be less than fifty per cent of last season's.

Approaching Saraburi the condition of the crop improved considerably. The Saraburi area is now served by irrigation from the Chainat Barrage, on which we shall comment later. Nevertheless, transplanting is still taking place on most of the holdings. This I was later told should have been completed before the end of July and that even with good rains for three or four weeks longer than usual the yield in this area would be only seventy to eighty per cent of last season's.

Once outside the area served by irrigation, the condition of the crop again declined and in the Lopburi area a large number of fields in which the rice had failed to take, lay idle. The Rice Department agent in Lopburi was most pessimistic about the outlook and said that in his report to his Department he had estimated that production would only be fifty per cent of last season's.

The land between Lopburi and Chainat is hilly, lightly timbered and largely uncultivated. Garden crops, particularly corn, predominate. Paddy fields are rare until the flat area is again reached about twenty kilometres from Chainat. The rice near Chainat was being transplanted, but I was subsequently told that this was not serious as crops in this area were usually late maturing.

CONVERSATIONS

I had dinner with the Governor of Lopburi, Nai Swaddi Phubulnakarin on Friday evening. He has been Governor in Lopburi for five years and expects to be sent back to Bangkok for other duties before the end of this year. He has no English and our conversation which was through a family friend, who had just returned from the United States where she had completed a course in school management, was mainly confined to pleasantries. He did however express his concern over the probable decline in rice production.

The Governor directed the local representative of the Rice Department of the Ministry of Agriculture to show me around the town and surrounding countryside. "Sam" (as he introduced himself with the explanation that the name to which he was now obviously attached was conferred upon him during a study tour of the U.S.A.) was most pessimistic about the prospects for this year's crop. In the Lopburi area in which there was no irrigation, the production he prophesied would be about fifty per cent of last year's. I mentioned that the Saraburi area looked very good, but he pointed out that the

transplanting should have been concluded before August. He said that even with good rains for three or four weeks longer than usual, the crop would be only about sixty per cent of last year's. Our conversation then turned from rice production to the position of the rice farmer. Sam showed an unexpected leftist tendency in describing what he termed the plight of the farmer in Thailand. Even in Central Thailand, which is the richest agricultural area in Thailand, about half of the farmers were in debt to the "capitalists" - a term which I later found out meant the men who purchased the paddy off the farm and sold it to the millers. These middlemen also advanced money to the farmer against the coming crop and often they were able to buy rice from the farmer at considerably less than the prevailing price in order to liquidate either wholy or partially the debt. I was surprised by Sam's contention that only fifty per cent of the farmers in the Lopburi area owned their own land. The remainder had signed over their ownership rights in order to pay off debts, and now rented the land from the capitalists. I was also surprised to learn that there was a large number of wage earning labourers at work on the rice fields. These were mainly young folk whose family farms were not sufficiently large to maintain them. The wages were deplorably low - for instance for planting a rai of land, which would require about four or five days, a labourer receives only forty baht, approximately 17/- Australian.

Sam was less talkative on politics and said that in Thailand people only talked politics in the open air. We thereupon left the coffee shop and in between greeting friends, Sam said that the government was bad, that the Prime Minister was not too bad, that Marshal Sarit was the best of a bad lot and that General Phao was the worst. After the politicians the Chinese were the ruination of the country and they could easily buy the politicians. That more or less summed up the political views of Sam.

TOWNS

Ayuthia, the former capital of Siam, destroyed by the Burmese in 1767, is now being subjected to politically inspired renovations. All that could be said of it a year or so ago was that the Burmese have never been so painstakingly thorough either before or since. Now a partly constructed two lane avenue leads from the bridge to the municipal offices about a mile away, several modern honeycomb fronted three story buildings are nearly completed, three of the largest chedis have been replastered and now bear an astonishing resemblance to overgrown porcelain insulators and the large Buddha which one once came upon through the trees and under a picturesquely decayed brick arch, is now incarcerated in an appallingly proportioned concrete temple. However the heads of Buddhas, which once must have been as numerous as grains of rice, and still possibly compete with rice as an export commodity from the town, are still brought surreptiously (for there are now regulations about the disposal of historic relics) out of the bulging pockets of commercially minded little boys. The heads available in Ayuthia range from egg size bronze casting to eighteen gallon keg size, stone varieties. Complete bodies of Buddha can also be had in standing up, sitting down, and lying sideways positions with increasing permutation and combinations depending upon the positions of the hands and the length of the ear lobes. Perhaps if the heads were scarcer they might be more appreciated, but one suspects that the artistic mediocrity of the vast majority resulted from what one can only imagine was an early manifestation of mass production techniques.

Despite the government's valiant efforts to dress Ayuthia up for the benefit of tourists, there is little in Ayuthia that catches the eye or stimulates the imagination.

Lopburi lays claim to be the oldest town in Thailand. According to legend it was first founded in AD 486 and flourished as

167

an independent kingdom until the second half of the 10th century when it was, along with most of modern Thailand, incorporated into the Khmer Empire. In the 17th century King Narai established his summer residence in Lopburi. It was here that the remarkable Greek adventurer Constantin Phaulkon established himself in the King's favour and induced the King to open diplomatic relations with Louis XIV and to favour the French in trade. Under instructions from Louis XIV, who had made Phaulkon a Count, Phaulkon attempted to wing King Narai over to Catholicism, but failed. A jealous court and the machinations of the British and Dutch led to the overthrow of Phaulkon and his master in 1688, after which the history books regretfully point out that Lopburi "fell into oblivion and its architectural splendours became mere ruins overgrown with jungle".

Nowadays the town revolves politically around a very large military establishment and geographically around a monkey shrine.

The commandant of Fort Narai is the representative of the province in Parliament and is, appropriately as it seems in a country in which an Admiral is Minister of Culture, Deputy Minister of Education. With such a large concentration of troops the commandant, as one of my acquaintances pointed out, did not have very much difficulty in getting enough votes. Marshal Sarit was, and still is despite his recent resignation, the town favourite. An aura still lingers from the fact that Sarit served as a captain at Fort Narai in 1942. It is significant that Phao's photo is missing from the hotel foyer and cafes and that the police station is located on the outskirts of the town, strategically surrounded by three army camps.

The hotel, which by Thai country standards is ultra de luxe despite the over emphasis on lime green in the colour scheme, looks out onto a shrine inhabited by monkeys, who are said to be direct descendants from monkeys brought to Lopburi by King Narai. The shrine built on an outcrop of rock about 30 feet high, forms the centre of a traffic roundabout which leads up to a railway crossing. When the crossing gates are down and the traffic banks up, the monkeys launch an attack on the edible produce carried on the tops of buses and trucks. A division of labour has been evolved and the larger monkeys clamber aboard and jettison the food which is grabbed up by the others and carried off to the sanctuary of the shrine where they are it seems inviolable.

Chainat. The barrage across the Chao Phya River at Chainat was completed earlier this year at a cost of forty million US dollars of which the International Bank provided eighteen million. Publicised as one of the great achievements of the age, it undoubtedly has great scope if properly developed. The total area commanded by the project is 3,300,000 acres of which 2,460,000 acres is irrigable. This area has nearly all been opened up and prepared as paddy fields, and will be capable of marked increases in production as soon as the distribution system is extended. However, there are already a number of criticisms about the development of the project. It is claimed by some locals that canals are being dug only through the lands of influential people. Another criticism is that the barrage is slowing up the river traffic and the river folk unaccustomed to anything but the natural hazards to navigation are unreconciled to the new procedure of going through locks. There is already a congestion of logs which float down the river bound together to form huge rafts, because the rafts are too large for the lock and therefore have to be re-arranged. A further criticism is that the local people are not satisfied that the barrage will be able to control the flooding which often occurs during the wet season. The most obvious criticism, and one seized on by the opposition press, is the wasted outlay on the Hotel at the barrage site. The hotel, which has twentynine air conditioned guest rooms and several very large public rooms, cost as much the locals say as 70 kilometres of canals. Yet apart from ourselves there were no other guests and the last guests had visited the hotel ten days previously. The hotel was finished simultaneously with the dam and served admirably on the opening day. However the longer term hope that it would become something of a tourist centre has very obviously misfired.

166

DEPARTMENT OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS
8 MAY 1957
3010/10/6
CANBERRA

AUSTRALIAN EMBASSY,
BANGKOK.

In reply quote No.: 101/5/2.

Memo No.: 565/57.

1st May, 1957.

The Secretary,
Department of External Affairs,
CANBERRA. A.C.T.

ANZAC DAY - 1957

1. The Anzac Day Commemoration Ceremony was again held at the Cenotaph in the grounds of the British Embassy. About sixty members of the Australian, New Zealand and British communities attended and, at the conclusion of the Service, were entertained at our Embassy.

2. The Ceremony took the following form -

Address by the Australian Ambassador
Laying of wreaths in the order

Australian Ambassador
New Zealand Charge d'Affaires
British Ambassador

Two minutes silence
Playing of Last Post and Reveille by two members of Royal Thai Army
Prayers and Benediction
National Anthem.

3. The Ceremony was conducted with quiet dignity and was commended by all present.

E. F. Aitken

(E. F. Aitken)
Lieutenant Colonel
Armed Services Attache.

CONFIDENTIAL

DEPARTMENT OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS
20 FEB 1957
402/1/5
CANBERRA

165

AUSTRALIAN EMBASSY,
BANGKOK.

In reply quote No.: 1/2/1.

Memo No.: 256/57.

15th February, 1957.

The Secretary,
Department of External Affairs,
CANBERRA. A.C.T.

... I enclose a report compiled after an official visit to Chiengmai from 5th to 8th February, 1957.

2. A copy has also been sent to Singapore.

D.O. Hay

(D.O. Hay)
Ambassador

Copy to (Mr. Plimsoll
(Mr. Tange
D.L. Secretariat.
Biographical info. to be circulated on
Who's Who card.

6R

CONFIDENTIAL

[redacted] FILE: 1/2/1.

REPORT ON VISIT TO CHIENGMAI, 5TH TO 8TH FEBRUARY, 1957.

I visited Chiengmai from 5th to 8th February, staying at the British Consulate as the guest of Lt. Col and Mrs. Jacobs-Larkcom, C.B.E.. We travelled up by Thai Airways in good weather though the heat haze prevented us from seeing much. The pilot had some difficulty in locating the air strips at the intermediate stops of Pitsanoloke and Lampang, but made good landings both times. We saw enough of Pitsanoloke to take in the extent of the damage caused there by the recent fire - the whole central part of the town was gutted.

2. Accompanied by the British Consul, I made a number of official calls, as follows:-

The Governor of Chiengmai - Nai Prasert Kanchanadul.

Speaks good English. Spoke with interest of the visit of Mr. Casey and his party two years ago. Evidently an energetic man with ideas of promoting the development of his province, but probably under the thumb of his political master, the Prime Minister. Much preoccupied with the fact that his wife and daughter had been involved in recent air crash with Worakan. His wife escaped, but his daughter was severely burned and will have to undergo plastic surgery. In mourning because of death of his mother. He believed 1957 had started inauspiciously owing to unusual number of accidents.

The Commissioner of Police - Colonel Srisuk Makintarathep.

Not much emerged beyond generalities. He thought danger of communism fairly remote but believed that editor of local paper was a communist in sympathy (but see Consul's opinion below). He was in charge of the frontier police as well as the ordinary provincial police. Had recently met Mr. and Mrs. Robbins who visited Chiengmai with Police General Wud.

The Acting Chief Judge - Nai In Udol.

Little gained as he spoke no English. His rather aggressive interpreter turned out to be brother of Madame Suwit Bovernwattana and claimed to have been called to the Bar in London.

The Health Officer - Dr. Chalor Chansuwan.

Again not much value. He had earlier shown some interest in the Colombo Plan but did not follow this up though I tried to lead him on.

The Governor of Lampun.

A cheerful, elderly man with little or no English and not much to say.

The Lord Mayor of Chiengmai - Nai Suchart.Sucharitikul.

A legendary figure who came from Bangkok some seven years ago with very little and who is now one of the most wealthy and influential figures in Chiengmai. He made his money by cornering the market in wolfram and selling it to the Americans. He still mines wolfram and is interested in getting some Australian capital to increase production. He said that the mines are some 500 kilometres from Chiengmai and that the ore has to be brought in by man-pack, boat, mule and road. He also mines tin and claims that owing to the lower wages in the North (daily unskilled rate of about Tcs.8, compared to ten or twelve in the South), he can compete with other areas in Thailand. He is also local manager of the Bangkok Bank. He is nominated as Lord Mayor (somewhat to the local disapproval). He is a Phao man and the S.M. Party agent for the whole of the North. In personal appearance, he is flabby, large and fish like, but he speaks good English and, to judge by his house (a huge place with separate guest house) and his furniture, is more attractive than he otherwise might seem. He took as his second wife, a daughter of the former Prince of Chiengmai. She is a charming girl and has just

/2...

produced a daughter for him, but the marriage is of doubtful validity and therefore not popular with the locals - neither is Khun Suchart. This man is a good contact though doubtless very careful of what he says to foreigners. He knows Kelso. He is also a cousin of M.L. Xujati Kambhu. He claims that his father was a former Minister of the Royal Household and that he was given his name by King Prajadipok.

Dr. and Madame Chinda.

Dr. Chinda is a rare figure, a Thai Christian, a Presbyterian. He runs the McKean Hospital for Lepers (see below). Speaks good English. A good man.

3. I visited the following places:-

The Chiengmai Hospital.

Evidently a going concern, with a new private wing nearing completion and signs of a new medical teaching college, a joint Thai-American venture. Doctors good. The dentist was a girl who trained with the two Thais who recently completed courses in Brisbane under the Colombo Plan. The Doctor in charge spoke with admiration of last year's visit by Dunlop and Stanton. The wards were clean and equipment not conspicuously lacking to the lay eye. There was a complaint of lack of space but the wards were noticeably empty. Next to the hospital is a new training school for midwives, a Thai-American venture with excellent buildings and a competent looking woman director.

The Lampun Hospital.

Fairly new hospital building but already has run down appearance. Staff young and inexperienced and somewhat depressed. In part this is due to lack of patients and lack of equipment. The really sick ones go to Chiengmai or wont go to hospital at all (this may account also for small number of patients in Chiengmai) for superstitious reasons. Not an encouraging sight.

The McKean Leper Hospital.

Financed by the American Presbyterians, this is a really fine show. Good buildings, occupational works for inmates and intelligent direction. I should think this is a model for the whole area.

The Thai Tobacco Leaf Development Corporation.

I visited a new and modern leaf drying factory on the road from Chiengmai to Lampun. It has new machinery and looks a competent effort. Where the money came from to get the machinery, mainly from Germany, is a local mystery. This organisation is run by a Nai Prasit (who has large tea and tobacco-growing interests in the North and appears highly regarded). Jacobs-Larkcom told me that the Corporation has a government monopoly of all tobacco export from Thailand and that the tobacco deal with China was negotiated by Phao without consultation. It could not have involved new tobacco and must have involved old leaf which was sold for more than the correct price in order to get funds for the S.M. Party campaign.

4. Other topics of interest about which odd information was picked up include -

Opium.

This is still grown in Thailand by the Hill Tribes, within six hours walk of Chiengmai. However, Thai production is very small proportion of the total dealt with in Thailand. The bulk comes from over the Burma border, quite openly crossing within a few miles of the customs post at Mai Sae. Apparently nearly everyone who could stop this traffic is personally involved in the rake off and so the trade flourishes.

Communism in the North.

Jacobs Larkcom felt that this is not a major present problem. There

CONFIDENTIAL

was some evidence that anti-government and anti-American press articles were being farmed out to local papers from some source in Bangkok but apart from this there was no evidence of communist activity.

The Thai Autonomous State.

Jacobs Larkcom felt that too much had been made of this in the past. There is such a thing. Indeed the district goes by a Thai name (the Sipsong Pana or Twelve Provinces), but there is no particular build up in Cheli, nor any particular attempt to communise the region or use it as a subversive base against Thailand. There has been some attempt to oppose religion by making the monks work for their food and by ridicule. There has been some emigration. There is some broadcasting, but from Kunming rather than Cheli. I met a former Sawbwa elect of the area who is now in exile (a fairly comfortable one in Mai Sae under Phao's patronage) and some of his remarks of interest are recorded in the attached note of the Consul's. One's overall impression is of the relative ease of movement across frontiers between China and Burma and between China and Laos in this northern area and it seems a little strange that the Communists are not exploiting it more.

The Elections.

There was much evidence of campaigning, posters, loudspeaker trucks and the like, but most of the campaigning appeared to be for individual candidates and not for parties. I was told, however, that the S.M. Party is running a ticket. The interesting thing is that there are six party candidates for the five seats and that the ballot is so arranged that someone voting the party ticket would exclude the Minister of Health, General Prayoon Pamon Montri. However, the General is reported to be spending freely and this may ensure his election. I did not meet anyone who thought that more than fifty per cent of the voters would actually go to the polls. Opinion seemed to be that the five seats would be split between the S.M. (three), the Democrats and one Independent (Nai Sukit Nimmandheim).

The North Generally.

Obviously a well-favoured area, fertile enough in some parts for two crops and for growing crops like tea, tobacco, soya beans and potatoes which do not do well elsewhere. The people seem better off, work harder for lower wages and can live (so Nai Suchart said) for one or two ticals a day. The villages are more substantial than in the South and there is a less worried and more prosperous air about the place.

(D.O. Hay)
Ambassador

Australian Embassy,
Bangkok,
Thailand.

11th February, 1957.

CONFIDENTIAL

161

Confidential.

XIII/57.

British Consulate
Chiengmai

January 8, 1957.

Please refer to para.7 and Appendix A of the report attached to my letter to you No. XIII/56 of December 31, 1956 and paras.7 and 10(a) of that attached to my letter No. XIII/57 of January 30, 1957.

Today, Chao,Mom La called at this Consulate and we were able to have a further brief talk about conditions in Sipsawng Pana. In the course of this conversation, the following points emerged:-

(1) Work on the construction of a bridge over the Makong at Cheli has been begun. This has as yet only reached the stage of the collection of cement and stone on both banks of the river. No details are available as to the type of construction or load capacity of the bridge to be erected.

(2) Additional details of the existing ferry were also given: This consists of a locally constructed raft which runs on a cable made of twisted rattan (?). There is no mechanical power and the ferry is propelled by manual methods. The turn-round is half an hour.

(3) Two peasants from Sipsawng Pana who have recently succeeded in escaping, arrived at Thakilek on February 1. They are awaiting the consent of the Thai authorities to reside at Maesai.

(4) Propaganda broadcasts from radio Kunming in Thai language take place at 8.15 p.m. on Saturdays and Sundays (Thai time) and on occasions at 10.00 p.m. In general, the propaganda is on the lines of exalting the achievement of Communist China, but does not specifically attack the policies of neighbouring countries such as Burma, Thailand or Laos. These programmes are monitored in Chiengmai by Chao Mom La's brother, Manikham.

(5) Yunnanese Chinese in the Maeasi area do, to some extent, listen to Chinese language (Mandarin) broadcasts from Kunming. The appeal in the first instance is probably to the nostalgic desire of all persons to hear news of their home town. But, of course, the accompanying propaganda has some effect.

. . . . . .

I am including sufficient copies of this letter for distribution to the recipients of the two reports referred to above.

(E.H. Jacobs-Larkcom)

S.J.L. Olver, Esq.,
British Embassy,
Bangkok.

Mr Forsyth

[redacted] 402/1/5

20

160

DEPARTMENT OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS

CANBERRA

PR 7

10th January 1957

FOR THE PRESS

NEW SERVICES ATTACHE FOR BANGKOK

The Minister for External Affairs, Mr.R.G.Casey, announced today that, in agreement with the Ministers for Defence and the Army, it had been decided that Lieutenant Colonel F.E.Aitken, p.s.c., will replace Wing Commander J.R.Kinninmont, D.S.O., D.F.C. and Bar, as Australian Services Attache in Bangkok. He will take up his appointment in May, 1957.

Colonel Aitken, who is 44, has had a distinguished career since joining the Australian Regular Army in 1935. From November, 1949 to June, 1951, he was attached to the Department of External Affairs as Military Observer in Indonesia. During 1954 he attended the Australian Staff College Course, and since November, 1954 has been an instructor at the College.

Colonel Aitken will also take over from Wing Commander Kinninmont the duties of Australian Military Liason Officer for SEATO in Bangkok, where the Headquarters of SEATO are now established.

Announcing the appointment, Mr Casey paid tribute to the work of Wing Commander Kinninmont. The decision that he should be succeeded by an Army officer was in conformity with an agreement by the Ministers concerned that the post of Services Attache in Australian missions in South-East Asia should be filled in rotation from all three armed services.

MR FURLONGER

DEPARTMENT OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS. 2/2e 402/1/5

OUTWARD TELETYPE MESSAGE. 159

MESSAGE NUMBER 38 1615 10.1.57

TO SECRETARY DEPARTMENT OF DEFENCE MELBOURNE

FROM SECRETARY DEPARTMENT OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS CANBERRA

==========

U R G E N T

==========

FOLLOWING IS TEXT OF A PRESS RELEASE WHICH MINISTER FOR EXTERNAL AFFAIRS PROPOSES TO PUT OUT TONIGHT. I SHOULD BE GLAD TO KNOW URGENTLY IF ITS TERMS ARE ACCEPTABLE FROM THE DEFENCE ASPECT.

BEGINS -

THE MINISTER FOR EXTERNAL AFFAIRS, MR R.G. CASEY, ANNOUNCED TODAY THATM IN AGREEMENT WITH THE MINISTERS FOR DEFENCE AND THE ARMY, IT HAD BEEN XXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXX DECIDED THAT LIEUTENANT COLONEL F.E. AITKEN, P.S.C., WILL REPLACE WING COMMANDER J.R. KINNINMONT, D.S.O., D.F.C., AND BAR AS AUSTRALIAN SERVICES ATTACHE IN BANGKOK. COLONEL AITKEN WILL TAKE UP HIS APPOINTMENT IN MAY, 1957.

COLONEL AITKEN, WHO IS 44, HAS HAD A DISTINGUISHED CAREER SINCE JOINING THE REEE AUSTRALIAN REGULAR ARMY IN 1935. FROM NOVEMBER, 1949 TO JUNE, 1951, HE WAS ATTACHE TO THE DEPARTMENT OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS AS A MILITARY OBSERVER IN INDONESIA. DURING 1954 COLONEL AITKEN ATTENDED THE AUSTRALIAN STAFF COLLEGE COURSE. SINCE NOVEMBER, 1954 HE HAS BEEN AN INSTRUCTOR AT THE COLLEGE.

COLONEL AITKEN WILL ALSO TAKE OVER FROM WING COMMANXEEE COMMANDER KINNINMONT THE DUTIES OF AUSTRALIAN MILITARY LIAISON OFFICER FOR SEATO IN BANGKOK, WHERE THE HEADQUARTERS OF SEATO ARE NOW ESTABLISHED.

ANNOUNCING THE APPOINTMENT, MR CASEY PAID TRIBUTE TO THE WORK OF WING COMMANDER KINNINMONT. THE DECISION THAT HE SHOULD BE SUCCEEDED BY AN ARMY OFFICER WAS IN CONFORMITY WITH AN AGREEMENT BY THE MINISTERS CONCERNED THAT THE POST OF SERVICES ATTACHE IN AUSTRALIAN MISSIONS IN SOUTH EAST ASIA SHOULD BE FILLED IN ROTATION FROM ALL THREE ARMED SERVICES.

ENDS.

MESSAGE ENDS MMC

hle 402/1/5
158

DEPARTMENT OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS.

INWARD CABLEGRAM.

UNCLASSIFIED

RC.MMic

I.14198

Dated: 25th October 1956
1956
Rec'd: 26th October 1956
0830

FROM:

Australian Embassy,
BANGKOK.

441. UNCLASSIFIED.

Thai Red Cross wishes to confer at short notice "medal of merit" first grade on the Ambassador and "medal of merit" second grade on the Third Secretary as "tokens of gratitude" presumably for assistance given to Colombo Plan.

2. Although the intended awards are Red Cross Medals and not strictly Government decorations, assume it is not permissible to accept the medals under the regulations governing acceptance of awards and decorations but we are referring the question at the request of the Red Cross.

3. Grateful for ruling by November 6th.

A/MIN. & DEPT. E.A. 26th October, 1956.

SEC A/Ss S&SEA C&P ADMIN PERS

Ms. Booker

Buckingham Palace has apparently been reviewing policy on Red Cross awards. PM's who decide on this sort of thing have referred it to Govt. House who in turn are liaising it with the Palace. C&P will let us know the result.

MF 29/10

Mr Fernandez

Sent 29/10

Mr. Fernandez

I would like to know what his answer to this is.

29/10

Le 402/1/5

S+SE 157 A

COMMONWEALTH OF AUSTRALIA

FOREIGN SERVICE CONDITIONS - BANGKOK - 1956

1. INTRODUCTION

The population of Bangkok numbers approximately three-quarters of a million. The suburb of Dhonburi on the opposite side of the Menam Chao Phya, with its population of a quarter of a million, brings the total city population to about a million. Accurate census figures are not available. Approximately one-fifth of the total population is Chinese. There are large Indian groups and some Malay, groups, within the city population.

The European population numbers about 3,000. The population density is highest in the area between the main railway station (Hua Lampong) and the area of the Grand Palace and along to Charoen Krung Road.

Streets There are a few wide roads, notably Rajdamnoen Avenue. Most roads are narrow, and crowded with traffic. Many of the streets in the outer areas are narrow and ill-kept, and become almost impassable in the wet-season. Very few of the streets have footpaths, and walking is therefore, even apart from the heat, not pleasant.

There is not a defined factory area within the city. Consequently, small manufacturing shops are mixed in the same areas with retail shops, with the result that shopping traffic and industrial traffic follow largely the same routes, with resultant confusion and waste of time.

Type of buildings: The European inhabitants and a small percentage of wealthy Siamese and Chinese live in large modern houses. By far the greater number of the Siamese population live in small poor houses. Although the preferred areas for Europeans are usually in the suburb of Bangkapi, and in the areas of Wireless Road, Rajadamri and Sathorn Roads, there is no actual division between the area of large modern houses and small sub-standard ones.

Siamese public buildings vary a good deal, from the old Siamese architecture to a few modern structures.

Numerous canals (klongs) exist at the side of roadways throughout the city. They are crowded with sampans and quite a lot of transport is conducted in this fashion. Many families live entirely on the klongs and use the klong water for all domestic purposes. Obviously this means that diseases are easily spread. At certain times of the year the klongs smell very strongly.

Shopping Facilities: There are two or three department stores of modern design, which, though new and clean, do not carry a really comprehensive range of goods. There are also a few modern stores specializing in materials.

Most of the shops throughout the entire city are single-fronted small ones, specializing in one particular type of commodity. Shopping, therefore, becomes very time-consuming. Goods of practically any kind may be found in Bangkok, if one is prepared to hunt for them.

There are several good small grocery shops, selling commodities for European taste.

All fresh food is sold in mixed food markets, which are most unattractive. Particularly for meat, it is necessary for market shopping to be done at about 6.30 every morning. Most Europeans rely on their cooks to do this part of the shopping.

Local Transport: There are bus services and old-fashioned tram services operating within the city. These are not used by Europeans. Pedicabs, or samlors, operate a great deal in the city area. While useful occasionally in the less congested areas they are avoided by Europeans in the main part of the city, as the minor accident rate is very high. Their charges to foreigners are usually about 2 tcs. per kilometre, and only one person can be comfortably carried. Taxis are available, usually at the rate of 3 tcs. a kilometre.

Facilities for purchase and maintenance of cars and cost

A 50% duty on cars makes them a prohibitive price on the local market. However, those on the diplomatic list can import cars without the payment of customs duty and quite often with the benefit of a factory discount. While members of the staff not on the diplomatic list are granted free entry of their personal effects, this does not include cars. They would have to be imported in the name of the Embassy.

If a person coming to this post wishes to bring a car with him it should be noted particularly that the Embassy should be given advance information of its shipment - whether or not the person is on the diplomatic list, and whether or not the car is new or secondhand. An import permit has to be obtained by the Embassy and it is necessary to supply to the Thai authorities details of the make, type, size, engine horsepower, engine number, chassis number, colour, weight and value. Shipment should not be made before it is known that the Embassy has obtained the permit.

The following are examples of the approximate landed prices of cars - duty free:-

Wolseley 4/44	£A.800
Vauxhall Velox	£A.725
Austin A.50	£A.610
Ford Consul	£A.640

The facilities for maintenance and repairs vary a good deal with the make of car, but on the whole they are not good by the standards we know. There is no shortage of petrol stations, as a law prohibiting kerb-side pumps has produced a crop of smart new one-branders.

2. AUSTRALIAN OFFICES AND PLACES OF RESIDENCE

The office and residence of the Head of Mission are in one compound at 323 Silom Road. As far as the office is concerned it is well situated on a good main road, near to the banking centre and post office, on the side of the city nearer to the main residential areas, within easy distance (about $\frac{1}{2}$ to $\frac{3}{4}$ of a mile) of the U.K., American and other missions and also of the main sporting facilities at the Royal Bangkok Sports Club. The main disadvantage is that a visit to the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and other Government offices entails a trip to the other side of the city through difficult traffic. Despite this, however, there is no doubt that the Embassy is situated on the more convenient side of the city. The compound is too small to meet the needs of both office and residence, and allows little privacy for the Head of Mission and now little parking space for the office. The garden, while not elaborate, is in good condition and has an adequate lawn for official outdoor entertainment in the dry season. The two buildings, which are two-storeyed and close together, are joined by an overhead way and originally formed the house of a Bangkok lawyer. They were painted cream and green before the Embassy took them over, and have a pleasant appearance. On the first floor is the Ambassador's office and the offices of the Head of Chancery, the Services Attache, a Second Secretary and typist; on the ground floor are the offices of the Information Attache, the Third Secretary (a general office), the security room (in which works the typist-archivist-accountant-cypher clerk) and a front enquiry office (in which work the telephonist and Thai Clerk-typist). All rooms are air-conditioned by individual room conditioners, and a ten-extention three-line telephone switchboard serves both the Embassy and the residence.

The residence comprises two small sitting rooms, a dining room to seat 10 people and a bathroom downstairs, and three bedrooms, a landing adapted as a private sitting room and a bathroom upsstairs. As the bathroom leads off one of the bedrooms, the downstairs bathroom has to be used by the occupants of two of the bedrooms when there are house guests. There is a small storage space under the staircase which can be used by the occupants for canned or bottled provisions, but there is no storage space in the house suitable for linen or crockery, which has to be kept in the Embassy storeroom behind the general office. The three bedrooms are air-conditioned and the downstairs rooms are cooled by ceiling fans.

3. DIPLOMATIC AND CONSULAR PRIVILEGES

Only members of the staff on the diplomatic list are assured of free entry including cars. Those not on the diplomatic list are granted free entry of the initial shipment excluding cars.

Import entry forms have to be completed for the import of goods and effects and if the person concerned is entitled to diplomatic privilege the forms are endorsed accordingly. This is tedious and time-consuming.

Orners of cars imported duty-free always remain liable for the payment of customs duty on the sale of the car irrespective of the length of ownership.

4. CLIMATE

There is a hot dry season from January to June and a hot wet season from June to November. In December and January there is a slightly cooler season, when a light woollen jacket may occasionally be necessary, or a light blanket in bed at night. During the hot dry season, the atmosphere is extremely humid. The effect of the climate is therefore very enervating. The effect on temperament varies with the individual naturally, and some people become very irritable and exhausted; with other people no effects are apparent. Bangkok is classified as an "unhealthy" post by the British Foreign Service and carries an additional leave credit.

Clothes do not last long in this climate, because of the frequent changes necessary, and the continuous laundering and the primitive washing methods used.

During the wet season much care must be taken of leather goods to prevent mould and frequent airing of little-used woollens and other clothes must be observed. Insect pests, moths, beetles and mosquitoes, will also destroy or mark clothes unless care is taken.

Books need frequent airing and spraying. Books kept over a long period, without attention, or packed away, certainly deteriorate.

5. EXCHANGE RATE

The Buying rates of exchange at the moment (March 1956) are:-

Pound Sterling	56.60
U.S. $	20.37
Hong Kong $	3.48
Singapore $	6.62

There are a number of reputable banks operating in Bangkok, both foreign and Thai. The Hongkong and Shanghai Banking Corporation, the Chartered Bank of India, Australia and China, and the Mercantile Bank of India Ltd. are usually used by the diplomatic and consular representatives in Thailand. The official account of this post is held at the Hongkong and Shanghai Banking Corporation and, for convenience, it is usual for officers of this mission to open their personal accounts with this bank.

7. COST OF LIVING

The cost of living for Europeans is, in general, from two to three times as high as that in Australia. A Thai cost-of-living index is available, but it does not indicate anything relevant since by far the greater proportion of the Thai and Chinese people live in poor houses and exist on a rice diet, with no additions of European food.

8. ACCOMMODATION

(a) Hotels

There are four or five European type hotels suitable for transients and visitors. Permanent accommodation is difficult to obtain. The following list gives some idea of the daily charges:

		Air-conditioned	Not Air-conditioned
Ratanakosin	S.R.	180, 156, 132	120, 96, 72
	D.R.	308	220
Oriental	S.R.	250	100
	D.R.	280	150
Trocadero	S.R.	181.50	104.50
	D.R.	286	176
Plaza	S.R.	180	150
	D.R.	280	200

This tariff does not include the following meal charges:-

Ratanakosin	- three meals per day	78.70
Oriental	" " " "	75.00
Trocadero	" " " "	75.00
Plaza	" " " "	75.00

(b) Flats

Flats are very difficult to obtain. A few are modern and well-equipped and are usually let for about Tcs.4,000-5,000 a month furnished.

(c) Houses

House agents can usually supply a newcomer with a long list of houses for rent but a high proportion of them is unsuitable for our purposes. As rents are high any person with a piece of land, no matter how small, builds a house on it and lets it - if possible to the diplomatic corps or members of the American and U.N. agencies. To get away from the noisy traffic and sometimes squalid surroundings it is better to go a little further out to the residential suburb of Bangkapi. It is almost impossible to obtain a house for less than Tcs. 4,000 a month and one suitable for a married officer with a family is usually around the 5,000 mark.

The cost for private board is not less than Tcs. 2500 per month and is difficult to obtain. Most of the larger diplomatic missions and European firms maintain messes for the single members of their staffs. Two or three single persons may share a house, but this is very expensive as rents for larger houses are very high and the overhead expenses are considerable. Room and meals for a single person at a hotel will cost approximately Tcs.5842 per month. Hotel life is not satisfactory for a long period, with the coming and going of transients at all hours of the night and the exorbitant charges for extra, such as laundry, afternoon tea and drinks. It is naturally preferable to get into a mess or make arrangements for sharing a house, but these opportunities are few and are governed by the cost of such accommodation and the distance from the Consulate-General.

Land Values and building costs:

Land values vary considerably in different parts of the city. In desirable residential areas, the price is about Tcs.100 to 500 per square wah (that is Tcs.40,000 to 200,000 per rai, or 2/5ths of an acre). Building costs are similarly high, costing about Tcs. 750,000 to Tcs. 1,000,000 for a reasonably sized house. The standard of buildings is also, I understand, rather low.

Servants The scale of charges usually varies a little with the household - for example there is more prestige in the position of a cook to an Ambassador than to a member of the Embassy staff and the Head of Mission would probably not keep his staff unless he paid more. The servants' wages quoted in the last report should be amended to read:

No. 1 Boy	500 - 650	Tcs.	per	month
Cook	500 - 600	"	"	"
Coolie	250 - 350	"	"	"
Washerwoman	250 - 350	"	"	"
Gardener	300 - 400	"	"	"
Nurse for children	350 - 450	"	"	"
Nightwatchman	200 - 250	"	"	"

It is no longer the general custom to provide servants with rice money. They, of course, exact their amount of "squeeze" in the daily purchases from the market and items of food from the house

Nightwatchmen are essential on account of the great number of burglaries and attempted burglaries.

Most likely means of securing accommodation in hotels would usually be by official assistance but for securing houses personal contacts are best.

9. HOUSEHOLD EQUIPMENT For costs, see Appendices

Furniture

Light rattan is used a good deal for chairs, loundes, small tables, and proves adequate and suitable.

Excellent woods, usually teak, are used in the manufacture of dining room and bedroom furniture. Beds are made always with the centre section of wooden planks instead of srpings.

Linen is usually difficult to obtain and expensive. Occasionally embroidered Chinese linens are found at rather high prices.

Imported towels are available, but rather expensive - Chinese and local varieties are cheap but not very durable.

Sheeting is available, but not of very good quality. Imported American Sheets can sometimes be bought, but are very expensive.

Mosquito nets are essential unless bedrooms are screened, and can be brought locally already made up in correct shape.

Crockery There is very little, if any, good English crockery available but there is fair to good quality Japanese crockery to be had at the equivalent of Australian prices.

Kitchenware Charcoal is the universal fuel and while it is quite efficient it is severe on cooking utensils. This, and the mishandling by the cooks, weighs against bringing good quality kitchenware from Australia of the type used with electric stoves. There is plenty of light Japanese-made aluminium ware here which is quite suitable for use during an officer's term, and it is cheap.

Glassware. On the whole suitable glassware is not now available here. There is plenty of cheap Japanese glassware of all types, and some very expensive Belgian crystal. Tumblers of average quality are in good supply (made by an Australian company - Thai-Glass). If an officer has a reasonable selection of wine glasses he would be well advised to bring them with him.

Cutlery. A limited range of very inferior quality may be purchased cheaply. Standard E.P.N.S. is very expensive. Sterling silverware of local manufacture, and of beautiful design is to be found, but it is extremely expensive.

Floor Coverings. Ordinary carpeting is in poor supply, expensive and of inferior quality. Occasional excellent Chinese carpets and rugs are seen but they are very expensive. A type of woven sea-grass matting is available at 5 tcs. a square foot, which is usually found adequate.

10. SERVICES

All Embassy offices are now air-conditioned, together with the occupied bedrooms of staff houses.

Electrical Equipment. Appliances requiring only a small amperage, such as hair driers or sewing machines operating on the Australian voltage of about 220 can be used here satisfactorily through a transformer. Other equipment requiring a higher amperage such, as electric irons, should be converted for use on 110 volts. The wash amahs usually leave the iron on all day and it seems that nothing will break them of the habit. It is therefore, not worth bringing a good iron as it is certain to be ruined. Generally speaking electrical equipment is in good supply.

Charcoal. The price in the last report should be amended to read Tcs. 27 a bag.

The water supply is adequate for baths and laundering but all water for drinking must be boiled. There is not a good pressure and in older style houses water is not available upstairs at most hours of the day. Usually, water in bathrooms is conserved in large jars because of this fact. Many old-style houses have bathrooms with showers but baths are rarely installed.

Sewerage. There is no sewerage system, but septic tanks are used in the better homes.

Garbage removal is a difficulty. It is collected from outside houses every day, but in the city area this is scarcely sufficient, as it is usually left loose on footpaths.

Food Delivery. Groceries are delivered promptly. There are no deliveries of fresh foods or bread. Milk is delivered, but as the source of supply is doubtful, it is rarely used by Europeans, and tinned or powdered milk is normally used.

Portal Charges.

Ordinary Mail	- Inland - for each 20 gr.		Tcs. 0.25
	Foreign - for first 20 gr.		Tcs. 1.00
	Additional	20 gr.	0.60
Air Mail	- Inland - first 20 grammes		Tcs. 0.50
	Additional 20	"	0.50

✓ Australia	Tcs. 1.05	per 5 gr.
✓ London	" 1.55	"
✓ Singapore	" 0.20	"
✓ U.S.A.	" 1.90	"
✓ Hong Kong	" 0.35	"

✓ To which must be added postage as for ordinary mail (foreign).

Telephone system and costs. There is an automatic telephone system in Bangkok with about 6000 subscribers but the service is very poor. For new telephones, installation costs for materials and labour are charged. The monthly rent of equipment (extensions etc., are of course extra) is Tcs. 25. The first 30 calls are free, for the next 210 calls the charge is 75 satangs per call, and thereafter 50 satangs per call.

11. FOOD

Grocery stores stock a surprisingly good selection of food but the prices are very high, particularly if some restriction on iiports makes a commodity scarce. Officers would be well advised before leaving Australia to place an order for about three months' supply (say from a reliable firm like McIlraiths) so that it is ready for them on, or shortly after, their arrival. Powdered milk is an important item.

Beef of good quality is available. Mutton is very inferior. Poultry fish and shell-fish are in excellent supply. Fresh vegetables of a limited variety are available. Fresh local fruit is always available. Eggs are plentiful. Tinned butter, cheese, vegetables from Australia and America are in plentiful supply. Occasionally sugar is scarce.

Special Food for Babies. Baby foods such as Lactogen, tinned purreed vegetables, rusks, Farex, are all available. For the weaned baby chicken livers, fish, steak, vegetables, etc., are plentiful although there is a lack of variety in the vegetables. Orange juice can be replaced by local mandarin juice, Papaya is plentiful, apples are imported, bananas are excellent. Most babies require extra Vitamin C and D which can be obtained in pills or medicine form. Babies in Bangkok are generally very healthy and untroubled by the heat.

Purity of Water. A filter system operates for the water supply but is always considered essential to boil all drinking water.

No pasteurized milk is available. Without exception all European babies are given tinned milk, either of the reduced or powdered variety.

12. CLOTHING

Shirts and shorts are rarely, if ever, worn for office use.

"Tropical" weight suits made in Australia are not suitable for wear here - they are usually padded and the material is too heavy. With the exception of tails it is far better to have them made in Singapore where the officer should stop, if possible, for sufficient time to outfit himself properly. Both the cloth and the workmanship available in Singapore are far better than that available in Bangkok. White is worn in preference to cream.

Full evening dress is our diplomatic uniform here and it is essential. Strictly speaking silk hat and gloves are also part of the uniform, but they are rarely worn or carried - except perhaps by a Head of Mission. Neither dress shirts, collars nor waistcoats are obtainable locally.

As tails are worn as a uniform and not as evening dress, full size decorations should be brought; only on the occasions when evening dress uniform is prescribed are minatures to be worn.

In the case of women's clothing, stockings are practically never worn. The only exception which comes to mind is the occasion of a cremation. Similarly, hats are almost never worn - except perhaps occasionally at Church.

Ballerina length frocks meet the demands of evening wear on the whole, although the wife of the Head of Mission would find need more often for a full length evening dress. In many cases the wife of an officer must be prepared to attend formal official functions in an evening dress (incl ding daytime functions) and on these occasions the shoulders must be covered. Long white gloves must also be worn. A full length black dress is required for the occasions of mourning when the members of the diplomatic corps attend the rites or the cremation of a high official or members of the Royal Family. On these occasions long black gloves or long sleeves and short gloves must be worn - and stockings. The occasions when the long black dress is required are fairly rare, and such a dress could be made in Bangkok after arrival.

There is plenty of cheap cotton material and a limited range of good cottons - but the latter are expensive. It would be a good investment to bring a number of washable dress lengths to be made up here.

Shoes. English and American men's shoes are in fair supply, but they are expensive by Australian standards. Women should bring a good supply of shoes with them, particularly sandals. Although they can be made here the workmanship and the materials are poor.

Dry Cleaning. This has improved since the last report was written. Davis dry cleaning shops are in various parts of the city and give a quite satisfactory service.

13. HEALTH

The effect of the climate and general conditions on the health varies considerably with the individual. Some people, including the majority of young European children, appear to thrive here. Many adults, however, suffer fairly regular bouts of ill health as a result of the enervating climate and the numerous fevers which are prevalent.

Cholera, smallpox and typhoid are endemic and frequently become epidemic in various parts of the country each year. Other tropical diseases, including various minor fevers are present. There is a very high incidence of tuberculosis and venereal disease among the populations; leprosy also occurs. Infective jaundice appears to be fairly common and both forms of dysentery are prevalent. It is usually noticeable that one's resistance to disease diminishes after a year or so without a holiday.

Vaccination against smallpox and innoculation against cholera and the typhoid group are es ential for anyone entering the country; such innoculations are usually repeated every six months.

Owing to the lack of mineral content in locally grown vegetables and to certain deficiencies in the diet, most children and adults are advised to take vitamin tablets regularly, as well as calcium in varying forms, and salt.

During the hot weather many young children and some adults suffer from prickly heat. Boils and skin eruptions can be frequent if care is not taken in building up the diet deficiencies.

The Pasteur Institute, run by the Red Cross, has an excellent service for treating rabies, snake bites and various poisonous insect bites. This service is free of charge, as are innoculations and vaccinations administered by the Pasteur Institute; but contributions and periodical donations to the Red Cross are usually made.

There are several competent European physicians and surgeons in Bangkok, and many of the Siamese doctors are well trained. General charges are 60-80 tcs. per visit, and 50-60 Tcs. per consultation at the surgery.

In addition to Siamese hospitals, there is a good nursing home maintained by the European community, and staffed principally by European nurses. Monthly subscriptions to the Nursing Home is 50 Tcs. Daily rates for inpatients are:-

Subscribers and families	-	50 tcs.
Non-subscribers	-	150 "

Extra charges are made as usual for drugs, theatre fees, etc.

There are three or four competent European dentists. Average charges are 40 tcs. for an extraction, and 80-100 tcs. for a filling.

A full supply of good quality medicines is available, at prices somewhat higher than in Australia. It is essential to have a good stock of medicines on hand in view of the frequency of minor ailments, especially fevers and stomach complaints.

It is customary to pay the cost of medical expenses for one's servants in case they become ill, including hospital fees if necessary.

It might also be mentioned that, for comfort as well as for health reasons, it is ess ntial to use insecticides (particularly DDT) continuously in the house because of the great number of mosquitoes and other insects. Continuous use of disinfectants in drains, etc., is also essential.

14. LANGUAGE

In Bangkok, most Siamese, whom one is likely to meet at social functions, in an official capacity, or in business, speak English. English is also used in the few large shops. There are four daily papers in English, about 25 in Siamese, and about 6 in Chinese.

In the country very few Siamese speak English

and it is essential to know some Siamese.

In Bangkok, some knowledge of Siamese is necessary in dealing with domestic servants (few of whom speak English) and for a good deal of the shopping.

The Siamese language is simple in construction but difficult to pronounce and understand owing to the number of tones used. The Siamese script is derived from Pali; the alphabet has 46 consonants and 26 vowels.

A smattering of the language sufficient for simple needs may be picked up in about 3 months' study of about one hour or two, per day. To become really proficient in speaking, reading and writing, requires careful study for about 12 months.

From time to time, courses are given by the YWCA and YMCA in Elementary Siamese. For private tuition teachers are available at 25 tcs. per hour.

15. CULTURAL INTERESTS.

There are several small bookshops selling books in English, both of the fiction and the general variety though the range is rather limited. Some elementary text-books for European languages are available, but there is certainly not a comprehensive range of such material for language students.

The Neilson Hayes Library has a reasonable selection of books for English readers, though it is by no means comprehensive or really up-to-date with current literature. Terms of subscription are Tcs. 75 per half year.

There are certain institutions for students of Siamese culture - the National Library, the Museum of Fine Arts, and smaller museums attached to some of the temples.

The Siam Society holds lectures on Siamese culture and historical subjects, in English, and from time to time arranges excursions. European membership is encouraged and the subscription is 50 ticals per year.

The Silapakorn Theatre, presents plays in Siamese from time to time, which are very much appreciated by some Europeans.

Opportunities for attending programmes of Siamese classical dancing, arise from time to time.

There are no large dramatic societies or music clubs for Europeans. The Alliance Francaise, with plays in French about every three months, and recorded musical programmes about once every month, provides a certain cultural interest for Europeans. The Alliance Francaise also has a good library of French literature, and from time to time conducts French classes.

16. EDUCATION

The International School (mentioned in paragraph 16 of the Post Report) is the only English language school available here which provides education for children beyond the age of seven and up to 15. It provides education from a younger age, but most non-Americans prefer to use

the other junior schools and kindergartens available. The International School is run on American lines and uses an American syllabus. The standard has been criticised by some, including an Australian teacher at the school, who considers that, age for age, they are about two years behind Australian schools. The fees are Tcs. 1500/2000 per term.

There are several kindergartens taking children from four to six years of age which seem quite satisfactory. The usual fee is Tcs. 250 a month. One of these, run by a Filipino woman, is to commence teaching first grade from the beginning of next term using Australian correspondence school syllabus and books.

The two junior schools of five to seven-year-olds are quite good and in demand - one run by an English lady, Mrs. St. Martin, is quite difficult to get into. Both Mr. Hay's son and Wing Commander Kinninmont's son attend this school. The fees for both junior schools are Tcs. 1000 a term.

In the past, it has been regarded by most Europeans, as unsatisfactory, from a health and an educational viewpoint, to keep their children in Thailand after the age of nine or ten.

17. ENTERTAINMENT

Entertainment is usually informal but on a large scale, and usually consists of cocktail parties, buffet suppers, dinners and dances. Such functions are usually held in large private homes, at government buildings and occasionally at clubs, restaurants, or hotels. Costs of such entertainments are naturally high. Such entertainments are very frequent. There are many cinemas in Bangkok. Costs of reasonably good seats are Tcs. 12 each. Film programmes are usually of indifferent interests.

Clubs. The Royal Bangkok Sports Club provides the greatest number of facilities for Europeans, viz. swimming, tennis, squash, golf, racing, billiards, cricket and football, as well as club facilities for meals, drinks, reading rooms, etc. The entrance fee is 750 tcs., with a monthly fee of 150 tcs. for a family, and 125 tcs. for a single man.

The British Club provides facilities for tennis, bowls and billiards; entrance fee is 120 tcs., and 40 tcs., per month.

The Cosmpoloitan Club provides facilities for tennis, bowls and billiards; with an entrance fee of 2000 tcs., and a fee of 100 tcs. per month.

The Turf Club provides racing facilities and the Polo Club, riding.

There are two small night clubs of average type where the charges are very high, and three or four inferior night clubs, also, with high charges.

There are only a few European style restaurants. These are not very impressive and their charges are high (40-50 tcs. per head for dinner). Some of the better Chinese restaurants provide excellent food, at costs varying from 30-50 tcs. per head.

Hotel meals are usually of indifferent quality and cost from 30-50 tcs. for a good dinner, excluding drinks.

Tipping. Usually tipping is about 20% of the bill, and is normally added thereto. Room-boys, etc., in hotels are usually given additional tips.

A more unpleasant form of tipping is the local practice of paying "squeeze". This is the practice of giving tips, surreptitiously, to secure better service, in all fields; both in the business world and in government departments. It is done by many Siamese, and by European business people. It is certainly not recommended that such "squeeze" should ever be paid, but its presence and its effects, must be noted.

Special Formalities. Cards are not now required in such great quantity as previously. The practice has grown up of notifying the arrival of a newcomer by means of a circular note to the other missions.

18. SPORTS

Sporting facilities are largely limited to the clubs mentioned in Section 17. As well as club membership and subscription fees, additional small amounts have to be paid each time one plays tennis or golf, for ball-boys and caddies (e.g. for tennis 6 tcs. - golf for two people 12 tcs.)

Most sporting equipment can be bought locally but prices are higher than in Australia. Frequent replacement of sporting equipment (such as tennis racquets, tennis balls, etc.) is also necessary.

A certain amount of small game shooting can be arranged in the neighbourhood of Bangkok, and big game hunting can, with some difficulty be arranged in the country.

Some sea-fishing is available to the south but is usually only indulged in when spending more than a day away from the Capital.

Authorities agree that a certain amount of exercise and sport is essential for bodily well-being in this enervating climate.

19. RELIGIOUS WORSHIP

There is a Roman Catholic Cathedral and several Roman Catholic churches and convents. There is one Anglican Church with three Sunday services in English, and there is an American Evangelical Church, with one service each Sunday.

20. RADIO

Apart from military stations, which occasionally broadcast ordinary programmes, Radio Bangkok, operated by the Royal Thai Publicity Department, is the only radio station operating in Thailand. Except for one short session in English in the short-wave transmission each evening, the whole of the programmes are in the Thai language.

With a reasonably strong short-wave receiver, programmes from overseas can be heard quite well, in particular Radio Saigon, Singapore Radio, All-India Radio, Radio Hongkong and Radio Australia.

Six-valve dual-wave receiving sets appear to be adequate for most purposes, and English and American sets are available locally from Tcs. 1500 upwards. A power set-up, as with other electrical appliances, is usually necessary.

21. TRAVEL AND ACCOMMODATION AWAY FROM CAPITAL

(a) For short periods. Journeys may be made into the surrounding countryside, but the roads are poor, on the whole. Train travel is available to some seaside beaches (such as Hua Hin which is 120 miles away) where bungalows are available. Local hotel accommodation is available in the larger country towns, but except at Hua Hin it is usually poor and not recommended for children, nor, in most cases, for women.

(b)) For recreation leave. On the whole, facilities for recreation leave are poor. The central plain on which Bangkok is situated is not more than about 10 feet above sea-level. The nearest hill-station is about 400 miles away at Chiengmai. Accommodation is available, but it is only fair.

Recreation leave could also be taken at Penang or Singapore, but holidays at these places are very expensive and are usually out of the range of most people.

Bangkok,
9th March, 1956.

149

DEPARTMENT OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS.

CABLEGRAM. UNCLASSIFIED.

:EGM:

I. 6869

Dated: 21st May, 1956
1656

Rec'd: 22nd May, 1956
0840

FROM:

Australian Embassy,
BANGKOK.

197. UNCLASSIFIED.

Upton and family arrived morning 20th May.

E.A.

22nd May, 1956.

SEC A/Ss UN PAC&AM S&SEA SEA E INF C&P ADMIN
PERS FIN TRAV EXCOMMS

402/1/5

DEPARTMENT OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS.

148

CABLEGRAM.

402/1/5

GG:SHA

0.2766.

Dated: 25th February, 1956
1300

TO:

Australian Embassy,
BANGKOK.

80. UNCLASSIFIED.

Plimsoll will be passing through Bangkok from Singapore en route to Rangoon on Flight BA787 Tourist arriving Bangkok 1205 on Wednesday 29th February and leaving 1250 same day.

Cost £3/15/-

E.A.
P.M.'s

27th February, 1956

SEC A/Ss S&SEA SEA INF DL MT ADMIN PERS TRAV

402/1/5
147
118.

DEPARTMENT OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS
CANBERRA
PR 23.
16th February, 1956.

FOR THE PRESS

AUSTRALIAN AMBASSADOR TO THAILAND

The Minister for External Affairs, Mr. R. G. Casey, said today that Mr. D. O. Hay, D.S.O., M.B.E., who has been Australian Minister to Thailand, has been appointed Ambassador following the decision of the Australian and Thai Governments to raise their diplomatic missions from Legations to Embassies.

146

DEPARTMENT OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS.

CABLEGRAM. RESTRICTED

JG:VA

I. 16460

Sent: 14th December, 1955
1630
Rec'd: 15th December, 1955
0830

FROM:

Australian Embassy,
BANGKOK.

→402/1/5

310. RESTRICTED.

Your telegram 382.

The Thais are instructing Konthi to notify you formally of their Government's agreement to raise the status with effect from seven repeat seven December (date on which the Thai Cabinet gave formal approval).

2. I shall tomorrow advise the Thai Foreign Ministry similarly in respect of this mission with effect from 7th December.

- - - - - - - - -

MIN. & DEPT. E.A.
P.M's.

15th December, 1955.

SEC A/Ss S&SEA SEA

RESTRICTED

DEPARTMENT OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS.

CABLEGRAM.

145

UNCLASSIFIED

MC:HMcC

O.14925

Sent: 8th December, 1955
1645

TO:-

Australian Embassy,
BANGKOK.

→ 402/1/5

382. UNCLASSIFIED.

For Hay.

You will appreciate that Legation has now become an Embassy of which you are Chargé d'Affaires ad interim with continuing personal rank of Minister.

MIN. & DEPT. E.A.
P.M'S.

(COST £2.14.0)
9th December, 1955

SEC A/Ss UN ALL SECTIONS

File No. 402/1/5

EXTERNAL AFFAIRS.

144

Record of Conversation with Thai Minister.

on 7th December, 1955.

Officers Present F.H. Stuart.

MAIN SUBJECT(S): Elevation of Missions.

Copy for -
Mr. Waller
Mr. Shaw

Nai Konthi said he was unclear what arrangements the Department had had in mind when it made the announcement yesterday. (My understanding of this from you was that it had already been agreed with the Thai Government to make a mutual announcement at 48 hours notice: you were telegraphing Hay to let the Thais know we proposed making it on December 6th. I was merely to inform Konthi what was taking place). He felt nothing definitive had yet occurred.

2. Konthi said that after I spoke to him on Monday he telegraphed his Government who have now told him this was the first advice they had received; they have not had any advice from Hay, and have not made any announcement themselves. Konthi gave it as his own belief that there should be a preliminary exchange of notes embodying the agreement; the elevation would take place later, probably next year, when the appointment of Ambassadors would take place. (This is the first time he has spoken to me in this sense). Konthi asks whether, as the Minister's statement is couched in the future tense, it might still be possible to make the elevation formal at a later date. It is evident that whatever his own conception, the Thai Government does not understand what has been happening, and Konthi has been asked to explain. I recalled to him that while he was in my office on Monday Dr. Regala had suggested on the telephone from Sydney the missions concerned should all become Embassies at once, and that to this no-one had demurred. But he does not appear to know whether his mission has been elevated or not, or whether what we have done about it is what his Government has agreed to.

3. Konthi wants to send a telegram to Bangkok as soon as possible on this subject.

DISTRIBUTION:

Minister.	A/S G.R.	Central Br.	D.L. & P.I. Br.	E. & T.A. Br.	Admin. Branch.
Secretary.	A/S Admin.	Pacific Br.	U.N. Branch.	C. & P. Br.	Antarctic Div.
A/S U.N.	L. & T. Div.	Western Br.	E.R. Branch.	C'wealth. Rels.	Melbourne Office.
					Sydney Office.

FOLLOWING POST(S):

Report prepared by F.H. Stuart.

ACTION: S.S.E/A. Shaw speaker to Mr Waller who will follow up. Shaw 8/12

1710.

Mr. Furlonger

874.

Re 402/1/5

DEPARTMENT OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS

CANBERRA 143

PR 109.

5th December, 1955.

FOR THE PRESS

For publication or broadcasting not before midnight December 5-6.

DIPLOMATIC REPRESENTATION IN ASIA

Two Legations to become Embassies

The Minister for External Affairs, Mr. R. G. Casey, announced tonight that the Australian Legations at Bangkok and Manila will be raised to the status of Embassies.

The change had been agreed to with the Governments of Thailand and the Philippines, whose Legations in Australia will correspondingly be raised to Embassies.

Mr. Casey said that it was the Government's well-established policy to promote closer relations with the free Asian countries. Quite apart from the emergence of the Asia-Pacific area to a position of world importance, it was to Australia's interest to cultivate close relations with her neighbour countries, particularly in South and South-East Asia. The aim was to develop the fullest mutual understanding with individual countries in the political, economic and cultural field.

The growth of this co-operation and interdependence, Mr. Casey said, was reflected by such developments as the Manila (SEATO) Treaty and the Colombo Plan, in both of which Thailand and the Philippines were closely associated with Australia.

Another sign of the growing relationship was the fact that more Asian visitors were coming to Australia. Besides students and trainees, these included goodwill, technical and other special missions. Mr. Casey said that it was hoped that interchange of visits of this kind would increase.

In view of the importance of Australia's relations with Thailand and the Philippines, Mr. Casey said, it was appropriate that our representation should be at the highest level.

Room 7
Plse get copy for 471/1/1
471/1/5
471/1/6

Mr Spicer

~~SEA~~ 874.

402/1/5 142

DEPARTMENT OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS

CANBERRA

PR 109.

5th December, 1955.

FOR THE PRESS

For publication or broadcasting not before midnight December 5-6.

DIPLOMATIC REPRESENTATION IN ASIA

Two Legations to become Embassies

The Minister for External Affairs, Mr. R. G. Casey, announced tonight that the Australian Legations at Bangkok and Manila will be raised to the status of Embassies.

The change had been agreed to with the Governments of Thailand and the Philippines, whose Legations in Australia will correspondingly be raised to Embassies.

Mr. Casey said that it was the Government's well-established policy to promote closer relations with the free Asian countries. Quite apart from the emergence of the Asia-Pacific area to a position of world importance, it was to Australia's interest to cultivate close relations with her neighbour countries, particularly in South and South-East Asia. The aim was to develop the fullest mutual understanding with individual countries in the political, economic and cultural field.

The growth of this co-operation and interdependence, Mr. Casey said, was reflected by such developments as the Manila (SEATO) Treaty and the Colombo Plan, in both of which Thailand and the Philippines were closely associated with Australia.

Another sign of the growing relationship was the fact that more Asian visitors were coming to Australia. Besides students and trainees, these included goodwill, technical and other special missions. Mr. Casey said that it was hoped that interchange of visits of this kind would increase.

In view of the importance of Australia's relations with Thailand and the Philippines, Mr. Casey said, it was appropriate that our representation should be at the highest level.

File No.

EXTERNAL AFFAIRS.

Record of Conversation with: The Thai Minister

on: 27th ~~February~~ SEPT, 1955

Officers Present: Sir Philip McBride, Acting Minister for External Affairs
G.N. Upton

→ 402/1/5

MAIN SUBJECT(S): Raising of Status of Missions to Embassy

Mr Konthi said that his Government had instructed him to propose a raising of the status of the Australian Mission in Thailand and the Thai Legation in Australia to Embassy. The Thai Government wished to raise the status of the missions in view of the close political and economic relations between the two countries especially through common membership of SEATO. Moreover the Thai Government was proposing to raise the status of other Thai missions particularly those in South East Asia.

2. The Acting Minister said that he favoured the proposal in principle and was sure that Mr Casey would feel the same way. The implications of the proposal for Australian representation elsewhere would, however, have to be examined and the proposal would then have to be considered by Cabinet before a definite reply could be given.

see 1602/2

DISTRIBUTION:

* Minister.	* A/S G.R.	Central Br.	D.L. & P.I. Br.	* E. & T.A. Br.	Admin. Branch.
* Secretary.	* A/S Admin.	Pacific Br.	U.N. Branch.	C. & P. Br.	Antarctic Div.
* A/S U.N.	L. & T. Div.	Western Br.	E.R. Branch.	C'wealth. Rels.	Melbourne Office.
* S.&.S.E.A.					Sydney Office.

FOLLOWING POST(S): Bangkok

Report prepared by: G.N.Upton.

ACTION:

2960/55.

DEPARTMENT OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS

CABLEGRAM.

Mc

I.11938

Dated: 19th September 1955
1700

Rec'd: 20th September 1955
0830

FROM:

Australian Legation,
BANGKOK.

229. UNCLASSIFIED.

Baxters arrived 1900 17th.

M

E.A.
P.M.'s.

→ 402/1/5 20th September, 1955.

SEC A/Ss UN PAC&AM S&SEA SEA E.AF&ME INF DL
C&P ADMIN PERS FIN TRAV

139

DEPARTMENT OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS.

CABLEGRAM. I.10876

:mk

Dated: 27th August, 1955
1130
Rec'd: 28th August, 1955
0900

FROM:

Australian Legation,
BANGKOK

214 UNCLASSIFIED

Propose taking local leave 29th August - 3rd September.

Hay.

MIN. & DEPT. E.A.

28th August, 1955

SEC A/Ss S&SEA SEA INF ADMIN PERS @ FIN

9

402/1/5

DEPARTMENT OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS. UNCLASSIFIED

CABLEGRAM.

O. 9560

WT: MFP

Sent: 13th August, 1955
1225

TO:

Australian Legation,
BANGKOK

242 UNCLASSIFIED

For Hay from Casey.

Please pass following message to Mrs. Peurifoy from me.

Begins:-

I am distressed to learn of death of your husband and son. Please accept my most sincere and sympathetic condolences.

Ends

MIN. & DEPT. E.A.
P.M'S

(Cost £5.14.0)
15th August, 1955

SEC A/Ss PAC&AM AM&SP S&SEA SEA INF

402/1/5

Wm Hall

402/1/5. 137

DEPARTMENT OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS

CANBERRA

PR 38.

May 20, 1955.

FOR THE PRESS

For release not before midnight May 20-21.

SERVICE ATTACHE FOR BANGKOK

The Minister for External Affairs, Mr. R. G. Casey, announced today that, in agreement with the Ministers for Defence and Air, it had been decided to appoint Wing Commander J. R. Kinninmont, D.S.O., D.F.C. and Bar, to the new post of Service Attaché at the Australian Legation, Bangkok.

Wing Commander Kinninmont, who is 34, has had a distinguished record of service since joining the R.A.A.F. in September 1939. He has held several important flying appointments, including command of No. 78 Squadron and No. 78 Wing. He also served in 1949 as Aide-de-Camp to His Excellency the Governor-General.

During the Second World War, Wing Commander Kinninmont was awarded the Distinguished Flying Cross for his outstanding leadership, exceptional courage and skill in the execution of offensive strikes against the Japanese. In 1945 he was awarded a Bar to the D.F.C. in connection with operations in Balikpapan. In 1952 he completed four operational tours overseas, and whilst occupying the post of Officer Commanding No. 77 (Interceptor/Fighter) Squadron in Korea, he was awarded the Distinguished Service Order.

The appointment of an Australian Service Attaché to Bangkok, complementing as it does the recent appointment of a Military Attaché to the Thai Legation at Canberra, is an earnest of the Australian Government's interest in developing co-operation and understanding between the armed services of Thailand and Australia, which are partners in the South-East Asian Collective Defence Treaty. In addition to his regular duties as Service Attaché, Wing Commander Kinninmont will serve as Australian representative in the Military Liaison Group which is being established in Bangkok in implementation of a recent decision of the Manila Treaty Council.

Mr Casey
Personal

DEPARTMENT OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS, CANBERRA.

136

Name of Paper SUMMARY OF WORLD BROADCASTS File No. 402/1/5

Published at Date MAY 24 th 1955.

INDONESIA.

402/1/5

NEW ATTACHE AT AUSTRALIAN LEGATION Melbourne radio (06.45, 21.5.55) reported that Wing-Commander J.R. Kinnimont, former Commander of No.77 Fighter Squadron in Korea, had recently been appointed Attache to the Australian Legation in Bangkok. The Australian Minister for External Affairs had said that the post had been created because of Australia's earnest desire to develop co-operation and understanding with the Thai armed forces.

135

AUSTRALIAN LEGATION,
BANGKOK.

3/3/11/1.

M.D. No.1/55.

13th April, 1955.

DEPARTMENT OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS
19 APR 1955
CANBERRA.

Sir,

I have the honour to report that on 25th March I presented my Letters of Credence to His Majesty King Phumiphol Aduldej in the Throne Hall of the Grand Palace. The ceremony was extremely formal and required considerable preparation beforehand, but was smoothly carried through. I attach copies of the Statement which I read to His Majesty and of His Majesty's reply.

Both before and after presenting the Legation staff to His Majesty, I had the opportunity for several minutes informal conversation with him. His Majesty expressed his appreciation of your own leading part in the recent meeting in Bangkok of the Manila Treaty Council. He also expressed his sorrow at the news of the flood disasters in Australia. Although he spoke very slowly, he did not appear ill at ease in speaking English and conversation flowed without difficulty.

Following the presentation of my Credentials I have been engaged in paying the customary formal calls on members of the Government and of the Diplomatic Corps. The Prime Minister received me at Government House on 9th April and spoke most cordially of Thailand's relations with Australia. I am reporting separately his comments on the Manila Treaty and Australia's decision to participate in a strategic reserve in Malaya. The remainder of our conversation was formal and related to the Prime Minister's visit overseas. In the course of this he expressed his hope to visit Australia and New Zealand when next he goes abroad. He thought that this might well be before the middle of 1956.

My formal call on Prince Wan was the only opportunity I have had to discuss with him the forthcoming Afro-Asian Conference at Bandung and I have already reported separately on this.

I propose to call on other senior members of the Government in the course of the next few weeks.

I have the honour to be,

Sir,

Your obedient servant.

Mr Quinn 19/4
Mr Hall 19/4
A/Sec already has copy. P. 19/4

The Right Honourable R.G. Casey, C.H., D.S.O., M.C.,
Minister of State for External Affairs,
CANBERRA. A.C.T.

May it please Your Majesty,

I have the honour to present Letters whereby Her Majesty Queen Elizabeth II has accredited me to be Her Envoy Extraordinary and Minister Plenipotentiary with the especial object of representing in the Kingdom of Thailand the interests of the Commonwealth of Australia, and in tendering these Letters I desire to convey on behalf of the Government and people of Australia their most cordial good wishes for Your Majesty's personal welfare and the continued prosperity of the people of Thailand.

The maintenance and strengthening of the friendly relations which so happily exist between Thailand and Australia remains a primary concern of the Government and people of my country. As members of the South-East Asia Collective Defence Treaty Organization, our two countries are confronted by urgent common problems, and are determined, together with the other signatories of the Treaty, to take all possible measures to preserve and strengthen the fabric of peace and freedom. My Government looks forward to continuing the co-operation in the cause of peace which was so notably confirmed by the First Meeting of the Treaty Council at Bangkok, and welcomes the decision of that Meeting that Bangkok should be the seat of the Council Representatives.

Our two countries are also working together, both in the United Nations and under the Colombo Plan, in matters affecting the economic progress and social well-being of the peoples of this region. It is a particular source of gratification to the people of Australia that we are able to welcome to our shores a growing number of students from Thailand whose presence in Australia has already done much to foster mutual friendship and understanding.

I am greatly honoured in having been appointed the second Australian Minister to Thailand. Like my distinguished predecessor, I believe that my foremost task will be to strengthen the many friendly bonds linking our two countries. In carrying out this high and responsible duty, I shall most deeply appreciate Your Majesty's help and co-operation.

Monsieur le Ministre,

I am pleased to receive from you the Letter of Credence by which Her Majesty Queen Elizabeth has accredited you as Envoy Extraordinary and Minister Plenipotentiary for Australia to My Court.

It is with deep gratification that I have noted the kind words you have just said concerning My country and people and I would wish you to convey, in return, through Your Excellency, the good wishes of the Government and people of Thailand to the Government and people of Australia.

I am confident that your appointment will contribute to the strengthening of the ties of friendship already existing between our two countries. In welcoming you to Thailand I assure you that in the performance of your important mission you will always receive from Me and My Government fullest co-operation and assistance.

132

AUSTRALIAN LEGATION,
BANGKOK.

3/3/11/1.

M.D. No.1/55.

13th April, 1955.

Sir,

I have the honour to report that on 25th March I presented my Letters of Credence to His Majesty King Phumiphol Aduldej in the Throne Hall of the Grand Palace. The ceremony was extremely formal and required considerable preparation beforehand, but was smoothly carried through. I attach copies of the Statement which I read to His Majesty and of His Majesty's reply.

Both before and after presenting the Legation staff to His Majesty, I had the opportunity for several minutes informal conversation with him. His Majesty expressed his appreciation of your own leading part in the recent meeting in Bangkok of the Manila Treaty Council. He also expressed his sorrow at the news of the flood disasters in Australia. Although he spoke very slowly, he did not appear ill at ease in speaking English and conversation flowed without difficulty.

Following the presentation of my Credentials I have been engaged in paying the customary formal calls on members of the Government and of the Diplomatic Corps. The Prime Minister received me at Government House on 9th April and spoke most cordially of Thailand's relations with Australia. I am reporting separately his comments on the Manila Treaty and Australia's decision to participate in a strategic reserve in Malaya. The remainder of our conversation was formal and related to the Prime Minister's visit overseas. In the course of this he expressed his hope to visit Australia and New Zealand when next he goes abroad. He thought that this might well be before the middle of 1956.

My formal call on Prince Wan was the only opportunity I have had to discuss with him the forthcoming Afro-Asian Conference at Bandung and I have already reported separately on this.

I propose to call on other senior members of the Government in the course of the next few weeks.

I have the honour to be,

Sir,

Your obedient servant.

The Right Honourable R.G. Casey, C.H., D.S.O., M.C.,
Minister of State for External Affairs,
CANBERRA. A.C.T.

131

DEPARTMENT OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS.

CABLEGRAM. UNCLASSIFIED.

I. 4027.

GG:OA.

Sent: 25th March, 1955.
1730

FROM:

Recd: 26th March, 1955.
0830

Australian Legation,
BANGKOK.

72. UNCLASSIFIED.

Presented credentials today.

Hay.

MIN & DEPT. E.A.
P.M'S.

27th March, 1955.

SEC A/S.(DIV.1) AS(Div.3) L&T(Div.4) MR. HOOD UN PAC&AM EA
AM&SP S&SEA SA SEA EAF&ME E AF&ME INF DL C&P@ ADMIN PERS

G

402/1/5.

File No. 402/1/5.
130

CONFIDENTIAL

EXTERNAL AFFAIRS.

Record of Conversation with MR. KONTHI, MINISTER FOR THAILAND

on 12th March, 1955

Officers Present ACTING SECRETARY (MR. PLIMSOLL)

MAIN SUBJECT(S):

AUSTRALIAN REPRESENTATION IN THAILAND

1. The Thai Minister (Mr. Konthi) called on me at his own request and said he had been asked by his Foreign Minister (Prince Wan) to draw our attention to the fact that the Philippines and Pakistan were about to raise the status of their representation in Bangkok from legation to embassy. He said he had not been specifically asked to propose to us that the representation of our two countries be similarly raised in status, but he knew that this would be welcome to his Government as Thailand was expecting a more prominent role in the work of SEATO to be taken by Australia than by either Pakistan or the Philippines.

2. I told Konthi that I would have to refer his remarks to Mr. Casey, and that I thought it would not fall on unsympathetic ears.

3. In reply to a question from Konthi, I told him that our representation on SEATO would probably be Sir Alan Watt as the Australian Council Representative, with Mr. David Hay (our Minister in Bangkok) as his deputy. We were not, however, in a position to announce this.

PLIMSOLL

DISTRIBUTION:

* Minister.	A/S G.R.	* S.E.Asia			
* A/g Secretary.	* A/S Admin.	Central Br.	* D.L.	E. & T.A. Br.	Admin. Branch.
* A/S U.N.	L. & T. Div.	Pacific Br.	U.N. Branch.	* C. & P. Br.	Antarctic Div.
		Western Br.	E.R. Branch.	C'wealth. Rels.	Melbourne Office.
					Sydney Office.

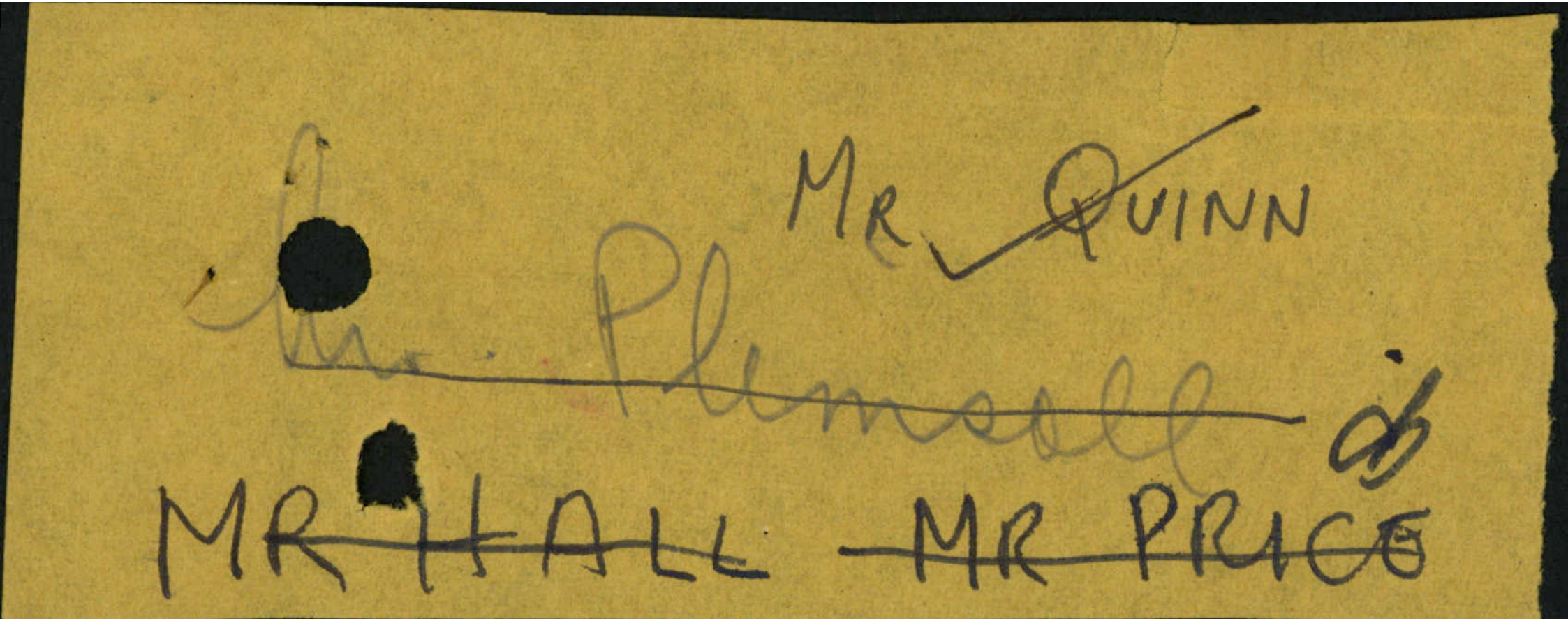
FOLLOWING POST(S): Bangkok, Singapore

Report prepared by (J. Plimsoll)

ACTION:

4106.

CONFIDENTIAL


MR QUINN
Mr. Plimsoll
MR HALL MR PRICE

LSN

File No. 402/1/5.

CONFIDENTIAL

EXTERNAL AFFAIRS.

129

Record of Conversation with MR. KONTHI, MINISTER FOR THAILAND

on 12th March, 1955

Officers Present ACTING SECRETARY (MR. PLIMSOLL)

MAIN SUBJECT(S):

AUSTRALIAN REPRESENTATION IN THAILAND

1. The Thai Minister (Mr. Konthi) called on me at his own request and said he had been asked by his Foreign Minister (Prince Wan) to draw our attention to the fact that the Philippines and Pakistan were about to raise the status of their representation in Bangkok from legation to embassy. He said he had not been specifically asked to propose to us that the representation of our two countries be similarly raised in status, but he knew that this would be welcome to his Government as Thailand was expecting a more prominent role in the work of SEATO to be taken by Australia than by either Pakistan or the Philippines.

2. I told Konthi that I would have to refer his remarks to Mr. Casey, and that I thought it would not fall on unsympathetic ears.

3. In reply to a question from Konthi, I told him that our representation on SEATO would probably be Sir Alan Watt as the Australian Council Representative, with Mr. David Hay (our Minister in Bangkok) as his deputy. We were not, however, in a position to announce this.

DISTRIBUTION:

* Minister.	A/S G.R.	* S.E.Asia	* D.L. & P.J. Br.	E. & T.A. Br.	Admin. Branch.
Secretary.	* A/S Admin.	Central Br.	U.N. Branch.	* C. & P. Br.	Antarctic Div.
A/g * A/S U.N.	L. & T. Div.	Pacific Br.	E.R. Branch.	C'wealth. Rels.	Melbourne Office.
		Western Br.			Sydney Office.

FOLLOWING POST(S): Bangkok, Singapore

Report prepared by J. Plimsoll

(J. Plimsoll)

ACTION: -

4106.

CONFIDENTIAL

DEPARTMENT OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS.

:A[redacted]

CABLEGRAM.

I. 5277.

Dated: 10th March 1955.
1650.

Rec'd: 11th March 1955.
0830.

FROM: [redacted]

Australian Legation,
BANGKOK.

62. UNCLASSIFIED.

Accommodation Kelso. Furnished and fully screened bungalow 2 bedrooms, lounge and porch, dining room, pantry available 4,000 ticals a month. Memorandum sent today's bag. Please instruct urgently.

E.A.
P.M.'S.

11th March 1955.

SEC AS(UN) AS(ADMIN) SEA ADMIN PERS PROP@ FIN.

402/1/5

DEPARTMENT OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS.

CABLEGRAM.

UNCLASSIFIED

MQ: FP

I. 2654

Sent: 25th February, 1955
2015

FROM:

Rec'd: 26th February, 1955
0830

Australian Legation,
BANGKOK.

48 UNCLASSIFIED.

Repeated saving Singapore 6, Saigon 1, Rangoon 1.

From Casey.

I have given Hay approval to visit Saigon, (and if possible Phnom Penh and Vientiane) Rangoon and Singapore as essential area experience before Bangkok assignment.

A/MIN. & DEPT. E.A. 26th February, 1955

SEC A/Ss(U.N.)(ADMIN.) UN EA SEA DL ADMIN PERS

DEPARTMENT OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS RESTRICTED.

126

CABLEGRAM.

MQ:MFP

I. 2055

Sent: 14th February, 1955
1500

FROM:

Rec'd: 15th February, 1955
0830

Australian Legation,
BANGKOK.

37 RESTRICTED.

Protocol now advise they would have no objection if Hay remained in Bangkok after the conference but still in his capacity as delegate and not as Minister designate. .

A/MIN. & DEPT. E.A.
P.M'S

15th February, 1955

SEC A/Ss(U.N.)(ADMIN.) SEA C&P ADMIN

9 402/1/5

402/1/5.
125

FOR THE PRESS

DEPARTMENT OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS
CANBERRA
PR 5.
January 16, 1955.

AUSTRALIAN MINISTER TO THAILAND

Mr. D. O. Hay appointed

The Minister for External Affairs, Mr. R. G. Casey, announced tonight that Mr. D. O. Hay, D.S.O., M.B.E., has been appointed Australian Minister to Thailand.

Mr. Casey said that Mr. Hay had been in the Department of External Affairs for many years. His previous posts include that of Official Secretary of the Australian High Commission at Ottawa. He had a notable military career during the last war in the Middle East, Greece and New Guinea, and gained the Distinguished Service Order and the M.B.E. Military Division. During the past year he has been attending the Imperial Defence College.

Mr. Casey said that Australia's contacts with Thailand had increased notably during recent years. Thailand occupied a key position on the continent of Asia, and Bangkok had become important as a centre for international meetings. Several United Nations bodies, such as the Economic Commission for Asia and the Far East (ECAFE), had their headquarters at Bangkok.

Thailand had become a party to the South-East Asia Collective Defence Treaty (the Manila Treaty), and the first meeting of Foreign Ministers under that Treaty was to be held in February in Bangkok.

Mr. Casey said that Mr. Hay was admirably fitted to represent Australia in the increasing range of discussions between our two countries which were both so vitally interested in security and welfare of the South-East Asia region.

CONFIDENTIAL

124

DEPARTMENT OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS.

CABLEGRAM. No. 204

DLB:MFP

Sent: 11th January, 1955
1225

TO:

Australian Legation,
BANGKOK.

402/1/5

7 CONFIDENTIAL.

Thai Minister here has conveyed his Government's agreement to Hay's appointment as your successor. We propose to make announcement 7 p.m. Eastern Australian standard time 16th January.

MIN. & DEPT. E.A.

(Cost £4.4.0)
11th January, 1955

SEC A/Ss [illegible] SEA INF C&P ADMIN

CONFIDENTIAL

UNCLASSIFIED

DEPARTMENT OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS.

123

EN CLAIR

MQ: MFP

CABLEGRAM. No. 283

Sent: 11th January, 1955
1225

TO:

D.O. Hay, Esq.,
"Stratheden",
AT SEA.

EX. 4 UNCLASSIFIED.

Agreement your appointment has been received from other government concerned and public announcement will be made 7 p.m. Eastern Australian standard time 16th January.

MIN. & DEPT. E.A.

(Cost £1.10.3)
11th January, 1955

SEC A/Ss SEA INF C&P ADMIN

402/1/5

Pub 11/1

Mr Casey

P.

DEPARTMENT OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS.

CABLEGRAM.

MQ:HP

O.65
Sent: 6th January, 1955.
1130

TO:

Australian Legation,
BANGKOK.

4. CONFIDENTIAL.

Our telegram 157. Visit to South.

Have you yet been able to despatch report?

Min. & Dept. of E.A.9402/1/5)
P.M.'s.

Cost - £2.12.0.

6th January, 1955.

SEC A/Ss UN ER EA SEA@ WEST CEN INF DL C & P

402/1/5

AUSTRALIAN LEGATION,

BANGKOK.

CONFIDENTIAL.

Visit to South.

Our telegram 157. Have you yet been able to despatch report?

F.B.Hall:DL.

402/1/5. 5th January, 1955.

120

DEPARTMENT OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS

CABLEGRAM. **SECRET.**

JG:SHA

O.11739.

Dated: 5th December, 1954.
1200

TO:

Australian Legation,
BANGKOK.

157. SECRET. IMMEDIATE.

Your telegram No. 113.

We are interested in political situation in South Thailand, particularly in pro-communist sentiment, degree of support that Malayan insurgents are receiving, or potential support for communists there either in cold war or in event of actual hostilities. Please make discreet inquiries. You should include Songkhla in your visit and will no doubt see British Consul. Please send full report by bag (repeating it to Watt). Secretary will also want to discuss this question with you when he visits Bangkok in latter half of January.

Cost £10/16/-

MIN. & DEPT. E.A.
P.M.'s

6th December, 1954.

SEC A/Ss UN EA SEA CENT INF DL C&P WEST

Mr. Armine

Ballard would probably find it very useful to talk to Warren Parsons, manager of a group of Australian tin mines in the general area of Phuket. Parsons is a very shrewd operator with an intimate knowledge of the west coast of the Peninsula from Ranong to the Malayan border. He was a Lt Col in Army intelligence in the area during the war and is honorary UK Vice Consul at Phuket.

I presume Ballard will be working the west coast area where the majority of Rusk mines are situated and he should already know Parsons. As far as I can remember, however, transport from the west coast to Songkhla on the east is unreliable.

A.A. 6/12

402/1/5

DEPARTMENT OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS.

CABLEGRAM.

UNCLASSIFIED

PMW:MK

I.13832

Dated: 2nd December, 1954
1500

FROM:

Rec'd: 3rd December, 1954.
1430

Australian Legation,
BANGKOK

113 UNCLASSIFIED

For Minister.

With reference to his administrative circular 110 have arranged to visit South Thailand and Australian Communities there, being absent from Bangkok from December 9th to December 15th.

Ballard.

MIN. & DEPT. E.A.
P.M's.

3rd December, 1954.

SEC A/Ss SEA INF ADMIN PERS FIN TRAV

WW Kimmell

Should Ballard be told to have a look round Songhla – & what?

Australian Legation,
Bangkok

Secret Immediate

Your No 113

We are interested in political situation in South Thailand, particularly in pro-communist sentiment, degree of support that Malayan insurgents are receiving or potential support for communists there either in cold war or in event of actual hostilities. ~~Please make discreet enquiries~~ You should ~~not~~ include SONGHLA in your visit. ~~(and will no doubt see British consul)~~ Please send full report by bag (repeating it to Watt). Secretary will also want to discuss this question with you when he visits Bangkok in latter half of January.

Telegram sent 5/12/54

DEPARTMENT OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS.

CABLEGRAM.

118

DBB:GGA

I.13195.

Dated: 20th November, 1954.
1230.
Rec'd: 21st November, 1954.
0830.

FROM:

Australian Legation,
B A N G K O K.

110. UNCLASSIFIED.

Kelso arrived 1315 hours November 19th.

E.A.

22nd November, 1954.

SEC A/Ss SEA ADMIN PERS FIN TRAVEL

402/1/5

DEPARTMENT OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS.

117

CABLEGRAM. UNCLASSIFIED.

NG:MB

I. 12290.

Dated: 1st November, 1954.
1800

FROM:

Rec'd: 2nd November, 1954.
0830

Australian Legation,
BANGKOK.

99. UNCLASSIFIED.

For Minister.

With reference to his Administrative Circular 110.

Have arranged to visit North East Thailand next week, being absent from Bangkok from 8th November to 15th November.

Ballard.

MIN. & DEPT. E.A.

2nd November, 1954.

SEC A/Ss SEA ADMIN PERS

file 402/1/5 9

2/11

DEPARTMENT OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS.

116

CABLEGRAM.

I. 9478.

NG:OA. Sent: 24th August, 1954. 1030.

FROM: Recd: 24th August, 1954. 1500

Australian Legation,
BANGKOK.

407/1/15

67. UNCLASSIFIED.

We have made arrangements to vacate the Chancery premises next Monday, 30th August. Glad of urgent advice what arrangements should be made for Hutton's accommodation.

Ballard.

E.A.
P.M's.

25th August, 1954.

SEC A/Ss SEA ADMIN PERS PROP@ FIN.

km 9

9

EXTERNAL AFFAIRS.

(P) Ps asst. Repn in Thailand

402/1/5

Bangkok : Minister, third secretary
Saigon : "
Rangoon : Chargé d'affaires
Manila : Minister, First (now Second) Secretary, third Secretary.

* * *

	Bangkok	Saigon	Rangoon	Manila
Memoranda :				
1953	560	455	510	812
1954 (to date)	40	31	43	96
Despatches				
1953 :	2	20	5	18
1954 (to date)	-	1	-	3
Telegrams				
1953 :	105	163	98	63

* * *

ECAFE
FAO
Indo Pacific Fisheries Council

Visas : thai students and missions to Australia
~~Technical assistance work~~.

Mr McNicol } 24/3/54
Mr Rumbold }

Annual report on
administration matters etc
from Bangkok.
Copy has been sent
to Mr Waller.

17
SEA 3.

→ Mr Rowland.

402/1/5

113

AUSTRALIAN LEGATION,
BANGKOK.

File No. 11/3.

Despatch No. 1/54.

9th March, 1954.

Drng file
402/1/8

Sir,

Pursuant to the Departmental Memo. of 5th August, 1949 (552/6/8), I have the honour to furnish the annual Report of the Legation for 1953. This despatch will deal with administrative matters, and succeeding despatches will deal with internal, foreign relations, and economic aspects of Thailand over the same period.

2. The lease of the present premises used as Chancery and Minister's residence respectively does not expire until 31st April, 1954, and consequently there was no change during 1953. Unfortunately, however, a dance hall, largely open air, and restaurant, have been erected next to the Minister's residence. This is part of a more extensive enterprise which is planned to include shops and a theatre, and experience of its operation so far leaves little doubt that the Minister's residence must be given up. This raises two difficulties. The first is that the two buildings are held under one lease and additional cost to the Commonwealth is likely to result if we have to negotiate with two landlords for two independent properties, and the second difficulty is the basic one of finding any suitable premises at all. Rents are still showing no tendency to fall - the number of U.S. and specialised agency personnel being maintained at its former level, if not actually rising.

3. With reference to para. 4 of my last annual Report, the equipment in the Chancery has now been repaired and is in good order, and adequate. The new safe referred to was received early in the year and provides sufficient space for classified material. The Chancery car, which is subject to extensive use, has suffered many breakdowns during recent months and the decision which has now been made to replace it by a new car was amply warranted, even if only on grounds of economy.

4. No further furniture for the Minister's residence was bought during the year. Funds were not available before 1st July, and it was not known until late in November how much was allocated for the present financial year. As soon as time permits, and the accommodation position is clearer, quotations will be obtained for the manufacture of furniture for the living room and also for the storage of the new crockery, cutlery, glassware, and linen so that Treasury approval may be obtained. Some designs and specifications for furniture in the style now being introduced into Australian missions were received in November but they are not wholly suitable for the local climate and conditions.

5. The four members of the Legation staff are the same as during 1952. Thus no member had to become familiar with new duties and the organisation of the Chancery has continued to work smoothly and efficiently. The former position of Thai Typist has been reclassified as Clerk/Typist with some increase of salary.

/The .....

The Right Honourable R.G. Casey, C.H.,

Minister of State for External Affairs,

CANBERRA. A.C.T.

See Mr Pinwill 20/3/54

6. The Minister was absent on leave for 5½ weeks, the Australian based Secretary/Typist was on leave for 2 weeks, and the Third Secretary was absent performing the duties of Charge d'Affaires in Rangoon for 5 weeks - thus for a period of 12½ weeks the work of the Legation was performed by three people.

7. A comparison of the communications work of the Legation during 1952 and 1953, together with some other matters, is as follows:-

	1952	1953
Mema. to External Affairs, despatches, savingrams, other memoranda, etc.	750	752
Notes to Ministry of Foreign Affairs.	101	65
Mema. received from Dept. of External Affairs.	443	380
Cables despatched.	195	147
Cables received.	269	215
Visas granted.	366	319
Passports issued or renewed.	13	20
Finance: Vouchers issued	518	450
Cash transactions	206	297
Australian citizens registered at Legation.	71	120

These figures, while giving an idea of the secretarial work involved, are not an exact guide to the time taken over the various communications themselves or spent on matters outside their scope. Nevertheless, they permit a broad comparison from year to year.

8. It is my belief that as much work is being produced by the present four members of the staff as can be looked for, and that any intensification or expansion of our political and economic work, in particular, can only be achieved at the cost of our other activities. The difficulty is that these are largely recurrent, cannot well be reduced, and have to be kept up to date. This undoubtedly sets a limit on what the Legation can do. This limitation has apparently had to be accepted by the Department under pressure of financial and budgetary considerations, but in view of the importance which is said to be attached to this area, I trust that the Department's expressed hope of increasing the Legation staff can be fulfilled. The consular, immigration, commercial and information work, together with much of the administration work, and especially interviews with prospective students, occupies most of the time of the Third Secretary. In view of the fact that many of the contacts so made call for some background of political knowledge and lead to matters of professional interest, I recommend that if another officer can be provided, he should be a Third Secretary and not a Consular Clerk.

9. Following the publication of the report of the Public Accounts Committee on the Department of External Affairs, the Legation was inspected by a Public Service Inspector late in the year. The Legation has not been notified of any recommendations or criticisms which he may have made, but during his visit he seemed satisfied with our administration in general. If the inspection was to any substantial degree concerned with allowances, it is unfortunate that it coincided with the beginning of a rather pronounced rise in living costs consequent on import restrictions and a rise in the rate of exchange, which is still going on.

I have the honour to be,

With the highest consideration,

Your obedient servant,

[illegible]

AUSTRALIAN LEGATION,
BANGKOK.

In reply quote No. .....

25th February.

Dear John,

Your letter of 3-17 Feb has only arrived & has confirmed my impression of the kind of subject-matter you are interested in, & of course we are doing our best to oblige! Once or twice you have beaten me to the post w. a specific enquiry but for the most part I see we are thinking along the same lines. Where you have beaten us to the post, it has only been because time & opportunity haven't let us get in first! I have said formally therefore that we can't do all that might be done until we get more staff, but don't labour that any more lest I acquire the reputation of a chronic complainer; but the fact is that I can only attack things piecemeal — and as you know, there are many sectors in EA!

We read your contributions carefully, and since you ask what we would like to get, may I mention two things.

a) If anybody has reduced to writing a statement of what Our Policy towards Thailand is & what our objectives vis-à-vis this country are, I would regard that as a most valuable document. If it doesn't exist, it ought to! (Don't tell me it is all contained in "being friendly"!)

[illegible] I suppose that Thailand comes in to some of the matter you receive from Bangkok. Unless security considerations forbid, could not an outline of [illegible] be passed here?

You mentioned going to Saigon. – actually I turned down to Saigon Rangoon or Djakarta during my arrival. Haven't even been able to get to my possessions in the North. There always something to detain me at Bkk.

Most unfortunately it seems as will have to move from my house because a cabaret has just opened next door & it's pretty "intenable" they say as a result. A frightening perspective – finding something at all in the first place, haggling w. owner re rent, haggling w. Dept. of Treasury, haggling w. present landlord re splitting lease of present place, & then moving. So from next Monday I'm out of the office, househunting!

Suppose you will join in re Royal Visit celebrations in some way. It seems to have been a great occasion.

Yours sincerely

Bertram Ballard

AUSTRALIAN LEGATION,

BANGKOK.

In reply quote No......

402/1/5

109

AUSTRALIAN LEGATION, BANGKOK.

File No. 11/3.

Despatch No. 1/54.

9th March, 1954.

Sir,

Pursuant to the Departmental Memo. of 5th August, 1949 (552/6/8), I have the honour to furnish the annual Report of the Legation for 1953. This despatch will deal with administrative matters, and succeeding despatches will deal with internal, foreign relations and economic aspects of Thailand over the same period.

2. The lease of the present premises used as Chancery and Minister's residence respectively does not expire until 31st April, 1954, and consequently there was no change during 1953. Unfortunately, however, a dance hall, largely open air, and restaurant, have been erected next to the Minister's residence. This is part of a more extensive enterprise which is planned to include shops and a theatre, and experience of its operation so far leaves little doubt that the Minister's residence must be given up. This raises two difficulties. The first is that the two buildings are held under one lease and additional cost to the Commonwealth is likely to result if we have to negotiate with two landlords for two independent properties, and the second difficulty is the basic one of finding any suitable premises at all. Rents are still showing no tendency to fall - the number of U.S. and specialised agency personnel being maintained at its former level, if not actually rising.

3. With reference to para. 4 of my last annual Report, the equipment in the Chancery has now been repaired and is in good order, and adequate. The new safe referred to was received early in the year and provides sufficient space for classified material. The Chancery car, which is subject to extensive use, has suffered many breakdowns during recent months and the decision which has now been made to replace it by a new car was amply warranted, even if only on grounds of economy.

4. No further furniture for the Minister's residence was bought during the year. Funds were not available before 1st July, and it was not known until late in November how much was allocated for the present financial year. As soon as time permits, and the accommodation position is clearer, quotations will be obtained for the manufacture of furniture for the living room and also for the storage of the new crockery, cutlery, glassware, and linen so that Treasury approval may be obtained. Some designs and specifications for furniture in the style now being introduced into Australian missions were received in November but they are not wholly suitable for the local climate and conditions.

5. The four members of the Legation staff are the same as during 1952. Thus no member had to become familiar with new duties and the organisation of the Chancery has continued to work smoothly and efficiently. The former position of Thai Typist has been reclassified as Clerk/Typist with some increase of salary.

402/1/5

/The .....

The Right Honourable R.G. Casey, C.H.,

Minister of State for External Affairs,

CANBERRA. A.C.T.

Copy to Mr Plimsoll
Mr Waller 11/3

6. The Minister was absent on leave for 5½ weeks, the Australian based Secretary/Typist was on leave for 2 weeks, and the Third Secretary was absent performing the duties of Charge d'Affaires in Rangoon for 5 weeks - thus for a period of 12½ weeks the work of the Legation was performed by three people.

7. A comparison of the communications work of the Legation during 1952 and 1953, together with some other matters, is as follows:-

	1952	1953
Memo. to External Affairs, despatches, savingrams, other memoranda, etc.	750	752
Notes to Ministry of Foreign Affairs.	101	65
Memo. received from Dept. of External Affairs.	443	380
Cables despatched.	195	147
Cables received.	269	215
Visas granted.	366	319
Passports issued or renewed.	13	20
Finance: Vouchers issued	518	450
Cash transactions	206	297
Australian citizens registered at Legation.	71	120

These figures, while giving an idea of the secretarial work involved, are not an exact guide to the time taken over the various communications themselves or spent on matters outside their scope. Nevertheless, they permit a broad comparison from year to year.

8. It is my belief that as much work is being produced by the present four members of the staff as can be looked for, and that any intensification or expansion of our political and economic work, in particular, can only be achieved at the cost of our other activities. The difficulty is that these are largely recurrent, cannot well be reduced, and have to be kept up to date. This undoubtedly sets a limit on what the Legation can do. This limitation has apparently had to be accepted by the Department under pressure of financial and budgetary considerations, but in view of the importance which is said to be attached to this area, I trust that the Department's expressed hope of increasing the Legation staff can be fulfilled. The consular, immigration, commercial and information work, together with much of the administration work, and especially interviews with prospective students, occupies most of the time of the Third Secretary. In view of the fact that many of the contacts so made call for some background of political knowledge and lead to matters of professional interest, I recommend that if another officer can be provided, he should be a Third Secretary and not a Consular Clerk.

9. Following the publication of the report of the Public Accounts Committee on the Department of External Affairs, the Legation was inspected by a Public Service Inspector late in the year. The Legation has not been notified of any recommendations or criticisms which he may have made, but during his visit he seemed satisfied with our administration in general. If the inspection was to any substantial degree concerned with allowances, it is unfortunate that it coincided with the beginning of a rather pronounced rise in living costs consequent on import restrictions and a rise in the rate of exchange, which is still going on.

I have the honour to be,

With the highest consideration,

Your obedient servant,

(Sgd.) B. C. BALLARD Minister.

DEPARTMENT OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS.

CABLEGRAM.

107

O. 257

GG:CET

Dated: 13th January, 1954.
1245

TO:

Australian Legation,
B A N G K O K.

5 CONFIDENTIAL. IMMEDIATE.

For Ballard.

Our telegram No. 4.

Sir Oliver Goonetilleke would like to stay the night with you in Bangkok and in view of short time available we have taken liberty of confirming this on your behalf. He will leave to your judgment any other arrangements such as entertainment and meeting other people.

2. Minister would like all possible courtesies and assistance given to Sir Oliver. It is politically advantageous that Ceylon should as in this case ask Australia to help them in countries where Ceylon is not represented.

12th January, 1954.

(COST £11/5/-)
E.A.
P.M's. DEPT.
TREASURY
P.M's.

SEC A/Ss ER SEA CEN PI ADMIN PROP

402/1/5

DEPARTMENT OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS.

CABLEGRAM.

106

AP:MB

O. 247.

Sent: 11th January, 1954.
1740

TO:

Australian Legation,
BANGKOK.

4. CONFIDENTIAL. IMMEDIATE.

Sir Oliver Goonetilleke, Finance Minister of Ceylon who has been attending Finance Ministers' meeting in Sydney will be passing through Bangkok arriving Thursday 7.10 p.m. 14th January KLM Flight 26 leaving next morning at 8.30 a.m. Flight 828.

Grateful if you would look after him. We shall try and send you more information by telegram tomorrow, e.g., on whether he would like to stay at Legation and whom he would like to meet.

(£9/6/-)

E.A.
P.M'S. DEPT.
TREASURY.
P.M'S.

12th January, 1954.

SEC A/Ss ER SEA PI ADMIN PERS

4021.15

105

DEPARTMENT OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS.

CABLEGRAM.

GG:NB

I. 17123.

Dated: 23rd December, 1953.
1130
Rec'd: 24th December, 1953.
0830

FROM:

Australian Legation,
BANGKOK.

103. UNCLASSIFIED.

Your telegram 169. On the assumption that Hutton's attendance would not be required for non-technical items, his appointment as alternate would not unduly interfere with current Legation work.

E.A. (715/9/8)
C. & A. (C. S.)
C.S.I.R.O. (CRONULLA)
P.M'S.

24th December, 1953.

SEC A/Ss UN ER@ SEA PI C & P ADMIN PERS

I just agree in Thailand
402/1/5

DEPARTMENT OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS.

CABLEGRAM.

RESTRICTED. 104

DBB:[illegible]McC

I.15271

Dated: 12th November, 1953.
1431

Rec'd: 13th November, 1953.
0830

FROM:-

Australian High Commissioner's Office,
SAIGON.

141. RESTRICTED.

ACTION COPY

Your telegram 112.

Have signified intention to attend birthday reception 17th November and declined Laotian invitation which was informal.

2. Informed by Singapore Grey now arriving from Bangkok 20th November.

MIN. & DEPT. E.A. (413/1/5)
P.M'S.

13th November, 1953.

SEC A/Ss UN EA SEA @ PI ADMIN PERS

Ah well. (P) Jean

402/1/5

DEPARTMENT OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS.

CABLEGRAM.

103

I.12718.

JC:PO

ACTION COPY

Sent: 12th November, 1953.
1730.

TO:

Australian Legation,
BANGKOK.

153. UNCLASSIFIED.

Your 92 and our 148. We have not been advised firmly that Inspector will call but we had hoped he would call. Purpose is to examine living costs and staff problems on the spot. Report included in bag despatched 5th November.

E.A.(1258/34)
P.M's.

13th November, 1953.

SEC A/Ss SEA@ PI ADMIN PERS FIN

DW For our Ryr on Thailand file

402/11/5

DEPARTMENT OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS.

CABLEGRAM.

RESTRICTED.

102

GG:HMcC

C.12592

Sent: 10th November, 1953.
1415

TO:-

Australian Legation,
B A N G K O K.

151. RESTRICTED.

Effective 14th November, mails will travel by Qantas arriving Bangkok 1050 Mondays. Please arrange to collect from pilot.

E.A.
P.M'S.

11th November, 1953.

SEC A/Ss SEA EXCOMS @

DW

Our folio = Aust Representation, Egypt

402/1/5

Triplicate.

3/3/1.

101

Memo. No. 333/53.

Australian Legation,
Bangkok, Thailand.

7th August, 1953.

MEMORANDUM for:

The Secretary,
Department of External Affairs,
CANBERRA. A.C.T.

B.C. Ballard : leave

On receipt of your telegram No. 117 of 30th July, I made the following travel arrangements:-

Leave	Bangkok by air	15th August
Leave	Hong Kong by m.v. Trein Maersk	18th "
Arrive	Kobe	23rd "
Leave	Kobe by s.s. Tegelberg	15th September
Arrive	Hong Kong	20th "
Arrive	Bangkok by air a few days after	20th September.

While I am in Japan, I shall be in touch with the Embassy.

Minister.

see Mr Carter
see Mr Kirwood
Mr Rowland

see Mr Ward

Dear Mr Plimsoll 17/8/53

402/1/5

402/1/5

RGC/CVH

100

Commonwealth Offices,
Treasury Gardens,
MELBOURNE. C.2.

18th May, 1953.

I'm temporarily laid up by reason of getting a full course of treatment against amoebic dysentery - emetine injections and a host of other drugs. I had not had a recurrence for seven years until a month ago and the best tropical diseases man here, after such investigation as is possible, advised the full treatment, which means being physically immobilised for the best part of a month. However, I have a telephone and a tape recorder by my bed and am doing papers.

Thankyou for your note of 8th May, enclosing copy of your memorandum of same date to the Department, which I've read with interest. It reflects the dualism in thinking which is not confined to Thailand, but which I believe exists, in greater or lesser degree, in many countries of South and South East Asia. It is hard to combat. I've sent copy of it to Crocker in New Delhi.

With best wishes - I am,

Yours sincerely,

R. G. CASEY

(R. G. CASEY).

B.C. Ballard, Esq.,
Australian Minister to Thailand,
Australian Legation,
BANGKOK. THAILAND.

Seen Mumaell 20/5/53

Mr Harry

COPY FOR MR. WATT.

RHH 25/5 Eckersley

Gilchrist. HH 25/5

J. Thailand

File No. 11/2. **CONFIDENTIAL**

Australian Legation,
Bangkok, Thailand.

Despatch No. 2/53.

10th February, 1953.

Sir,

I have the honour to furnish hereunder the Report of the Legation for 1952 on the lines indicated in Departmental Memorandum of 5th August, 1949 (552/6/8).

ADMINISTRATION.

The Charge d'Affaires, Mr. A.H. Loomes, left Bangkok on the 13th April; I arrived on the 15th April, and presented my Letters of Credence to His Majesty the King of Thailand on 6th May.

2. As the leases of both premises at Gottsche Lane expired in April, the Legation was transferred on 1st May, 1952, to new premises consisting of a Chancery Third Secretary's residence at 23 Sariwongse Road and a Minister's residence at 62 Silom Road. These houses stand back to back thus avoiding some transport difficulties. The Legation gained considerably by the change as the former Chancery - Head of Mission residence was unsuitable and in poor order. The present buildings compare favourably with those of the other small missions in Bangkok.

3. The furniture and equipment both of the Chancery and residence were both inadequate and in a very run-down condition at the beginning of the year. For the most part, however, they were capable of repair and formed too valuable an asset to write off. The funds available for repairs and new works for 1952/53 amount to only £300 Australian and this amount has been used to the best advantage in reconditioning and repairing the more valuable of the items needing attention. Thus the dining room suite in the residence is now satisfactory; adequate supplies of crockery, glassware and cutlery were purchased from 1951/52 funds. The sitting room furniture, (a rattan suite), has been reconditioned but needs to be supplemented by purchase of sufficient settees, armchairs and floor coverings of proper quality. Additional cupboards are urgently required for the storage of the new crockery, cutlery, glassware and linen, and additional furniture is needed for the second bedroom.

4. The desks and chairs in the Chancery are in very poor order and should be repaired. The safe in the Chancery is inadequate. A new Milner safe was ordered in April 1952, but was not shipped from London until January 1953. With the arrival of a new car for the Minister and the overhauling of the Chancery car, the transport position is now satisfactory.

5. The office staff has remained the same in number as during 1951 and consists of a Minister, Third Secretary, Secretary-Typist (all Australian) and a Thai Typist. All assumed duty at the Legation during the year and are now familiar with their duties. The Legation

is staffed/.....

HG 5/3

The Right Honourable R.G. Casey, C.H.,

Minister of State for External Affairs,

HG 1/3

CANBERRA. A.C.T.

is staffed with due regard to economy. The Thai Typist was engaged and is paid as a copy-typist but in fact performs the functions of interpreter and translator, without which the Legation could not operate, and also various clerical duties. The Australian Secretary-Typist is discharging the duties of accountant as well as the bulk of the work of communications officer and archivist. General administrative duties are discharged by the Third Secretary in addition to his principal duties and, especially in the case of clearing goods through customs, involve his absence from the office for prolonged periods. The Minister receives the salary of the lowest grade of Counsellor.

6. The work of the office has continued to increase as is shown by comparison with 1951 as follows:-

	1951	1952
Memoranda despatched	650	743
Despatches	20	7
Notes to Ministry of Foreign Affairs	Not available	101
Memoranda received from External Affairs	321	443
Cables despatched	170	195
Cables received	319	369
Visas granted	161	366
Passports issued or renewed	20	13
Finance: Vouchers issued	406	518
Cash transactions	131	206
Australian citizens registered at Legation	57	71

7. Increase in the number of visas granted merits special mention since this work consumes more time than might be supposed. The increase is mainly attributable to the growing number of students seeking education in Australia. Not only are the interviews protracted because of language difficulties, but in the case of students much time is taken up by consultation in respect of educational facilities available, questions on accommodation and the like. For this reason, among others, the average time involved in the issuing of a visa is not less than one hour, with the result that in effect the time of one officer has been devoted to the issuing of visas for three months of the year.

8. The principal categories of work consist of political observation and reporting as well as liaison with the principal diplomatic missions, work connected with ECAFE, UNICEF, FAO, IPFC and UNESCO, inquiries on behalf of the J.I.B., commercial enquiries, and work connected with the Colombo Plan, as well as consular work other than the issuing of visas.

9. The present staff is fully occupied in keeping abreast of this work, and in particular the diplomatic staff have not enough time for the production of political or economic reports involving any substantial amount of research and collation of information. The appointment of an additional Third Secretary is, in these circumstances, a pressing necessity. This would leave one Third Secretary free to devote his whole time to political and economic work, the other being responsible for consular and administrative work.

Mention/.....

10. ...ention should also be made of request... information for the J.I.B.; these increased great... and covered many aspects of industry and economic ... as ... naval, military and air matters, in great detail. ...resources ... the Legation have been insufficient to enable it t... deal with most ... them satisfactorily. Questions of principle concerning the channe... of requests and furnishing of replies (as between the Legation and ... British Embassy), have been discussed with the Department, and by ... Department with the J.I.B. Some clarification has ensued, but I ... not convinced that requests should not be primarily addressed to ... British Embassy, who have Naval, Military and Air Attaches, as ... as an extensive commercial and economic section. 97

11. INTERNAL POLITICS: The year passed without a coup d'e... or change of government. It will be remembered that on 29th Nov... 1951, there had been a coup d'etat, as the result of which the ... constitution then in force was abolished and the 1932 constitu... with amendments, was restored, though the chief personalitie... administering the government remained the same, that is to sa... the essential power continued to reside with the group consis... Field Marshal Pibul Songkram and Generals Phin, Phao and Sari... elections for the First Category members of the National Ass... were held on 26th February, 1952, and on 8th March the reviv... amended 1932 constitution was signed by the King. The Cabin... remained unchanged throughout the year, except for the resig... of Nai Sukit Nimmanheminda who was replaced as Minister of In... by Phra Vejjayant Rangsarit. The ban on political parties whi... new regime imposed has been continued. From time to time duri... year there have been inconclusive discussions of the possibilit... desirability of permitting the existence of at least one formal ... opposition party, but these have come to nothing. The Prime Mi... attitude is that he is in favour of political parties, but tha... should not be revived "unless preparations for their existenc... been made". In these circumstances the proceedings of the Na... Assembly have become more and more a mere ratification of de... taken in another place. Government proposals have regularly ... considered before their submission to the National Assembly ... meetings of assemblymen supporting the Government, which h... known as meetings of the Legislative Study Commission, alt... such commission has any legal standing. Some discussion d... place at these meetings, but when a proposal has been "cl... this way its passage through the National Assembly is onl... The National Assembly, when it is in session, meets once ... often completes the day's order paper in the morning. W... measure is introduced it is routine procedure for it to ... in principle there and then. Though some speeches may ... it, the measures are always carried by an overwhelming ...

12. The government, however, pays much lip-servi... and gives the impression that it desires to cover all ... a cloak of democratic procedure. This, for example, ... naive statement that if the pro-government me...bers ar... to vote on bills without discussing or criticis... may wrongly get the impression that Thailand is not ... they have, therefore, been exhorted to take a more a... debates. The real situation is perhaps more truly r... reports that the few members of the Assembly who are ... opposition, will seek admission to the so-called Legi... Commission.

13. The parliamentary opposition, such as it is ... concerned to ventilate the grievances, some of them ... real, of the less favoured areas in the north-east a...

14. The government is fairly sensitive to crit... this as much as possible by the powers of censorship ...

the / ....

the Press Act. Thus, apart from official statements, reference is never made in the press to the deficiencies of the water and electricity services in Bangkok. The Press Association has naturally agitated for the amendment or repeal of the Press Act. General Phao has been the official government spokesman of the view that it is still necessary, and it remains in force. It is, however, reported that the Police Department is drafting amendments to the Press Act, designed to restrict censorship to proclaimed times of emergency.

15. The stability of the government requires the continued co-operation principally of the Prime Minister and Generals Phao and Sarit and this has been maintained throughout the year. From time to time there have been rumours of tension, there have been one or two alerts and rumours of imminent breaches likely to result in coups. This is the normal visage of Thai politics, and there is nothing to suggest that it will change in the immediate future. External observers may possibly come close to the truth in their ex post facto re-construction of these reported crises, but it is most improbable that they would or could be aware of an actual coup until its actual occurrence.

16. At the beginning of the year it was the generally held view that the Prime Minister owed his position to the fact that he was the only person available to neutralize the Phao-Sarit rivalry, with the result that his scope for effective leadership was fairly closely circumscribed, and this probably remained true until well on in the year. General Phao has undoubtedly strengthened his own position as well as the position of the police in general during the year, and during its last few months was much more in the public eye than General Sarit for two reasons. Not only has it fallen to him to introduce a substantial part of the legislation passed during the last session but his name was prominently associated with the series of arrests which began on 10th November. Nevertheless, as was reported at the time, he was to a considerable extent overborne as to the objective of the arrests by the influence and authority of the Prime Minister and General Sarit. Both the Prime Minister and the Minister of Foreign Affairs have expressed the opinion to the British Ambassador that Generals Phao and Sarit are working harmoniously together at the present time. As secretary of the United Party (Legislative Study Commission), General Phao has been publicly complimented by the Prime Minister for his efficiency in this connection. It seems that the position of the Prime Minister is stronger now than in the beginning of 1952 and that the cohesion of the "strong men" is not in immediate danger of being destroyed.

17. It remains true that the important Cabinet ministers are also big business men and that they are consolidating and extending their economic position in a way which their position in the government makes easy. International charges of corruption perhaps savour of pharisaism, but I think it is true to say that the standard of governmental morality showed no improvement during the year. The day when popular exasperation on this account will erupt is far removed, but this will be a matter for observation over the years. The Prime Minister and his wife are publicly much associated with the attempts of the Ministry and Institute of Culture to raise public and private standards, and it is perhaps for this reason that the Prime Minister gives public support to the movement known as Moral Rearmament.

18. Concerning the arrests themselves, their momentum had diminished by the end of the year, as it has still further between then and now, and the next stage in the operation will be the trial of those against whom a charge is thought to lie. In retrospect, now that the arrests have died down, it can be seen that certain excesses which from time to time seemed likely have been avoided; in particular the allegation of a communist plot was not made the excuse for the wholesale arrest of anti-government and opposition personalities generally.

Similarly / .....

Similarly the last phase of the arrests, in which Chinese were especially affected, has not been carried to excess. In retrospect also, the arrests and allegation of revolutionary communist plots do not seem to have caused any popular effervescence. Whether a grandiose conspiracy did exist, and whether there was or is a formally organised communist party in Thailand, however, remains open to the gravest doubt. When the cases come to court, some "confessions" may be expected. To the extent that communist sympathizers have been either arrested or frightened, the operation has its good side as a "clearing of the air", to use the words of the Minister of Foreign Affairs. Advantage was taken of the circumstances to pass the Anti-Communist Activities Act, which is very wide in its scope. No great use has been made of it yet. The government has thus taken an unequivocal anti-communist stand, domestically as well as internationally.

19. One element of the government's domestic policy which deserves a short mention is its attitude to the Chinese, which probably derives in part from the Prime Minister's personal prejudice against them. The increase in the alien registration fee at the beginning of the year, though affecting all aliens, was aimed against the Chinese and caused great resentment among them. Nevertheless it was not reduced in spite of much agitation, and to all appearances the collection of the tax has gone smoothly. Other measures aimed at the Chinese have been the exclusion of aliens from some occupations, such as hairdressing and ladies' tailoring, and the Nationality Act has been amended to clarify the status of issue of Thai-Chinese marriages.

20. COLOMBO PLAN: The only participation of the Thai Government in the Colombo Plan so far as Australia is concerned has been the acceptance by the Thai Government of the eight Fellowships and Scholarships offered in January 1951, to which nominations were made in December of the same year. During 1952 seven of these students left for Australia. The Thai Government accepted an offer of meteorological training for two officers, but an unfortunate delay occurred at the Australian end in notifying the Legation that the nominees were unacceptable because they are Naval personnel. This was disappointing to the officers concerned and embarrassing to the Legation. As the meteorological service in Thailand is conducted by the Navy, if it had really been desired to secure an acceptance of our offer, it would probably have been possible to circumvent the difficulties before the course began if the matter had been taken up in time. Of the original eight nominees, a decision is still awaited in respect of one, and this has caused some embarrassment because he is the Deputy Director-General of the Ministry of the Interior, who has thus been kept in uncertainty for a period which it would have been better to abridge.

21. Subsequent offers of training facilities have not been accepted, the formula used in declining them being that as the Thai Government had not determined its attitude to the Colombo Plan, the Australian offer must remain in abeyance. This was explained by the Minister of Foreign Affairs as not being a formula of final rejection but designed to preserve the status quo pending the resolution of some doubts felt by the government as to the implications of joining the Plan or the Technical Co-operation Scheme. In particular an attitude of caution towards India and possible fears of Indian hegemony were at the bottom of this. The Minister of Foreign Affairs is, however, well informed about the objects of the Plan and Scheme and of the implications of adherence by Thailand, and is favourably disposed to joining. He hoped to have completed the education of his Cabinet colleagues, and to have put the matter to Cabinet before his departure for the Seventh General Assembly, but time did not permit of this, and it is hoped that now he has returned he will be able to take the matter up and secure a favourable Cabinet decision.

Although / .....

22. Although their presence in Australia is not related to the Colombo Plan, it is convenient to draw attention here to the increasing numbers of Thai students in Australia. These now number approximately 250 and are well distributed throughout the Commonwealth both in respect of location and the standard of studies pursued. The individual Australian-Thai relationships thus being created are a matter of potential political importance, and it is therefore important that the machinery for the admission of these students should work smoothly. In the main it does, but there have been cases where it has seemed to the Legation that applications have been refused by the Department of Immigration on rather narrow technical grounds. Considerable goodwill has been generated among the relatives of students who have been admitted, but a disproportionate amount of this is lost by the few cases in which the decision has not been understood.

23. U.S.A. AID: The Mutual Security Agency lays emphasis in its economic programme for Thailand on measures designed to increase the production of rice. with the object of bringing stability to other nations in the area which are unable to grow the amount of rice they need. Other technical assistance programmes of the Mutual Security Agency have been directed towards helping the Thai Government to expand its transportation facilities, which are needed both for military use and for further economic development.

24. The total U.S. expenditure for paid shipments in respect of the M.S.A. Programme in Thailand from 5th June, 1950, to 30th November, 1951, was U.S.$8,834,000. Paid shipment expenditures from 1st January to 30th November, 1952, amounted to U.S.$4,003,000 as against U.S.$4,820,000 for the whole of 1951. No detailed statement of all the M.S.A. projects is available, but its scope and main lines can be obtained from the following figures:-

Total U.S. expenditure 5/6/1950 to 30/11/1952			$8,834,000
Commodity total		$7,280,000	
(Principal sub-divisions:-			
Fertilizer	$93,000		
Fuel	17,000		
Chemicals, medicines and pesticides	1,213,000		
Iron & steel mill materials & products	484,000		
Machinery & equipment	3,389,000		
Motor vehicles, etc.	429,000		
Other transportation equipment	854,000		
Scientific & professional instruments	538,000		
Miscellaneous industrial products	246,000		
Technical services		247,000	
Technical assistance		1,140,000	
Freight		167,000	
		$8,834,000	$8,834,000

To estimate / .....

To estimate the total expenditure involved in the Programme, the expenditure and counterpart funds provided by the Thai Government should also be taken into account.

25. U.N. AID: Technical assistance has continued to be provided by the U.N. Technical Assistance Administration and the Specialised Agencies.

26. One T.A.A. statistical project has been completed, and a health project is being continued in collaboration with W.H.O. and UNICEF. Two I.L.O. projects are in operation. Eight F.A.O. projects are in operation, covering the poultry industry, agricultural economics and marketing, rubber production, forestry, inland fisheries, nutrition and irrigation engineering. Most of these involve both the supply of experts and the award of fellowships. UNESCO is continuing its educational pilot project and teacher training, involving seven experts and seven fellowships. ICAO has two projects. A civil aviation adviser (who is an Australian) heads a mission of advice on civil aviation plans and policies, and two fellowships for advanced flying training are being exercised in Australia. W.H.O. has four projects - maternal and child health projects at Bangkok and Chiengmai (with which one Australian is associated), and treponematosis, TB and malaria control projects. UNICEF also continues its operations.

27. FOREIGN RELATIONS: 1952 saw the completion of reciprocal Australian-Thai diplomatic relations with the arrival in Australia of the Thai Minister-designate. After the Japanese Peace Treaty came into force, Thai-Japanese diplomatic representation was re-established, at the Embassy level; a Legation of the Federal Republic of Germany has also been opened. Goodwill visits from Belgium, Japan, Cuba, Austria and Israel were also received, and in the closing days of the Democratic administration, a stream of American officials passed through on "study tours" before it was too late.

28. The attitude of Thailand on basic foreign affairs issues has remained constant during the year. In particular Thailand has not wavered in its participation in the Korean war and as a member of the anti-communist bloc of nations. I think that this is a fundamental attitude of Thai foreign policy and that it can be expected to continue subject to the following qualifications. It is equally fundamental to Thai policy that Thailand is a member of the Asiatic bloc. This is a fact of nature and has been referred to from time to time by the Minister of Foreign Affairs. It is my personal belief that this must always interpose a curtain of some kind between Thailand and non-Asiatic nations, and in the unhappy event of outright conflict between the non-communist countries as a whole and the countries of Asia as a whole, I do not think it should be taken for granted that Thailand could or would desert Asia. The second qualification I have in mind is connected with this consideration, and tends to induce Thailand, while preserving her alignment with the anti-communist bloc, to avoid, as far as may be, action which the principal Asiatic powers might consider provocative. This view would explain why Thailand is cool towards a general Pacific Pact such as is proposed by the Philippines, while being perfectly prepared to make ad hoc arrangements such as the border police agreement with Malaya, which is working fairly satisfactorily. I do not refer to the attitude taken by Thailand on the various matters raised in the United Nations, in view of your own contacts with Prince Wan at the General Assembly and the information at the disposal of the Department, which is more extensive than what we have here.

29. ECONOMIC CONDITIONS: The economic health of Thailand continues to depend on the state of export income. In 1952, with the world demand for rice (the country's greatest income generator) not diminishing and international rice prices still rising, the general position of the Thai economy remained prosperous.

30. Rice exports for the year are estimated to have been about 24.1 million piculs (one picul equals 132 lbs.) as compared with 26.9

million / .....

million piculs in 1951. But for the government policy of maintaining a rice reserve and limiting the volume of rice allowed to be exported, exports could have been higher. The value of 1952 rice exports is officially published as 1.77 thousand million baht compared with 1.87 thousand million baht for 1951 exports. However, as these figures are calculated at the official rate of exchange (36 baht to £1 sterling) while the free market rate approximates 45 baht to £1 sterling, it will be understood that the amount of foreign currency actually accruing to Thailand was a much larger figure. 355,000 tons were exported to United Kingdom territories (Malaya, Hongkong and North Borneo) under a bilateral governmental agreement reported on previously, and the principal other importing countries were Japan (which paid in dollars), Indonesia, India, Ceylon and South Korea.

31. Rubber exports fell from 105.3 million kilograms in 1951 to an estimated 99.3 million kilograms in 1952. Receipts dropped from 1.484 thousand million baht to an estimated 995 million baht for 1952 (at the free rate of exchange). Almost the whole of the exported rubber went to the U.S.A. under an agreement signed on 1st July, 1951, and expiring on 31st December, 1952. Under this agreement the U.S. Government guaranteed to take 1.2 million tons paying the prevailing world price at the time of delivery. By October, 1952, the U.S. had already exceeded this figure by 800 tons. The prolonged decline in world rubber prices following the decision of the U.S. Administration to practically cease its stockpiling of natural rubber was quickly felt in Thailand. The income of rubber producers and exporters fell sharply and complaints were heard from the groups involved. The year ended with the prospect of the agreement being renewed but it is very doubtful if any price guarantee will be obtained. Efforts are being made, with the assistance of the M.S.A. and F.A.O., to improve the quality of Thai rubber, which at present is rather below that of the Malayan product.

32. Tin Ore exports rose from 205 thousand piculs in 1951 to an estimated 224 thousand piculs in 1952. The value (at the free exchange rates) moved from 197.8 million baht to an estimated 214 million baht in 1952. Following fluctuation in world tin prices after the beginning of the Korean war and the decline associated with the halt in U.S. stockpiling in 1951, the year 1952 saw world tin prices stabilising as demand picked up again. Production again moved upwards.

33. Wolfram Ore exports declined slightly from 23372 piculs in 1951 to an estimated 23150 in 1952, but an increase in the world price brought up the income from wolfram exports to near 106 million baht in 1952 compared with 78.5 million baht for the 1951 exports.

34. Thai exports of teak fell from 98.5 thousand cubic metres in 1951 to 57.56 cubic metres in 1952. Export income from this source dropped from 154 million baht to 98.3 million baht.

35. The country's total commodity exports for 1952 brought in an estimated 3,740 thousand million baht compared with 4,473 thousand million baht in 1951. My earlier comment on the rate of exchange used for calculating the value of rice exports should, however, be borne in mind.

36. The value of imports during 1952 is estimated to total 5.654 thousand million baht. The resulting balance of trade deficit is the first to have occurred in the post-war period. The effect of this deficit on the balance of payments was that a large credit on current account in 1951 was replaced by net debit in 1952. Several factors helped to bridge the gap. Drawings were made from the reserve of foreign exchange, reducing it from a peak of 1.9 million baht in September, 1951, to 1.3 million baht by September, 1952. This was largely effected by the sale of sterling by the Bank of Thailand and commercial banks. Drawings under the three loans from the World Bank also helped temporarily to stabilise the balance of payments.

The balance / .....

37. The balance of trade deficit was due partly to the fall in commodity export receipts, but the main factor was the official appreciation of the baht during the year.

38. The Bank of Thailand announced on 29th February, 1952, that it would sell sterling currency at the rate of 45 baht to the £ sterling. On the previous day the open market rate was about 51.3 baht to the £ sterling. This change did not affect the official rate, which remained at 36 to the £ sterling. At the end of the year the free market rate was still 45. The value of the baht in terms of U.S. dollars has risen from approximately 22 at the beginning of the year to approximately 17 at the end of the year. The government claimed that the move was designed to reduce the internal cost of living; this aspect will be examined later. In foreign trade its effects have been a heavy increase of merchandise imports which at times tended to produce an overstocking of consumer goods in the Bangkok market. Exporters, particularly of those commodities not sold on a seller's market, e.g. minor agricultural products, have experienced a somewhat severe decline in income through inability to compete successfully when handicapped by an over-valued baht.

39. Before examining the internal effect of appreciation of the baht, it should be pointed out that the full pressure of the rice income on effective demand is not felt, because the government applies the official exchange rate to foreign funds earned by rice exporters, which funds must be surrendered to the authorities. As an inducement to increase the amount of rice for export, the Government Rice Bureau, which controls exports, permits one ton of rice to be exported privately for every 4.5 tons made available to the Bureau.

40. The cost of living index of low-salaried workers in Bangkok (1948 = 100) rose from 105.8 in December, 1951, to 126.3 in May, 1952. Following the appreciation of the baht import prices dropped somewhat, and the wholesale price index (1948 = 100) which had climbed to 109 in March moved to 106 in May and did not reach 109 again until September/October. The cost of living index moved in sympathy falling to 120 in October. This was publicised by government spokesmen. For example, the Thai delegate to an ECAFE conference on the mobilization of domestic capital held at Bangkok in September announced that the prices of imported foodstuffs, both tinned and fresh, were all going down. He stated that although the decline was due to some extent to the decrease in world prices, it was "mainly a result of the appreciation of the baht". By the end of the year, however, the effects in this field appeared to be lessening as the wholesale price index jumped from 110 in October to 114 in November while the cost of living index went up from 120 to 129.

41. The internal financial situation appears to have remained sound during the year. The total volume of money available, i.e. notes in circulation, Central Bank deposits and commercial bank deposits minus commercial bank cash reserves was 5.4 thousand million baht in June, 1952, as compared with 5.2 thousand million baht in June, 1951. The volume of commercial bank loans, advances and bills discounted moved up steadily from the level of the previous year. At June, 1952, the total of loans, advances and discounts was 812 million baht compared with 671 million baht in June, 1951. The commercial banks' liquidity ratio fell a little - from 40% in June, 1951, to 36% in June, 1952 - but this was scarcely a significant move. The total deposits of the commercial banks moved up from 1.1 thousand million baht in June, 1951, to 1.3 thousand million baht in June, 1952.

42. At the beginning of November, 1952, the draft Budget for 1953 was presented to the National Assembly, which dutifully accepted it in principle. It became law early in January, 1953. Copies of the Budget Estimates Act have been forwarded to the Department.

43. Estimated expenditure is set down as 5248 million baht, compared with the figure of 3807 million baht in the 1952 Budget. It

should / .....

should be noted, however, that a supplementary Budget of 830 million baht was also brought down in 1952. By June, 1952, actual government expenditure had reached 1644 million baht. In the same period government revenue reached 1530 million baht, out of a Budget estimate of 3055 million baht.

44. The following is an approximate analysis of the estimated 1953 Budget expenditure with the corresponding figures for 1952:-

	1953 (Baht)	1952 (Baht)
Ordinary expenditure	1,859,822,324	1,206,202,245
Extraordinary non-capital expenditure	2,173,890,546	1,542,939,626
Extraordinary capital expenditure	1,214,316,070	1,057,769,117
	5,248,028,940	3,806,910,988

45. The major increases in ordinary expenditure under the 1953 Budget are:-

	Baht.
Ministry of the Interior	170 million (of which 123 million is for increased expenditure by the Police Department).
Ministry of Defence	162 million.
Ministry of Education	87 million.
Ministry of Finance	57 million.
Ministry of Public Health	55 million.
Ministry of Agriculture	43 million.
Ministry of Communications	12 million.

46. The main increases for extraordinary non-capital expenditure are:-

Special cost of living allowance for public officials.	564 million (the actual estimate of expenditure under this item is 1600 million baht).
Defence of the Realm Appropriation.	152 million.

47. The extraordinary capital expenditure for 1953 contains few startling changes from the 1952 pattern. The following are the main increases:-

	Baht.
Reserve capital for highway construction.	100 million.
Railways.	100 million.
Electric works grant in aid.	27 million.
Water works grant in aid. (new item)	44.6 million.

48. The Budget estimate of revenue for 1953 is 4150 million baht of which indirect taxes and duties are expected to provide 2000 milli and direct taxes and duties 300 million. This leaves a deficit of approximately 1098 million baht. The government hopes to meet this

by floating internal loans, drawing on world bank loans and increased taxation. If the present general prosperity of the country continues, the government should have a good chance of achieving this objective.

I have the honour to be,

With the highest consideration,

Your obedient servant,

(Sgd.) E. C. Ballard

Minister.

AUSTRALIAN LEGATION,
BANGKOK.

File 90/6/27.

Memo. No. 562/52.

402/1/5 5th November, 1952.

MEMORANDUM for:

The Secretary,
Department of External Affairs,
CANBERRA. A.C.T.

From 18th to 25th October I left Bangkok for the first time and made my first official visit to Chiengmai. Appropriate arrangements were made through the Ministry of Foreign Affairs with the Ministry of the Interior for courtesies and facilities to be provided at Chiengmai.

I made the journey in each direction by Thai Airways Ltd. who use Dakotas on this route. The standard of the aircraft furnishings and service, though adequate, is by no means up to Australian standards and the personnel are wholly Thai. Owing to bad weather I was able to land on the outward journey only at Lampang, and on the inward journey only at Lampang and Nakon Sawan, the landing strips at both of which are merely cleared earth without any paving. The prevailing floods stopped short of the aerodrome at Nakon Sawan, but it showed signs of having been fairly soggy.

At Chiengmai I was kindly accommodated by the British Consul, Mr. L. Steventon (whose experience has mainly been in China and who was the last British Consul in Mukden), who took advantage of my visit to accompany me on one or two journeys, north and south, to districts which he had not been to for some time and in which he was interested to see the state of the roads and countryside.

I made a formal call on the Deputy Governor of the Province (the Governor himself being absent in the United States on a study tour) and also officially attended the Chulalongkorn Day celebrations on the 24th October. A police guard was provided at the Consulate during my stay and it also accompanied me on my trips out of Chiengmai. This I should judge was wholly superfluous so far as Chiengmai is concerned and also I think on the shorter trips, and may have been intended as a mark of consideration; there may, however, have been other reasons for accompanying me on the trip to Muang Fang, of which I shall speak later.

Chiengmai is the second city of Thailand and until the last century was the seat of the old Northern Royal Family, but this has now disappeared for all practical purposes, and the city and associated area are wholly integrated in the normal administration of the Kingdom. The old city was situated within a square brick wall running about a mile in each direction and surrounded by a moat, traces of which are still visible, and this is still the substantial area of the present city. It has a disproportionately large number of wats or temples most of which, as usual, are in a fairly dilapidated condition, but one or two of which present features of antiquarian or architectural interest. The Wat Chet Yawt, for example, which is possibly the oldest, shows traces of Burmese influence in the remains of the frieze-like stucco figures around its walls and is, so far as I know, unique in incorporating the semi-circular arch in its construction. The city is, as a whole, much cleaner and tidier than Bangkok and gives the impression of a busily occupied and contented community. There are a few modern buildings, including the railway station and two or three hotels, but for the most part the buildings

are /.....

87

are of wood and the shops are of the usual small Asiatic type. This, however, does not betoken any dearth of commodities. Apart from the fresh food which is obtainable in the markets (fresh fish comes up by rail from Bangkok) there is an abundance of tinned and bottled foods - British, American and Australian for the most part - very widely distributed, as well as one or two establishments carrying a range of foodstuffs and patent medicines as wide as that to be found in the better shops in Bangkok. Parts of the city and adjacent area had been covered by the recent severe flooding of the Me Ping towards the end of the rainy season, but all traces of this had disappeared in the city. The Governor did say, however, that he estimated that 16,000 rai of riceland had been flooded, and traces of this are still apparent. It would seem also that the rice production of this area must be reduced also by losses attributable to the late arrival of the rains.

The first trip which I made out of Chiengmai was southwards to Muang Hawt. This was along a road which is classified as an all-weather road and was in very good condition and included several small concrete bridges over creeks and small watercourses, some of which appear to be new, and all of which were in good order. There are also two larger bridges of the Bailey bridge type. Although the road is at present in good condition, I do not think that it would bear much heavy traffic. The roads outside the municipality are the concern of the central highways authority and although in this area at least they have some metal incorporated in them, they are not bonded and are covered only by earth, which washes away in heavy rain or flood. Maintenance is confined to the primitive method of spreading earth from the sides over the surface more or less systematically. This road leads through rice country and also serves the timber areas of the region. The Borneo Company Ltd., for example, has one or two collecting points where the road goes fairly close to the river. I was informed that timber stealing is rife and that the Borneo Company had lost as many as 20,000 logs last year. Having regard to the size of the logs and the fact that the companies use elephants to move them, this may seem rather surprising, but the technique of the stealing apparently is as follows. As many as 40 or 50 men co-operate in detaching logs from the rafts into which they have been collected, and with or without the connivance of the watchmen paddle them down-stream and up a handy side canal where a movable saw pit is set up and the logs are sawn, their identity being thus lost speedily.

The longest trip taken was 84 miles north to Muang Fang, which is quite close to the border. Here too the road is classified as an all-weather road and was in good order. It leads through the same kind of country as that already described, though the proportion of timber country to paddy country increases towards the north.

The political interest of the road lies in the fact that it is crossed west and east by the tracks used by the opium smugglers and possibly in connection with supplies to Chinese Nationalist elements in Burma. These convoys, at all events the opium convoys, are armed, and although they usually travel by night, sometimes move by day and have no hesitation in shooting. It is no doubt for this reason that when I told the Deputy Governor of my desire to go to Fa he asked me to wait until he had cleared it with the Colonel of Police. The British Consul would indeed have liked to go further, up to the border itself, but we were put off this, being told that the road was bad.

The British Consul, of course, keeps this area under observation as best he can and I understand furnishes reports from time to time. I gathered that he has no direct evidence of overt movement of supplies from Thailand into Burma for the Chinese Nationalists by land, although he is fairly certain that food and medical supplies are being bought for them by agents at places along this road and if this is so, it may be supposed that they find their way across. He also has stories of unidentifiable and unmarked 4-engine aircraft flying over this area, which is remote from scheduled flights. This is confirmed by an English missionary, Mr. Crane, who lives near Chiengdao, and was previously with the China Inland Mission (which

since / .....

since its expulsion from China now goes by the name of the Overseas Missionary Fellowship). He speaks various Chinese and other dialects and is accompanied by an Australian named Gold, who was, unfortunately, absent on the day of my visit.

I also made a short visit to Lampun to inspect a small establishment where Thai silks are woven. The looms are very primitive and permit of weaving about half a yard of material a day, each operator spending about a month learning her own pattern and then weaving it exclusively. It will be recalled that ECAFE recently held an exhibition in Bangkok of hand-woven textiles from countries in the ECAFE region in connection with its Working Party on Small Scale Industries. A considerable number of Thai exhibits was displayed and an attempt is being made to encourage the industry.

The British and American Consulates are the only two in Chiengmai. The British Consulate has steadily receded in importance from the days when the post warranted the appointment of a Consul-General. Apart from a handful of U.K. citizens, who are mainly employees of the British timber companies, the British subjects within the Consul's jurisdiction are mainly Pakistanis. The American Consulate I should judge to be rather busier on the information side (Library and U.S.I.S.) but so far as I could ascertain, there were only two American M.S.A. personnel in the area - one connected with agriculture and one with health. The American nationals in the area are mainly missionaries conducting educational and medical establishments.

I formed the distinct impression that the politics of Bangkok have no part in the interests of the man in the street in this area.

B.G.Ballard

Minister.

DEPARTMENT OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS.

85

CABLEGRAM.

ACR:GG

I.13887.

Dated: 8th October, 1952.
1730.
Rec'd: 9th October, 1952.
0830.

FROM:

Australian Legation,
B A N G K O K.

137. CONFIDENTIAL.

Reference my telegram 129. Nai Konthi.
May news of agremant be expected soon?

MIN.AND DEPT.E.A.
P.M'S.

9th October, 1952.

402/1/5

DIS
SECRETARY
A.S. (U.N.)
A.S. (G.P.)
A.S. (Admin.)
C.R. (L. & I.)
U.N.
Tec. Ass.
E. Rel.
Pac.
West
Central
P.I.
Con. & P.
Ant.
Admin
Finance
Pa. Panel

DEPARTMENT OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS.

84

CABLEGRAM.

JC:HG

I.8472

Sent: 15th June, 1952.
2130

FROM:

Rec'd: 16th June, 1952.
1230

Australian Legation,
BANGKOK.

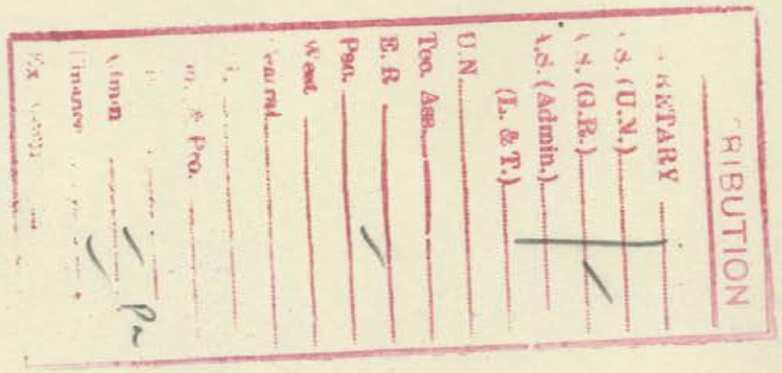
74. UNCLASSIFIED.

Miss Cram arrived today. Please inform family.

File 401/1/5.

E.A. (ATT.)
P.M'S

16th June, 1952.



DEPARTMENT OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS.

CABLEGRAM.

RESTRICTED. 83

DB:HC

7/8 I.8105

Sent: 7th June, 1952.
1430

FROM: Rec'd: 8th June, 1952.
1100

Australian Legation,
BANGKOK.

70. RESTRICTED.

My memorandum 271 of 28th May.

I shall be meeting the new Thai representative to U.N.C.U.R.K. next Thursday at lunch with Missions represented in U.N.C.U.R.K. What Ø you like me to inject into the conversation.?

MIN. & DEPT. E.A.
P.M'S DEPT.

9th June, 1952.

40/1/15.

U.N. ✓
Tec. Ass.
E.R.
Pac. /
West
Central
P.I.
Con. & Pro.

QUADRUPLICATE

DEPARTMENT OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS
11 JUN 1952
402/1/5
CANBERRA.

AUSTRALIAN LEGATION,
BANGKOK.

Despatch No. 5/52.

30th May, 1952.

Sir,

I have the honour to report that I presented my Letters of Credence to His Majesty King Bhumibol on the 6th May.

The ceremony took place in the Throne Hall of the Chakri Palace and, as might be expected, was prepared by the Court officials concerned down to the last detail and was carried out smoothly. I received the utmost assistance from the Protocol Department of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, who furnished me with written descriptions of the procedure and ceremonial. A copy of this is enclosed and may be found convenient to have on hand in future.

I also enclose a copy of the speech which I made before handing the Letters to His Majesty, and a translation of his brief remarks in reply.

The informal conversation which I had with the King was somewhat halting because his English is rather slow. No doubt his French is much better, because of his university studies at Lausanne, but on this occasion I judged it more appropriate to use English. Oddly enough, the decision fell to me to make because he clearly left the initiative to me.

After congratulating him on the recent anniversary of his coronation, and referring in general to Australian - Thai relations, I mentioned the personal relationships arising out of the 180 or so Thai students now in Australia, which seemed to please him. He repeated his welcome, and hoped I would find everything "very good". I received permission to present Mr. Hamilton.

I subsequently made the regulation calls on the Foreign Minister and the Prime Minister. Both these calls were on the formal side, the Chief of Protocol being present, and therefore confined to generalities.

Prince Wan (whom I have seen comparatively frequently) was very cordial, and it is a great advantage to have been associated with him at the General Assembly and the Trusteeship Council. He displayed interest in the Colombo Plan, of which I was able to give him an outline which I shall supplement in the future.

Cpy to C&P

The Prime Minister talked discursively of the extension of highways in Thailand and similar topics. I hoped that a Thai Legation would soon be established in Australia; he was under the impression that it was, but the Chief of Protocol tactfully put him right. The position is that funds

...../have been

The Right Honourable Mr. R.G. Casey, C.H.,

Minister of State for External Affairs,

CANBERRA. A.C.T.

Australian Legation,
Bangkok. Thailand.

have been appropriated, and the Foreign Minister hopes that the Legation will be established "soon". The Prime Minister mentioned that Radio Australia was received strongly here, but I do not know whether he is a consistent listener: my experience is that reception is very difficult. I skirted around the position in Indo-China, but he was not to be drawn on this occasion.

I have subsequently been given a formal dinner by the Foreign Minister at which the heads of Departments of the Ministry were present, (though owing to the extreme formality of the occasion I was unable to have much conversation with them), and have almost concluded the initial series of calls on the other 22 diplomatic missions here.

I have the honour to be,

Sir,

Your obedient servant,

BGS

COPY

Sir My Brother,

Being desirous of making provision for the representation at Your Majesty's Court of the interests of Australia, I have judged it expedient to accredit to You My Trusty and Well-beloved Bertram Charles Ballard, Esquire, in the character of My Envoy Extraordinary and Minister Plenipotentiary for Australia.

Having already had ample experience of Mr. Ballard's talents and zeal for My service, I doubt not that he will fulfil the important duties of his Mission in such a manner as to merit Your Majesty's approbation and esteem, and to prove himself worthy of this new mark of My confidence.

I accordingly request that you will give entire credence to all that Mr. Ballard shall have occasion to communicate to You in My name, more especially when he shall express to Your Majesty My cordial wishes for Your Happiness, and shall assure You of the invariable attachment and highest esteem with which I am,

MANU REGIA

(Sir My Brother,
(Your Majesty's
(Good Sister,
(ELIZABETH, R.

Buckingham Palace,
7th April, 1952.

To
My Good Brother
The King of Thailand.

May it please Your Majesty,

I have the honour to present Letters whereby Her Majesty Queen Elizabeth II has accredited me to be Her Envoy Extraordinary and Minister Plenipotentiary with the especial object of representing in the Kingdom of Thailand the interests of the Commonwealth of Australia, and in tendering these Letters I desire to convey on behalf of the Government and people of Australia their most cordial good wishes for Your Majesty's personal welfare and the continued prosperity of the people of Thailand.

The Government and people of Australia attach high importance to the maintenance and fostering of the friendly relations which so happily exist between Australia and Thailand, and the raising of Australian representation in this country to a Legation is an earnest of this. In the view of my Government, the problems which are common to the countries in the Pacific and South East Asia region can be best confronted by joint discussion and action, and the security and welfare of this region are the common concern of all the peoples which dwell in it.

Our two countries have indeed already cooperated in matters affecting the economic and social well-being of their peoples, and further, by their active support of United Nations action in Korea, they are working side by side for the restoration of peace and security not only in the area which is our immediate concern, but in the whole world.

I am honoured in being the first Australian Minister to address Your Majesty, and no task could be more congenial to me than that of strengthening the friendly bonds linking our two countries. In carrying out this high and responsible duty I shall most deeply appreciate Your Majesty's help and co-operation.

Translation

Monsieur le Ministre,

I am pleased to receive the Letters of Credence by which Her Majesty Queen Elizabeth has accredited you as Envoy Extraordinary and Minister Plenipotentiary for Australia to My Court.

In extending to you My welcome, I wish to express particularly My gratification at the earnest desire on the part of the Government and people of Australia to maintain and strengthen further the cordial ties of friendship happily existing between Thailand and the Commonwealth of Australia. In this connection, I am confident that My Government and people will on their part do all they can to contribute to that end and to accord you every possible assistance and co-operation in the fulfilment of your mission for the mutual benefits of the two countries.

I take this opportunity to convey My best wishes for the continued health and happiness of Her Majesty Queen Elizabeth and the increasing prosperity and welfare of the Commonwealth and the people of Australia.

DEPARTMENT OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS.

77

CABLEGRAM.

PM:MB

I. 7233

Dated:20th May, 1952.
1217
Rec'd:20th May, 1952.
1630

FROM:

Australian Legation,
BANGKOK.

65. UNCLASSIFIED. PRIORITY.

Your telegram 80.

Appleton has made tentative sea booking from Bangkok towards the end of June connecting with vessel leaving Singapore July 8th for Fremantle. Request immediate authority for payment of deposit of half fare from Singapore refundable for (portion omitted)

E.A.
P.M'S.

21st May, 1952.

402/11/1

DISTRIBUTION
SECRETARY
U.N.(U.N.)
(L. & T.)
N.
Tpc. Ass.
E. R
Pac.
West
Central
P.I.
Econ. & Pro.
Admin.
Finance
Ex. Comm.

DEPARTMENT OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS.

CABLEGRAM.

76

GG:ER

I.6670

Dated: 7th May, 1952
1230

Rec'd: 8th May, 1952
0830

FROM:

Australian Consulate-General,
BANGKOK.

61. UNCLASSIFIED.

I presented my letter of credence on May 6th.

Ballard.

E.A.
P.M's

8th May, 1942

402/1/5

DISTRIBUTION

SECRETARY
A.S. (U.N.)
A.S. (G.R.)
A.S. (Admin.) ✓
(L. & T.)
U.N.
Tec. Ass.
E.R.
Pac. ✓
West
Central
P.I.
Com. & Pro.
Ant.
Admin. ✓ JW
Finance
Int. Co-op.

DEPARTMENT OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS.

95

CABLEGRAM.

DBB:ER

I.6521

Dated: 2nd May, 1952
2030

Rec'd: 3rd May, 1952
0830

FROM:

Australian Consulate-General,
BANGKOK.

60. UNCLASSIFIED.

Appleton has been continually unwell since my arrival and is extremely rundown. Doctor has today ordered a week's leave at the sea side. I see no alternative but to let him go for a week from Monday May 5th. As we are in the middle of move this is unfortunate, if unavoidable. Urge immediate attention to appointment of his successor.

E.A.
P.M's

5th May, 1952

File 401/1/5

SECRETARY
A.S. (U.N.)
A.S. (E.R.)
A.S. (Admin.)
(L. & T.)
U.N.
Tec. Ass.
E.R.
Pac.
West
Central
P.I.
Con. & Pro.
Int.
Admin.
Finance
Ex. Control

DEPARTMENT OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS.

74

CABLEGRAM.

I. 5627

NFP:GM

Dated: 14th April, 1952
2330

Rec'd: 15th April, 1952
1000

FROM:

Australian Legation,
BANGKOK.

52. UNCLASSIFIED.

Ballard arrived April 14th.

402/1/5

E.A.
P.M.'s

15th April, 1952.

DISTRIBUTION

SECRETARY
U.S. (U.N.)
U.S. (G.R.)
U.S. (Admin.)
(L. & T.)
U.N.
Tec. Ass.
E.R.
Pac.
West
Central
U.K.
Com. & Pro.
Int.
Admin.
Finance
Ex. Comms.

DEPARTMENT OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS.

CABLEGRAM.

73

JG:GM

O. 5205

Dated: 10th April, 1952
1000

TO:

Australian Legation,
BANGKOK.

63. UNCLASSIFIED.

For Loomes.

Our 62. Notwithstanding delay in Ballard's arrival, you should leave as already planned.

E.A.
P.M.'s

402/1/5

10th April, 1952.

DISTRIBUTION

SECRETARY
A.S. (U.N.)
A.S. (G.R.)
A.S. (Admin.)
(L. & T.)
U.N.
Tec. Ass.
E.R.
Pac.
West
Central
P.I.
Con. & Pro.
Ant.
Admin.
Finance
Ec. Comm.

DEPARTMENT OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS.

72

CABLEGRAM.

MW:GG

I.5586.

Dated: 10th April, 1952.
1400.
Rec'd: 11th April, 1952.
1915.

ADMIRALTY MELBOURNE

FROM:

Australian Legation,
B A N G K O K.

50. UNCLASSIFIED. IMMEDIATE.

From Loomes.

Your telegram 62.

As enquiries indicate it would be very difficult for me at this stage to obtain slightly later booking to Sydney I shall leave by K.L.M. on April 13th as planned. There should be a small margin for discussion with Ballard but if not I shall leave notes on all current matters and Hamilton will be fully aware of them.

It will of course be necessary to designate Hamilton as Charge d'Affaires pending presentation of credentials.

Your telegram 60. My wife and two children will accompany me on trip to New York leaving Sydney April 24th.

E.A.
P.M'S.

12thApril, 1952.

402/1/5

DISTRIBUTION
SECRETARY
A.S. (U.N.)
A.S. (G.R.)
A.S. (Admin.)
(L. & T.)
U.N.
Tec. Ass.
E.R.
Pac.
West
Central
N.I.
Con. & Pro.
Int.
Admin.
Finance
Pr. Comm.

DEPARTMENT OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS.

71

CABLEGRAM.

MS:GM

I. 5523

Dated: 10th April, 1952
1554

Rec'd: 11th April, 1952
0830

FROM:

Australian Commissioner's Office,
SINGAPORE.

336. UNCLASSIFIED.

Addressed Canberra 336, repeated to Bangkok for Loomes 8.

Ballard booked to Bangkok B.O.A.C. April 14th, leaving Singapore 1500 hours.

E.A.
P.M.'s

402/1/5

11th April, 1952.

DISTRIBUTION

SECRETARY
A.S. (U.N.)
A.S. (E.R.)
A.S. (Admin.)
(L. & T.)
U.N.
Tec. Ass.
E.R.
Pac.
West
Central
P.I.
Con. & Pro.
Info.
Finance
Ec. Section

DEPARTMENT OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS.

CABLEGRAM.

TWWP:EGM:

O. 5166/67

Sent: 9th April 1952
2100

TO:

Australian Commissioner's Office,
SINGAPORE..... 307

REPEATED TO:

Australian Legation,
BANGKOK..... 62 (For Loomes)

UNCLASSIFIED. IMMEDIATE.

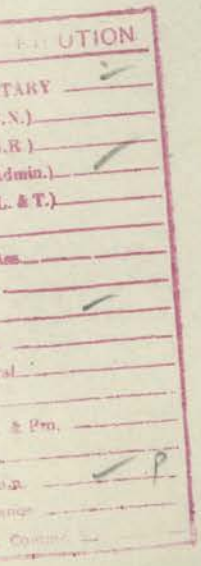
Ballard's plane delayed by engine trouble. He will not now be leaving until Qantas flight ex Sydney 11th April. Please book him on to Bangkok by first available flight after his arrival at Singapore taking into account the necessity of his getting a Siamese visa at Singapore. We assume that you will be able to obtain this without delay.

Kindly advise us and Loomes of action taken.

E.A.
P.M.'s DEPT:

10th April 1952

402/1/5



Sydney Morning Herald
9/4/52.
40x1/15

MINISTER TO SIAM

Mr. B. C. Ballard Appointed

CANBERRA, Thursday.—The Prime Minister, Mr. R. G. Menzies, to-night announced the appointment of Mr. Bertram Charles Ballard as the first Australian Minister to Siam.

Mr. Ballard will leave Australia on April 9 for Bangkok. The Australian Legation at Bangkok is at present administered by a charge d'affaires, Mr. A. H. Loomes.

Mr. Ballard is a career officer of the Department of External Affairs.

He was educated at Scotch College, Melbourne, and at the University of Melbourne. In 1927 he was admitted as a barrister and solicitor of the Supreme Court of Victoria.

From 1943 he was Australian official representative in New Caledonia and after the war served in the central office of the Department of External Affairs at Canberra.

He was Australian political liaison officer in Tokyo, 1945-46. Australian Consul-General in Indonesia, 1947, counsellor at the Australian Embassy in Paris, 1947-48, and at the Australian Embassy in Moscow, 1948-50. In both capitals he served at various times as charge d'affaires.

Later he was stationed at Geneva as permanent Australian delegate to the European office of the United Nations.

He has represented Australia at many United Nations conferences, including the General Assembly and the Trusteeship Council.

DEPARTMENT OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS.

68

CABLEGRAM.

I.5207

PH: [redacted]

Dated: 4th April, 1952
1820

Rec'd: 7th April, 1952
0200

FROM:

Australian Consulate-General,
BANGKOK.

DISTRIBUTION
SECRETARY /
A.S. (U.N.)
A.S. (G.R.)
A.S. (Admin.)
(L. & T.)
U.N.
Tec. Ass.
E.R. /
Pac. /
Ost
Consl /
/
& Pro.
Admin /a
Finance
Ec. Comm.

46. UNCLASSIFIED.

Addressed to Canberra 46 repeated to Manila.

Your telegram 56.

From Loomes.

Following are details of my movements. Depart Bangkok by K.L.M. 1530 Sunday April 13th. Arrive Manila 2200 same day and depart at midnight. Arrive Sydney 2300 April 14th.

Canberra please advise family and request them to meet air craft.

402/1/5

E.A.
P.M's

7th April, 1952

67

DEPARTMENT OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS

CANBERRA

PR 18/52.

3rd April, 1952.

For the Press

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE:

AUSTRALIAN MINISTER TO THAILAND.

Mr. Bertram Charles Ballard has been appointed first Australian Minister to Thailand and will leave Australia on April 9th for Bangkok. The Australian Legation at Bangkok is at present administered by a Chargè d'Affaires (Mr. A.H. Loomes).

Mr. Ballard is a career officer of the Department of External Affairs. He was educated at Scotch College, Melbourne, and at the University of Melbourne, and in 1927 was admitted as Barrister and Solicitor of the Supreme Court of Victoria. During the war, from 1940-43, he was Australian Official Representative in New Caledonia, and subsequently served in the Central Office of the Department of External Affairs at Canberra. He was Australian Political Liaison Officer in Tokyo in 1945-46, and subsequently, in 1947, was appointed Australian Consul-General in Indonesia. He was Counsellor at the Australian Embassy, Paris, in 1947-48, and at the Australian Embassy, Moscow, in 1948-50; in both capitals he served at various times as Chargè d'Affaires. Later, he was stationed at Geneva as Australian Permanent Delegate to the European Office of the United Nations. He has represented Australia at many United Nations conferences including the General Assembly and the Trusteeship Council.

File

File 402/1/5

Mr. Partlett

DEPARTMENT OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS.

66

CABLEGRAM.

GG:MB

O. 4804/5/6

Sent:3rd April, 1952.
1625

TO:

Australian Legation,
BANGKOK.....56.

REPEATED TO:

Australian Commissioner's Office,
SINGAPORE.....289.

Australian Embassy,
DJAKARTA.....98.

CONFIDENTIAL.

For Loomes. Your 44.

Ballard leaving Sydney B.O.A.C. Flight BA.705/381 April 9th from Singapore he will proceed on April 11th to Bangkok by K.L.M. Flight KL.830 due at Bangkok 1820 hours same day.

Your own bookings should be confirmed and notified to us and posts en route.

E.A.
P.M'S.

7th April, 1952.

402/1/5.

DISTRIBUTION

SECRETARY
U.S. (U.N.)
U.S. (G.R.)
U.S. (Admin.)
(L. & T.)
U.N.
Pac. Ass.
E. R.
Pac.
West
Central
P.I.
Com. & Pro.
Int.
Admin.
Protocol

DEPARTMENT OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS.

402/1/5

65

CABLEGRAM.

PH:HG

I.4779

Sent: 28th March, 1952.
1730

Rec'd: 29th March, 1952.
0300

FROM:

Australian Legation,
B A N G K O K.

40. UNCLASSIFIED.

Your telegram 49.

1. The two houses mentioned in my telegram 31 are not identical with those mentioned in my despatch 499 and your message 307 (see my despatch 6-52). It is confirmed that the lease of 23 Gottsche Lane need not be renewed.

2. Subject to final approval by Ballard, which the owner will wait for, I have agreed to take the two houses concerned for ticals 11,000 per month with the first 6 months rent in advance (a normal requirement). Lease to be for one year with the option of renewal.

E.A. (1428/5)
P.M'S

DISTRIB

SECRETARY
A.S. (U.N.)
A.S. (G.R.)
A.S. (Admin.)
(L. & T.)
U.N.
Tec. Ass.
E. R
Pac.
West
Central
P.I.
Con. & Pro.
Int.
Admin.
Finance

DEPARTMENT OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS.

CABLEGRAM.

64

MG:HG

O.4499

Sent: 28th March, 1952.
1500

TO:

Australian Legation,
B A N G K O K.

52. UNCLASSIFIED.

Local allowance married officer increased to ticals 43,000 from 1st January, 1952, and to ticals 47,000 from 29th February. Child allowance increased to ticals 9,000 from 1st January, 1952. Ticals 43,000 represents 1,649 fortnightly, 47,000 is 1,802 and 9,000 is 345. Please adjust. Equipment allowance of £15 Australian for formal wear for Loomes approved. He may draw advance of this amount. Single officers' allowance still to be determined.

E.A. (1258/34)
P.M'S

402/1/5

31st March, 1952.

DIST.
SECRET
A.S. (U.N.)
A.S. (G.)
A.S. (Admin.)
(E. & T.)
U.N.
Tec. Ass.
E.R.
Pac.
West
Centra
P.I.

DEPARTMENT OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS.

JG:[redacted]

CABLEGRAM. 0.3906. RESTRICTED.

63

Dated: 17th March, 1952.
1500.

DIS
SECRETARY
A.S. (U.N.)
A.S. (G.R.)
A.S. (Admin.)
(L. & T.)
U.N.
Tec. Ass.
E.R.
Pac.
West
Central
P.I.
Com. & Pub.
Asia
Admin.
Finance
Pr. Conf.

TO:

Australian Legation,
B A N G K O K.

40. RESTRICTED.

We have been endeavouring for some time to obtain a replacement for Appleton and hope to be in a position to send one forward either with Ballard or shortly after the latter's arrival.

E.A.
P.M'S.

402/1/15

18th March, 1952.

Duplicate.

CONFIDENTIAL

DEPARTMENT OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS
Rec'd 10 MAR 1952
File No. 4.02/1/5
LEGATION
AUSTRALIAN CONSULATE-GENERAL,
BANGKOK, THAILAND.

62

File No. 20/1/2.

Despatch No. 2/52.

27th February, 1952.

Sir,

I have the honour to forward herewith my Annual Report for the Year 1951.

This report includes a summary of the more important political and economic developments in Thailand during the year under review.

I have the honour to be,

Sir,

Your obedient servant,

(Sgd.) A. H. Loomes

A.H. Loomes
Charge d'Affaires.

The Right Honourable Mr. R.G. Casey,
Minister of State for External Affairs,
CANBERRA. A.C.T.

Copies passed to: E.R. S/S.
Treasury
Commerce and Agriculture
Trade and Customs
Attorney
N.S. Secretariat
Copies requested for Canadians.
AP 10/3

C. Bankers to see:
Admin to see eg. para 28
B.H.R. Pty.
arrange w/Powers
P.R. for Admin Secretary
AP 10/3
Arranged 10/3.

CONFIDENTIAL

AUSTRALIAN LEGATION, BANGKOK. THAILAND.

ANNUAL REPORT, 1951.

ADMINISTRATION.

The office staff remained the same throughout the year. On 22nd October, agreement was reached between the Australian and Thai Governments for the exchange of diplomatic representatives, and, as a consequence, the status of the mission was raised on that date from Consulate-General to Legation. The former Consul-General, Mr. A.H. Loomes, then became Charge d'Affaires a.i., and Mr. R.N. Hamilton, formerly Vice-Consul, became Third Secretary.

2. The work of the office continued to increase considerably. The following table will give some indication of this increase:-

	1950	1951
Memoranda despatched	612	650
Despatches	16	20
Memoranda received from External Affairs	247	321
Cables despatched	201	170
Cables received	188	219
Visas granted	69	161
Passports issued and renewed	11	20

3. The increase in the volume of work has been due to a large extent to the great increase in the numbers of students proceeding to Australia and also to the increasing amount of liaison work connected with the Economic Commission for Asia and the Far East and specialised agencies of the United Nations having offices in Bangkok. Political developments and also such matters as enquiries for the Joint Intelligence Bureau, work connected with the Colombo Plan, and attendance at ECAFE and ILO conferences, have also tended to increase the pressure of work. The number of trade enquiries has remained reasonably constant, and the only decrease has been in connection with war claims against Thailand, which were settled early in 1951 and paid during the year.

POLITICAL DEVELOPMENTS.

A. INTERNAL.

4. The early part of the year was quiet and orderly, and, in spite of a few minor difficulties, the Government seemed to be carrying on its functions in a reasonably efficient manner. In March, however, a plot to overthrow the Government, being planned

...../by a former

by a former Commander of Marines, Rear Admiral Thaharn Khamhiran, was discovered, and a warrant for his arrest was issued, but not executed. The plans were then in a very early stage and little importance was at the time attached to the incident. Nevertheless, in view of later developments, the incident takes on a greater significance. After this incident, little of interest occurred, with the exception of the return to Thailand of General Luang Kach Songgram (former Deputy Commander in Chief of the Army) who had been compelled to leave the country after having been found, in January, 1950, to be plotting the overthrow of the Pibul Government. He was imprisoned but subsequently released on bail.

The Attempted Coup d'etat of 29th June.

5. Suddenly, on 29th June, during a ceremony being held for the transfer of the dredger "Manhattan" from the United States to Thailand under the E.C.A. programme, in the presence of a large gathering, the Prime Minister, Field Marshal P. Pibulsonggram, was forceably abducted by a group of naval officers, led by Commander Manas Charupha, and taken into Naval custody. Shortly afterwards, marines and other naval forces commenced their attack on the city. They were, however, opposed by a superior force comprising the police, army and, later, the air force, and, in spite of a determined effort, they were subdued after fighting which lasted until early on 1st July. In this fighting, much damage to property and considerable loss of life (both civilian and service) were caused. The insurgent naval group undoubtedly counted on more active support than they received. In particular, they undoubtedly counted on the full participation of the whole of the Navy, and probably some support from various dissident sections of the army. Also, there was probably some expectation on the part of the insurgents, whose numbers are believed to have included Air Marshal Luang Thevarit Panluck, former Commander in Chief of the Air Force, that the Air Force might give some support, or, at least, would remain neutral. It is to these factors that the failure of the attempted coup d'etat was in part due, and it can also be attributed to the following:-

(a) too much secrecy was maintained and not enough preparation made to ensure adequate armed support, and

(b) the effect on the Government of the seizure of Pibul was overestimated. Pibul's position had for some time been overshadowed by the army and police group of General Phin Chunhawan, Lt. General Phao Sriyanond and Lt. General Sarit Thanarat, and, on Pibul's disappearence, this group promptly took over the conduct of the campaign against the insurgents.

6. The insurrection, so far as can be judged in advance of the criminal proceedings now being taken against a number of persons, was planned by Rear Admiral Thaharn Khamhiran, with a group of naval officers and, probably, Air Marshal Luang Thevarit. The more important of the naval officers concerned were probably the following:-

Rear Admiral Chali Sindhusophon.
Captain Anondh Puntarikabha.
Commander Manas Charupha.
Rear Admiral Luang Sangworn Yuttrakit.

The following were also to some extent involved, but the nature of their participation is not yet clear:-

Admiral Luang Sindhu Songgramchai, Commander in Chief of the Navy at the time of the revolt.
Vice Admiral Luang Charon Rajnava, Deputy Commander in Chief.
Rear Admiral Chaen Pajjasanondh.
Rear Admiral Kanok Nobhakun.

...../On such

On such information as has become available up to the present, the four officers last mentioned were probably not directly involved, but the main case against them seems to rest on their inability or unwillingness to control their subordinates adequately.

7. After the suppression of the insurrection, the Government again under the (nominal) control of Pibul, continued to impose martial law, which was lifted only on 10th September. The reasons for the continuation of the strict controls possible under martial law (such as press and other censorship, prohibition of meetings, etc.,) seemed clearly to rest in the Government's feeling of insecurity and its desire to prevent all forms of criticism, as well as its determination to pursue its purge of the navy with unlimited authority.

8. A special committee was set up to investigate the disorders and to determine those responsible. A further committee was later established, consisting, principally, of high military and police officers, including General Phin and Lt. General Phao, to "reorganise" the Navy. Almost all the marines and a large number of other naval personnel - in all, about 75% of the Navy's total strength - were suspended from duty, and, at the time of writing, have not been reinstated. Arrests of suspects, including almost all the higher officers of the Navy, continued also for some time, and eventually, after questioning more than 1000 suspects, the Committee brought 73 to trial for treason. A few naval officers were also shot dead "while attempting to escape". The principal leaders, however, are still at large.

9. Although the result of this incident was broadly satisfactory for the Government, the same feelings of opposition on the part of the Navy, including those who have been suspended, as well as on the part of other followers of Nai Pridi Panomyong, will still exist. Democratic procedures, which would have enabled this opposition to be calmly exercised, have never existed in this country. Later developments during the year (which will be described later) makes any form of opposition, which would seem necessary in any normal democratic state, even more difficult. The result of the successful Army-Police-Air Force campaign against the insurgents also clearly emboldened this group (or, more accurately, certain leaders of it) to assume unusual ascendency over the ordinary government, and undoubtedly led to the more far-reaching charges made by a successful coup d'etat in November.

10. The Parliamentary Opposition, led by Nai Khuang Aphaiwongse, attempted to have a full investigation made into the causes and effects of the attempted coup. An unsatisfactory debate was also held in the Senate, where opposition members were in a majority. The result in both cases was however inconclusive.

The Coup d'etat of 29th November.

11. The second development in the internal political situation took place on 29th November. Again without warning, an announcement was made that a group of members of the Army, Navy Air Force and Police had decided to assume control of the country, that the Government was overthrown, that Parliament was dissolved, and the Constitution was abolished. It was announced that the Constitution of 1932 would be reintroduced, and that the administration of the country would temporarily be under the control of a "Provisional Executive Committee" composed of three members of each of the Army, Navy and Air Force, the more important being General Phin Chunhawan, Lt. General Sarit Dhanarat and Air Chief Marshal Fuen Ronnabhakas Riddaghani. At the same time the Chief of Police, Lt. General Phao Sriyanond, was placed in charge of internal security throughout the kingdom. The Provisional Executive Committee then "appointed" a new Council of Ministers to act temporarily pending the appointment of a permanent Cabinet with the approval of the King.

...../12. This coup d'etat

12. This coup d'etat was effected while the King was on his way to Thailand from Singapore and the timing of the coup was clearly to present him with a fait accompli on his arrival and give him no alternative but to accept. As it was, the King delayed his approval for some days, but eventually on strong pressure he was compelled to give his assent to the changes and to the appointment of a permanent Council of Ministers. By 11th December approval had been given to a Cabinet headed by Field Marshal Pibul and including all the prime movers of the coup d'etat. The list is an unimpressive one, and is predominantly military in character.

13. The changes brought about by this coup d'etat are, to my mind, more serious and far reaching than those effected by any other previous coup. The complete nullification of the Constitution, the dissolution of Parliament and the abolition of the Government in power by members of the armed forces by threat of force are evidence of extreme instability. If the whole basis of existing institutions can be changed by such means and with such facility, virtually any internal change, even to the extent of seriously affecting foreign interests, could be brought about.

14. However, from the point of view of foreign relations, and of the basic anti-communist policies of this country, the new Government still headed (now only nominally) by Pibul, is probably no worse than the previous one, and all foreign missions here had little difficulty in recommending recognition of the new regime, however much they might have disliked the means by which it came to power.

The King's Death Case.

15. On 27th September, almost exactly three years of the commencement of the trial, judgment was delivered by the Criminal Court in the case of the death of the late King Ananda Mahidol, who was killed on 9th June, 1946. It will be recalled that charges of regicide were brought against Nai Pridi Panomyong, former premier, his secretary, Lieutenant Vajarachai Chaiyasitthivech, the secretary to the King and two pages. Pridi and Vajarachai had fled the country after the coup d'etat of November, 1947, and were not before the Court. Judgment was delivered therefore only in respect of the charges against the two pages, Nai Chit Singhaseni and Nai Butr Padhanasarin, and the private secretary, Nai Chaliew Pradomros. The Court found that the King had been murdered and Nai Chit was found guilty of conspiring with others to assassinate the King (although it was not found that he actually committed the murder) and sentenced to death, while the other two defendants were acquitted. No decision was made in respect of Nai Pridi and Lieutenant Vajarachi. Appeals have been lodged by the Public Prosecutor against the two acquittals, and by Chit against his conviction, but these appeals have not, at the time of writing, been heard.

Return of H.M. the King.

16. On 2nd December, immediately after the coup d'etat of 29th November, His Majesty King Phumiphon Aduldet, with Queen Sirikit, arrived back on Thai soil to assume his functions on a permanent basis after a considerable time in Switzerland. His return will do much to unite the people, who are inordinately proud of their monarchy, and act at least as a partial curb on the spread of Communist doctrines amongst the Thais. Since his return, the King has shown a surprising strength of character, which had not been anticipated, and, while he has had little alternative but to accede to the demands of the military group which has assumed power, he has not blindly accepted all the proposals made by this group, and has indeed been able to modify some of its more extreme demands.

...../Communism. 17.

Communism.

17. Communist activity did not substantially increase during the year under review. At the beginning of the year, it was well known that there was a small (predominantly Chinese) group of Communists in Thailand. With the help of the Soviet Legation in Bangkok and other propaganda disseminating Russian agencies (such as the Silver Star Motion Picture Company), some attempt has been made to spread Communist doctrines, principally through the columns of a small but vocal left-wing press, but the Thai police have been able to suppress this to a large extent. The police has also been able to deport a number of alien Communist-sympathisers and to detain a number of others for deportation.

18. The principal worries of the Thai Government, so far as Communism is concerned, are the activities of Vietminh sympathisers in the North-east of Thailand, and the possible pressure which may arise from the deteriorating situation in Burma, particularly that part of the Southern Shan States which borders on Thailand. In the North-East, the population to a large extent consists of Laos and other peoples more akin to Indo-Chinese races. There has been, for some time past, an increasing resentment among these people against the Government in Bangkok, and this atmosphere has become fertile ground for Communist, or, more precisely, pro-Vietminh propaganda. This area, however, has up to the present been kept reasonably well under control.

19. The situation in Burma has given rise to some anxiety in this country to such an extent at present that the greater part of the frontier has been closed, and entry in Thailand can only be effected through a few specified points. While the position in Indo-China causes some concern, more danger is anticipated from Burma, which offers a more direct thoroughfare from Communist China, and in which the campaign against Communist forces does not seem to be prosecuted with the same energy as is the case in Indo-China.

20. It might be said generally about Communism in this country that there is little appeal of its doctrines to the mass of the Thai population, but at the same time they are politically apathetic, and have not any very positive anti-Communistic convictions. The main principles militating against an acceptance of Communism are the national religion, Buddhism, the existence of a monarchy and the availability of ample food, but, if Communism is imposed on the people, there would probably be little likelihood of any large-scale or constructive opposition.

B. EXTERNAL.

21. The relations of Thailand with foreign countries, particularly the western powers, continued to improve very considerably during the year.

22. The United States of America, in particular, conscious of the strategic importance of this country and its basically non-communistic government and outlook, has continued to provide economic and military aid of significant amounts. Some doubt as to the practical efficacy of the economic aid provided have been expressed, and the Thais themselves are somewhat perturbed about the large amounts of expenditure necessary by themselves as counterpart funds, but nevertheless the gesture by America is appreciated as friendly and cooperative.

23. The use of American arms during the attempted coup d'etat in June/July, though this was tactfully denied here,

...../and the instability

and the instability evident from the successful coup in November, has led American representatives here to adopt a somewhat firmer attitude, and, on the return of the Ambassador from leave in January, 1952, he publicly drew the attention of the Thai Government to the concern felt in Washington at events which have taken place during the last year.

24. The participation of Thai forces in Korea has continued to evoke friendly feelings from the Western powers. The Thai Government for its part, considers that its efforts in this direction are, now that Thailand has clearly declared its position, well worth while, and there has been little if any opposition to the maintaining of a Thai contingent in Korea.

25. There was no change in the foreign policy of Thailand during the year. The coup d'etat of 29th November, in particular, did not bring about any change, except that the new Government's policy towards Communism is likely to be more positive, and cooperation with the Western powers more wholehearted. The reinstatement as Prime Minister of Field Marshal Pibul Songgram, though it undoubtedly was done partly because of internal political considerations, was probably also influenced by the desire to maintain the confidence of foreign countries, where Pibul has for some time past been well and favourably known. The continued inclusion of Nai Warakan Bancha as Foreign Minister was probably also partly due to similar considerations.

C. RELATIONS WITH AUSTRALIA.

26. Australia's relations with this country continued to improve considerably during the year. It will be recalled that, following on Australia's rejection of Thailand's request in 1949 for an exchange of legations, and our wrongly interpreted attitude on the question of the return of Thai gold from Japan, the Thai Government had not been very favourably disposed towards Australia. The fact also that war claims by Australians were outstanding and that non-payment of them was given as a reason for our rejection of the proposal for the exchange of legations, also was not conducive to more friendly and cooperative relations.

27. The year of 1951, however, represented a turning-point. Early in the year, agreement was reached for a lump-sum settlement of all outstanding Australian (along with other British Commonwealth) war claims. About the same time, an informal approach was made by this office to the Thai Government proposing the exchange of diplomatic representatives. The response at first was not encouraging and reference was made again to the serious view taken by the Thai Government to the attitude of Australia on the Thai proposal made earlier. The Thai attitude improved however as time went on.

28. In July, a visit was made to this country by the Rt. Hon. R.G. Casey, Australian Minister of External Affairs, who took the opportunity of apologising to the Thai Government for Australia's earlier refusal, and of expressing the hope that agreement for the exchange of diplomatic missions would shortly be considered. This gesture was greatly appreciated by the Thai Government, and paved the way for the conclusion of an agreement to exchange legations with effect from 22nd October. On that day, the status of the Australian mission in Bangkok was changed from Consulate-General to Legation. The 1952 budget passed recently contains provision for the establishment of a legation in Australia and it is anticipated that a mission will be sent early this year.

...../29. The visit of

29. The visit of the Minister to Bangkok also did much generally to improve relations between Australia and Thailand. The visit indicated clearly the interest which Australia has in this country and the desire to strengthen the feelings of friendship and cooperation. This was the first visit to Thailand of any Australian Minister.

30. There were no significant developments during the year in regard to Thailand's fuller participation in the activities of the Colombo Plan. The Thai Government, it will be recalled, had in 1950 formally accepted the invitation of the Commonwealth Governments to participate in the activities of the Consultative Committee and were represented at the London meeting in October, 1950. It subsequently emerged, however, that, at least so far as the Economic Development aspect of the Plan was concerned, Thailand would not be anxious to participate fully, nor in particular to submit a detailed plan of development which would serve as the basis for any economic assistance to be provided under the Plan. They have, nevertheless, been happy to avail themselves of the training facilities provided. Late in the year the Government accepted the invitation of Australia to nominate eight candidates for fellowships and scholarships. They accepted also the offer to provide training in meteorology. They have also indicated interest in the proposed visit to Thailand of a social welfare expert.

31. The reluctance to participate more fully in the economic development aspects of the Colombo Plan seems clearly to have been due, not to a disinclination to cooperate with the other members of the Consultative Committee, but to the fact that, being already committed to development plans with aid and finance provided by the International Bank and by the United States of America, the Thai Government feels itself strained in providing personnel and local currency. There is no doubt, however, that, when the Thai Government feels itself able to cope with the undertaking of additional projects, they will be glad to avail themselves of the benefits which can be provided under the Plan.

ECONOMIC.

A. GENERAL.

32. The economic situation of Thailand maintained its position in 1951.

33. Accurate figures for the whole year are difficul: to obtain, but approximate figures indicate total exports amounting in value to about Baht 4,650 million, and imports about Baht 4,000 million, leaving a favourable overall balance of about Baht 650 million. Previous years showed the following approximate balances:-

1947	- Baht	538	million
1948	+ "	318	"
1949	+ "	510	"
1950	+ "	685	"
1951	+ "	650	" (approx.)

34. The important increases in the last few years have been due to the increases in the price of rice and rubber. While, in volume, rice has remained the most constant, rubber has, in the last two or three years, because of the great demand for it from the United States in particular, rivalled rice as the most important export commodity, and in value the return has almost equalled that for rice. Up to the end of November, 1951, rice totalling in volume about 1,449,000 tons, and in value about

...../Baht 1,663 million

Baht 1,663 million was exported, while rubber exports amounted for the same period to 101,600 metric tons, valued at about Baht 1,379 million.

35. Official exports of rice under contract with the Thai Government (presuming that ~~exp~~ in fact the contracts were fulfilled) were as follows:-

United Kingdom and territories (particularly Malaya and Borneo)	415,000 tons
Japan	350,000 tons
Indonesia	160,000 tons
India	100,000 tons
Other countries (notably Philippines and Ceylon)	200,000 tons
Total	1,225,000 tons

The remainder of the rice exports were private exports allowed under licence by the Government.

36. Exports of rubber during 1951 were made principally to the United States and Japan, and rubber has consequently become the most important dollar earning commodity. In September, 1951, an agreement was made between the United States and Thailand for the supply of 125,000 tons of rubber at ruling world market prices through private trade channels in both countries, the supply of such amount to be completed by 31st December, 1952. The total of 125,000 tons comprises about two-thirds of Thailand's estimated output over the period.

37. Exports of tin ore, wolfram and teak are other important elements in the economy of Thailand. Values of exports of these goods have, from January to November 1951, inclusive, totalled approximately Baht 188 million, Baht 46 million and Baht 144 million respectively.

38. In accordance with the United Nations recommendation for economic sanctions against Communist China, a Royal Decree, issued on 23rd July, prohibited the export, without a special licence, of tin ore, iron ore, wolfram, antimony, lead, lead ore, zinc, para rubber, castor beans, castor oil and kapok. No difficulty has been experienced by exporters of these materials in obtaining licences provided the destination is not Communist China or the iron curtain countries.

39. It is of some interest to note that the bid by Japan for trade with this country commenced in 1949 and 1950, continued to increase in 1951. Japanese textiles, manufactured goods and machinery, have continued to be imported in increasing quantitites, and, although accurate figures are not available, it is thought that approximately 40% of Thai imports were of Japanese goods. In April, 1951, a Japanese Government Overseas Agency was established in Bangkok, and there have been many visits to this country of Japanese business men seeking further trade. It is generally anticipated that the existing Agency, which is already under the control of a former Foreign Service official, will shortly be raised to the rank of Embassy.

40. Certain important development projects were commenced during the year under review.

41. It will be recalled that a loan had been granted by the International Bank for the construction of a dam on the Chao Phya River at Chainat both for irrigation and for generating electricity. During 1951, a contract was let for the construction of this dam, and work has been commenced. The

...../successful

successful contractor was the English firm of Kier and Cawder Ltd.. It is expected that the construction of the dam will take about three years .

42. Work has also been commenced on the important project of clearing the entrance to the Chao Phya River, so as to enable ships of a greater size to proceed directly to Bangkok. It will be recalled that only very small ships have been able for some considerable time to proceed over the bar of this important river, and the greater part of the loading of ships has been done from barges nearer an island, Koh Sichang, in the Gulf of Thailand. A contract was let in March to the Amsterdamsche Ballast Maatschaapij, a Dutch firm, for the dredging of the bar from the mouth of the river for a distance of 12½ kilometres. A further 4½ kilometres is being dredged by the Thai Government itself, for which the American Government has provided the dredger "Manhattan".

43. In order that the administration of the Bangkok harbour should be improved and modernised, especially in view of the future increase in traffic consequent upon the dredg ing of the bar of the river, a new Harbour Administration has been established by an Act of 4th May, 1951. This Administration has taken over the responsibilities of the Bangkok Harbour, Department of Transport, Ministry of Communications, which previously handled the administration of the port of Bangkok. The independent status of the new Harbour Administration will, it is felt, contribute to a more orderly and efficient port. Already arrangements are being made for adequate cargo and passenger reception facilities and one of the members of the Board of Directors, Phya Komarakul, Montri, has gone abroad to America and Europe to investigate port facilities and administration in other countries.

B. CURRENCY.

44. The appreciation in value of the Baht, particularly in relation to sterling, continued during 1951. The rate of exchange showed the following variations during the year:-

January	56.35
February	54.30
March	53.70
April	53.70
May	53.65
June	53.55
July	53.55
August	52.55
September	52.60
October	52.85
November	52.20
December	52.15

The appreciation of the Baht will clearly continue further. The latest rate quoted at the time of writing is 50.90, and this rate is likely to decrease even further.

45. There has not been any similar appreciation of the baht in its relation to the American dollar, the rate being fairly constant throughout the year.

C. BUDGET.

46. The 1951 Budget was passed by the Thai Parliament on 31st March, 1951. The estimates showed a marked increase over those of the previous year. Ordinary expenditure showed an increase of over Baht 260 million, extraordinary expenditure an increase of about Baht 288 million and investment

...../expenditure an

expenditure an increase of about Baht 476 million.

47. The largest single increases in the 1951 budget were devoted to defence activities, increases in remuneration for public servants and provision for development projects, the latter including local currency for counterpart funds for E.C.A. (now M.S.A.) projects and for making use of World Bank loans.

D. AMERICAN ECONOMIC AID.

48. For the year ending 30th June, 1951, the Mutual Security Agency (formerly the Economic Cooperation Administration) of the United States made available to Thailand equipment, expets and services for economic development totalling in value about U.S. $9,400,000. The most important projects for which this aid was made available were road construction, irrigation equipment, agricultural projects, the development of mineral resources, lighting and communications.

49. During the year ending on 30th June, 1952, aid amounting in value to between eight and ten million dollars will be made available, principally in the further development of the projects mentioned.

50. Though undoubtedly the aid provided by the M.S.A. has proved valuable to Thailand, the projects undertaken seem to have been of a too diverse character to show much result in any of them, with the exception, however, of the project to develop an agricultural research centre at Bangkhen, near Bangkok whi ch, with the cooperation of the Food and Agricultural Organisation, has now become an important and useful institution. Other projects have tended to be somewhat haphazard, and to have been directed towards satisfying relatively minor deficiencies. In other words it could be said that too many projects have been undertaken at the same time, and few of them have yet shown any tangible results.

51. The aid provided by M.S.A. has also given rise to some apathy on the part of the Thai authorities, with the result that many needed items of equipment are not obtained in the expectation that these will at some stage be made available by America.

52. Another general comment on the efficacy of the M.S.A. aid is that experts provided do not at times come up to the standard expected of them, and some dissatisfaction is from time to time expressed, both on the quality of the experts and on the inadequate adaptation of American methods to the needs and conditions of this country.

53. In spite of these deficiencies, however, the M.S.A. aid has performed a useful function and Thailand has received much equipment (such as the dredge "Manhattan") which it might otherwise either not have obtained or else obtained at the cost of a considerable drain on its dollar reserves. From the poli tical point of view, the continued granting of this aid has shown America's interest in this country and this undoubtedly operates as at least a partial deterrent to more Communist propaganda and activity.

27th February, 1952.

(Sgd.) A. H. Loomes

Charge d'Affaires.

DEPARTMENT OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS.

CABLEGRAM.

51

..HG

ACTION COPY

I.19034

Sent: 26th November, 1951.
1600

Rec'd: 7th November, 1951.
0830

FROM:

Australian Legation,
B A N G K O K.

125. UNCLASSIFIED.

From Loomes.

I shall be absent for one week, from November 8th on short holiday in South Siam. Hamilton will be in charge during my absence.

E.A.
P.M's

7th November, 1951.

A.S. (I...)
A.S. (G.R.)
A.S. (Admin.)
C.R. (L. & I.)
U.N.
Tec. Ass.
E. R.
Pac.
West
Central
P.I.
Econ. & Pro.
Info.
Admin.
Personnel
Records

Aust. Rep. in Thailand

See file 378/1/1 for copy of Mr. Casey's report to Cabinet on his visit to S.E.A. of July - August, 1951

DMc

402/1/5

DEPARTMENT OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS.

49

CABLEGRAM.

RR.PM.

O. 16895.

TO:

Dated: 21st October, 1951.
2045.

Australian Consul-General,
BANGKOK.

166. RESTRICTED. IMMEDIATE.

For Loomes from Watt.

Minister has telegraphed direct to Minister of Foreign Affairs nominating you as Charge D'Affaires ad interim.

2. Announcement of commencement of diplomatic relations between Thailand and Australia is being released for publication in morning Australian Press 22nd October.

- - - - - -

E.A.
P.M.'S.

22nd October, 1951.

402/1/5.

Dept.
Secretary
A.S. (U.N.)
A.S. (U.K.)
A.S. (Admin.)
C.R. (L. & I.)
U.N.
Tec. Ass.
E.R.
Pac.
West
Central
P.F.
Com. & Pub.
Ant.
Admin.
Finance
Comm.

DEPARTMENT OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS.

CABLEGRAM.

48

O. 16894.

RR/PM.

Dated: 21st October, 1951.
2045.

TO:

His Excellency Nai Warakan Bancha,
Minister of Foreign Affairs,
BANGKOK.

IN CLEAR. IMMEDIATE. EX.412.

I have the honour to nominate Mr. A.H.Loomes as Charge d'Affaires ad interim of Australian Legation as from commencement of diplomatic relations between our two countries.

I take this opportunity of expressing my great satisfaction at the opening of diplomatic relations between Thailand and Australia and send my personal regards to Prime Minister and yourself.

R.G.Casey.

Minister for External Affairs.

402/1/5

DEPARTMENT OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS.

CABLEGRAM.

RESTRICTED.

47

:EGM:

I. 18021

Dated: 17th October 1951
1730
Rec'd: 18th October 1951
0830

FROM:

Australian Consul General,
BANGKOK.

115. RESTRICTED. IMMEDIATE.

For Watt from Loomes.

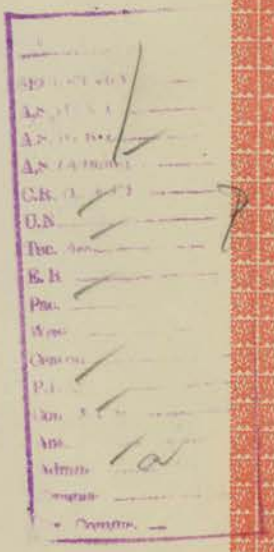
Reference your telegram 159. Thanks for your instructions regarding exchange of legations. I shall do my best to obtain the Siamese Government's agreement as soon as possible but as reference to Cabinet will be necessary and the Government is preoccupied with the budget debate in Parliament and also general debate on the June disorders immediate reply may be difficult to obtain.

2. Grateful for advice as to time of arrival of Minister with yourself and party at Bangkok on 25th October. As there appears to be no scheduled flight from Rangoon on that morning or from Bangkok to Singapore on that date you will presumably travel by special plane. We hope you and Critchley will have lunch with us and if possible stay longer in Bangkok.

MIN. & DEPT: E.A.
P.M.'s DEPT:

18th October 1951

WBP
Spec
file 402/1/5.



DEPARTMENT OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS.

CABLEGRAM.

RESTRICTED.

46

I. 16625

AP/MG

Dated 16th October, 1951
1410

TO:

Australian Consul General,
BANGKOK.

159. RESTRICTED. IMMEDIATE.

For Loomes from Watt.

Diplomatic Relations with Siam.

As the King's informal approval has now been given, you should approach the Siamese Government at once with a request that diplomatic relations with Australia be opened immediately. You should explain verbally that question of appointment of an Australian Minister would have to be considered in due course in the light of other commitments and availability of suitable personnel. We would wish, however, to nominate you as Charge d'Affaires at once.

2. For your background information, Mr. Casey leaves Sydney 21st October for United Nations Assembly, Paris. He will call at Rangoon en route and his present schedule provides for flight from Rangoon early morning 25th October to pick up at Bangkok BOAC plane for Calcutta. He will be accompanied to Paris by Tange and Loveday. Critchley and I will accompany him to Rangoon but will then return immediately to Singapore. We would therefore have opportunity to discuss plans for your own future movements in Bangkok on 25th October.

3. Minister hopes agreement of Siamese Government to establish diplomatic relations could be obtained this week so that announcement can be made before he leaves Australia. Incidentally, this would be advantageous to Siamese Government, as consideration will be given to further representation in South-East Asia and presumably Government would wish announcement regarding Siam to come first.

- - - - - - -

E.A.
P.M.'S.

16th October, 1951.

DISTRIBUTION
SECRETARY
A.S. (U.N.)
A.S. (U.K.)
A.S. (Admin.)
C.S. (L. & T.)
U.N.
Pac. Aff.
U.K.
Pers.
West
Central
P.I.
Econ. & Trade
Int.
Admin.
Treaties
Info. Officers

DEPARTMENT OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS.

CABLEGRAM.

45

MW - MC

O.15995.

Dated 4th October, 1951.
1630.

TO:

Australian Consul-General,
BANGKOK.

149. CONFIDENTIAL.

For Loomes from Watt.

Your can now advise Government of Thailand informally that Australian Government agrees to establishment of diplomatic relations between Thailand and Australia. Formal approach by you will be made as soon as formal step has been taken of securing the King's approval in principle. We would hope to receive this in near future.

E.A.

P.M.'S.

4th October, 1951.

DEPARTMENT OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS.

CABLEGRAM.

484

DB - MC

O.14628.

Dated 7th September, 1951.
1105.

TO:

Australian Consul-General,
BANGKOK.

140. CONFIDENTIAL.

For Loomes from Secretary.

Your telegram 103.

DIPLOMATIC RELATIONS.

Following is for your background information. Please use your discretion in passing on informally to foreign ministry relative portions. Minister will discuss with Prime Minister at earliest opportunity question of diplomatic relations with Siam, and also a number of overseas representational questions, particularly in South-East Asia. This may not be practicable for a period of up to three weeks. After Cabinet Meeting to consider Budget ending on date of our return to Australia, Cabinet dispersed and referendum campaign is in full swing.

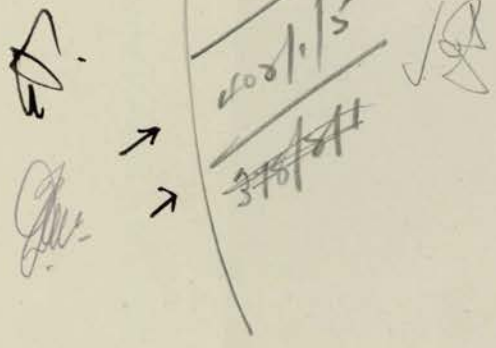
2. For your own information, we have question of Siam's relations well in mind and will deal with it at earliest possible opportunity.

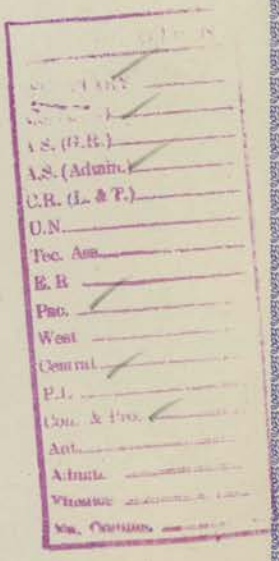
Min. & Dept. E.A.

P.M.'S.

7th September, 1951.

ACH
McCuttis





DEPARTMENT OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS.

CABLEGRAM.

48

JC - MC

I.15724.

Dated 5th September, 1951.
1100.
Recd. 6th September, 1951.
0830.

FROM:

Australian Consul-General,
BANGKOK.

103. CONFIDENTIAL.

For Secretary from Loomes.

1. The Foreign Minister has informally raised the question of our intention regarding the exchange of legations. I feel that we should follow up without delay favourable reaction shown during the Minister's visit and I should appreciate early instructions.

2. In the circumstances, I suggest a simple note proposing exchange without making reference to earlier negotiations. If you concur, I shall telegraph text of suggested draft note.

Min. & Dept. E.A.

P.M.'S.

6th September, 1951.

DIS
SECRETARY
A.S. (U.N.)
A.S. (G.R.)
A.S. (Admin.)
C.R. (L. & T.)
U.N.
Tec. Ass.
E. & ✓
Pac.
West
Central
P.I. ✓
Con. & Pro.
Ant.
Admin.
Economic
E. Common.

Mr. Cutts

I understand that reply was to the effect that we hope to send instructions in about 3 weeks (when decisions on a number of posts are to be taken) RLM. 7/9

402/1/5

DEPARTMENT OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS.

CABLEGRAM.

42

JC - MC

I.15724.

Dated 5th September, 1951.
1100.
Recd. 6th September, 1951.
0830.

FROM:

Australian Consul-General,
BANGKOK.

103. CONFIDENTIAL.

For Secretary from Loomes.

1. The Foreign Minister has informally raised the question of our intention regarding the exchange of legations. I feel that we should follow up without delay favourable reaction shown during the Minister's visit and I should appreciate early instructions.

2. In the circumstances, I suggest a simple note proposing exchange without making reference to earlier negotiations. If you concur, I shall telegraph text of suggested draft note.

Min. & Dept. E.A.

P.M.'S.

6th September, 1951.

file
Aust Rep.

A/S. 7/9/51

Mr Hastings,
What is the objection
regarding this? It seems that
reply can only be "yes"
or "no"

7/9
57

Two
See note on another copy.
RLH

402/1/5

DIS

41

FOR THE ACTING SECRETARY

Establishment of reciprocal Diplomatic Representation with Thailand.

1. The Australian-Thai peace treaty was concluded on 3rd April, 1946. Since then the two principal issues affecting relations between the two countries have been settlement by Thailand of war damage claims and proposals for establishment of reciprocal diplomatic representation.

2. On 5th April, 1946, Luang Pradit, then Thai Prime Minister, expressed to the Australian Military Representative in Bangkok the hope that this country would be prepared to appoint a Minister or at least a Charge d'Affaires, to Thailand. At that time sufficient staff was not available for existing overseas commitments and it was felt necessary to establish relations first with countries with which we had not been at war. The Australian Military Representative was therefore instructed to advise the Thai Government that we did not feel able at that stage to accede to their request.

3. On 26th August, 1946, the Thai Government signified its willingness to receive Mr. A.J. Eastman, formerly Australian Military Representative in Bangkok, in the capacity of acting Consul-General. The preceding negotiations had been conducted through the United Kingdom Minister to Thailand who had been informed by the Department that, staffing difficulties apart, "we do not wish to receive in Australia Siamese Consular or diplomatic representatives". Later, on 13th December, 1946 Mr. Eastman was informed, in reply to a further enquiry, that the Minister was not prepared to consider the question of Thai representation in Australia until Parliament had approved the Australian-Thai Peace Agreement.

4. On 23rd January, 1947, the Thai Under-secretary for Foreign Affairs asked Mr. Eastman informally whether it would not be possible to establish a Thai Consulate-General in Australia. Mr. Eastman replied that owing to the Parliamentary recess it would not be possible to give a decision before March. It was not until the 8th September, 1947, that Mr. Eastman was authorised to inform the Thai Government that Australia had no objection to their establishment of a Consulate-General in Australia. However, he was to point out that, because of shortage of accommodation in Canberra and other practical difficulties, the Consulate-General would have to be established either in Melbourne or in Sydney.

5. On 9th November, 1947, the Thai Government was overthrown by armed force and a Government, considered to be inspired by the former pro-Japanese dictator, Pibul Sonngram, took its place. On 26th February, 1948, the Australian Consul-General received a note from the Thai Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Phya Srivasan Vacha, who had held similar office under the previous Government. The note stressed that it was the intention of His Majesty's Government to "continue to observe with care all its treaty and other obligations" and to maintain friendly relations with all countries represented in Thailand. All other countries represented in Thailand gave recognition to the Government by formally acknowledging this note. Several submissions were made that Australia should do likewise, but the Secretary directed that the Australian Consul-General should give no formal acknowledgement of the note on the grounds that the new government had come to power by force and had made no mention of its acceptance of the principles of United Nations membership.

40

6. On the 8th April, 1948, the new Government resigned and Pibul Sonngram assumed directly and by constitutional means the powers which he had wielded indirectly since the 1947 coup d'etat. Despite a further submission that Australia could gain nothing by withholding de jure recognition, the Secretary despatched the following telegram to the Consul-General: "We did not formally recognise the Khuang Government. We also propose to with-hold formal recognition from Pibul". On 10th May, this attitude was modified to permit the Australian representative to deal with the Thai Government on a de facto basis in matters concerning Australian interests.

7. Eventually, on 19th July, 1948, the Consul-General delivered to the Thai Foreign Minister a Note which constituted formal Australian recognition of the new regime. The Minister took the opportunity to again raise the question of an exchange of legations. This was followed up by Pibul when Mr. Eastman called to see him on 27th July. In the absence of instructions on this matter Mr. Eastman was obliged to give evasive answers.

8. In June, 1949, Mr. Eastman was informed by the Foreign Minister that the Thai Government intended appointing a Consul-General to Australia. They had not relinguished hope of an exchange of legations but felt that the initiative for this should come from the Australian side in view of the lack of response to their previous approaches. In August, however, Mr. Eastman was approached by the Under Secretary for Foreign Affairs, who explained that the Thai Government would prefer to send a Minister to Australia instead of a Consul-General. Their selected representative, Luang Phinit, had been Thai counsellor in London and had been recalled for the Australian appointment. In view of the delay he had been acting as Minister in India.

9. On 14th September, 1949, the Australian High Commissioner in London was handed a note from the Thai Embassy proposing the exchange of identical notes establishing representation at Ministerial rank between the two countries. It was pointed out that it was not the desire of His Thai Majesty's Government to insist on immediate reciprocity as provided in exchange of Notes. It was realised that other Governments such as those of Belgium and Sweden had Legations in Australia without our being represented in those countries.

10. On 2nd November, 1949, we replied that such an exchange of diplomatic representatives "should properly await the satisfactory completion of negotiations already proceeding in Bangkok between the representatives of Thailand and Australia in respect of the settlement of outstanding claims for war loss and damage". The Thai Government was also informed that Australia "will entertain no objection to the appointment of a Thai Consular representative in Australia" and looks forward to the earliest possible establishment of normal diplomatic relations.

11. The Thai Government understandably took this reply as an affront and immediately announced the abandonment of its intention to establish a Consulate-General in Australia. It has since shown no inclination to re-open the subject. An appropriation for establishment of an Australian Legation was deleted from the 1950 budget and in the 1951 budget no allowance has been made for such a contingency.

12. Our attitude rankled particularly with the Thais in view of the fact that the U.S. and U.K. Governments have assiduously courted them since 1945. Our rebuff to their friendly overtures, and our delay in recognising the present regime, have inevitably been contrasted with the flow of aid which the country is receiving from the U.S. and the generous attitude of the U.K. Government in relation to sterling balances and provision of arms and equipment.

The reference, in our reply to their formal request for exchange of diplomatic representatives, to the negotiations for settlement of war claims was unfortunate as both of the other countries engaged in such negotiations (U.K. and India) had previously established diplomatic missions in Thailand. At this stage it was apparent that the claims negotiations were proceeding satisfactorily and that the Thai Government was probably as secure as any in South-east Asia.

13. Our establishment in March, 1950, of an Embassy in Djakarta and a Legation in Manila did not pass unnoticed by the Thais who regard their country as at least the equal of either of these newly created republics.

14. We have since attempted to reopen the question. In New York on 30th October, 1950, Sir Keith Officer informed the Thai Foreign Minister that Australia could now reply favourably to the Thai proposal of September 1949 for establishment of diplomatic missions of Legation level. The Australian Consul-General in Bangkok was informed that it would be preferable for the proposal to take the form of a revival by the Thai Government of its previous request and of a subsequent reply by us.

15. The Australian Consul-General discussed this matter with the Under-Secretary for Foreign Affairs, Prince Wongsonwat Devakula, on 8th January, 1951. Prince Wongso stressed the unfavourable effects of Australia's previous rebuff on Australia-Thai relations and pointed to the difficulty of obtaining Cabinet approval. At a subsequent interview in February, Prince Wongso appeared to have thawed a little and informed the Consul-General that the matter was receiving consideration by the Foreign Minister and the Prime Minister and that he was hopeful of a satisfactory outcome. At the latter interview, the Consul-General informed Prince Wongso, as instructed, that we were endeavouring to find a suitable person to nominate as Minister. In reporting this interview the Consul-General suggested that, if the Thais should prove unwilling to take any initiative, it might be desirable to make a formal approach which would refer to the earlier Thai approach and indicate that, subject to concurrence of Thailand, the Australian Government now agrees to the exchange of missions on a Legation level. We undertook to instruct the Consul-General on this question immediately after the elections of April 1951.

16. However, no action was taken to reply to the Consul-General's suggestion until the Minister and Secretary visited Bangkok in August 1951. During the intervening six months, the Thai government made no further move, apparently considering (with some justice) that the initiative rested with us. During his stay in Bangkok the Minister had discussions with the Thai authorities on this and other issues affecting relations between the two countries. Details of these discussions are not yet known in the Department.

17. For the following reasons we should establish diplomatic relations with Thailand at the earliest opportunity:-

(a) It is an essential prerequisite for reasonably friendly relations with Thailand.

(b) Thailand occupies an important position in relation to strategic planning in South-east Asia, as evidenced by U.S. interest in developments in that country.

(c) There is no longer any valid pretext to withhold our agreement to an exchange of diplomatic missions, war damage claims having now been settled.

(d) Thai resentment of our attitude has made difficulties for Australian representatives and nationals in Thailand. The Australian Consul-General has frequently referred to "pin pricking" in his dealings with the Thai authorities. An instance was the refusal of customs privileges to Mr. R.N. Hamilton, who recently arrived in Bangkok to take up duty as Vice-Consul.

(e) Apart from the Portuguese Consul, the Australian Consul-General is the only career consular representative in Bangkok, and suffers from want of diplomatic status in performing his functions as Australian representative.

(f) The establishment of a Legation in Bangkok need not involve any immediate expense. Thailand was previously willing to accept a Charge d'Affaires and would probably be agreeable to the appointment of the present Consul-General in that capacity. However, it would be more complimentary to promise the speedy installing of a Minister.

18. The final question is whether we should take the initiative as the Australian Consul-General in Bangkok has suggested. In view of our previous attitude, the Thais will not wish to make any move themselves and six months have now passed since they last made any reference to the matter. This question, of course, must be considered in light of the Minister's discussions in Bangkok.

TWC/MS
Pacific Section.
20th August, 1951.

EXTERNAL AFFAIRS.

Mr Curtis :

When you have a draft on this or any other question with Admin angles assume you will clear with Hartley or give to me to clear with Kevin

R.L.H.

9/7

Yes — please

451/11/1

EXTERNAL AFFAIRS.

36

PERSONAL

MR. WATT:

I mentioned to Mr. Menzies that I might well recommend that we open a Legation at Bangkok in due course - and that I'd investigate the need for this on trip. He made no particular comment on this.

(R. G. CASEY)

CANBERRA. A.C.T.
29th June, 1951.

EXTERNAL AFFAIRS.

35

Mr. McIntyre.

Mr. Harvey

Can we not reply to Loomis? I strongly suggest that, even if we are still undecided on the principal question, we thank Mr. Loomis by way of interim reply an indication of the lines on which we are proceeding x

Story Silence can be more disheartening x

2/7/51

EXTERNAL AFFAIRS.

A1836/1

134

Mr. Hasluck

Is there any chance of obtaining a decision on these one or the new Fortune?

In any case, I think Loomes should have a reply even if it only consists of an admission from me that I am unable to decide.

Mr. Hasluck

I shall try to mention it to Secretary while he is in Melbourne. Otherwise remind me to take it up on Wednesday. 4/6

URGENT.

Mr McIntyre 4/6/57

MR CUTTS

Is There any chance of The Secretary getting a decision on this today?

RLH. 4/6

CONFIDENTIAL

File No. 40/6/1.

Memo. No. 224/51.

AUSTRALIAN CONSULATE-GENERAL
BANGKOK, THAILAND.

16th May, 1951.

DEPARTMENT OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS
1 MAY 1951

CONFIDENTIAL.

MEMORANDUM FOR:

The Secretary,
Department of External Affairs,
CANBERRA. A.C.T.

EXCHANGE OF DIPLOMATIC REPRESENTATIVES.

I refer to my memorandum No. 52/51 of 6th February, 1951, and to your cable No. 62 of 28th March.

2. In accordance with your instructions I have not taken any further steps in this matter, and would now appreciate your directions on the questions raised in my memorandum.

3. There seems to be now a reasonable probability that the Thai Government would accede to our proposal, but, in all the circumstances, I feel that we should take the initiative as I suggested in paragraph 4 of my memorandum. All of my negotiations have so far been carried on by informal discussions, and, if I have your authority to do so, I shall continue in this way until it seems likely that a formal proposal would be accepted, and would then put such a proposal forward by Note to the Foreign Minister.

CONSUL-GENERAL.

Mr. Harry RLH

A submission on this matter was recently made to the Secretary. Consult yet till Loomes anything further.

Copy to Mr McIntyre.

FOR THE SECRETARY:

1. **Establishment of reciprocal Diplomatic Representation with Thailand.**

The conclusion of the Australian-Thai Peace Treaty of 3rd April, 1946, left outstanding two problems in regard to relations between the two countries:- settlement of Australian war damage claims and the question of reciprocal diplomatic representation.

2. On 5th April, 1946, Luang Pradit, then Thai Prime Minister, expressed to the Australian Military Representative in Bangkok the hope that this country would be prepared to appoint a Minister or at least a Charge d'Affaires, to Thailand. At this stage we felt unable to respond favourably to their overture for two reasons:- sufficient staff was not available for existing overseas commitments and it was felt necessary to establish relations first with countries with which we had not been at war. The Australian Military Representative was instructed to advise the Thai Government accordingly.

3. After further negotiations the Siamese Government, on 26th August, 1946, signified its willingness to receive Mr. A.J. Eastman, formerly Australian Military Representative in Bangkok, in the capacity of acting Consul-General. During the negotiations, which were conducted through the British Legation in Bangkok, the Legation was informed that, staffing difficulties apart, "we do not wish to receive in Australia Siamese Consular or diplomatic representatives". Later, on 13th December, 1946 Mr. Eastman was informed, in reply to a further enquiry, that the Minister was not prepared to consider the question of Thai representation in Australia until Parliament had approved the Australian-Thai Peace Agreement.

4. On 23rd January, 1947, the Thai Under-Secretary for Foreign Affairs asked Mr. Eastman informally whether it would not be possible to establish a Thai Consulate-General in Australia. Mr. Eastman replied that owing to the Parliamentary recess it would not be possible to give a decision before March. It was not until 8th September, 1947, that Mr. Eastman was authorised to inform the Thai Government that Australia had no objection to their establishment of a Consulate-General in Australia. However, he was to point out that, because of shortage of accommodation in Canberra and other practical difficulties, the Consulate-General would have to be established either in Melbourne or in Sydney.

5. On 9th November, 1947, the Thai Government was overthrown by armed force and a Government, considered to be inspired by the former pro-Japanese dictator, Pibul Sonngram, took its place. On 26th February, 1948, the Australian Consul-General received a note from the Thai Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Phya Srivasan Vacha, who had held similar office under the previous Government. The note stressed that it was the intention of His Majesty's Government to "continue to observe with care all its treaty and other obligations" and to maintain friendly relations with all countries represented in Thailand. All other countries represented in Thailand gave recognition to the Government by formally acknowledging this note. Several submissions were made that Australia should do likewise, and the Secretary directed that the Australian Consul-General should give no formal

/ 2.....

acknowledgement of the note on the grounds that the new government had come to power by force and had made no mention of its acceptance of the principles of United Nations membership.

6. On the 8th April, 1948, the new Government resigned and Pibul Sonngram assumed directly and by constitutional means the powers which he had wielded indirectly since the 1947 coup d'etat. Despite a further submission that Australia could gain nothing by withholding de jure recognition, the Secretary despatched the following telegram to the Consul-General: "We did not formally recognise the Khuang Government. We also propose to with-hold formal recognition from Pibul." On 10th May, this attitude was modified to permit the Australian representative to deal with the Thai Government on a de facto basis in matters concerning Australian interests.

7. Courier mail, Brisbane, Qld, 19th July 1948, Mr Casey's General delivery to the Thai Government, Minister d'Wali informed consultation formal Aust. recognition of the new regime.

8. ~~Normal relations between Australia and Thailand were restored only after an exchange of letters between the Minister for External Affairs and the Siamese Foreign Minister, copies of which are not on our files. When recognition of the new regime was formally tendered to the Thai Foreign Minister by the Australian Consul General, on 19th July, 1948,~~ the Minister took the opportunity to again raise the question of an exchange of legations. This was followed up by Pibul when Mr. Eastman called to see him on 27th July. In the absence of instructions Mr. Eastman was obliged to give evasive answers. (on this matter)

8. In June, 1949, Mr. Eastman was informed by the Foreign Minister that the Thai Government intended appointing a Consul-General to Australia. They had not relinquished hope of an exchange of legations but felt that the initiative for this should come from the Australian side in view of the lack of response to their previous approaches. In August, however, Mr. Eastman was approached by the Under Secretary for Foreign Affairs, who explained that the Thai Government would prefer to send a Minister to Australia instead of a Consul-General. Their selected representative, Luang Phinit, had been Thai counsellor in London and had been recalled for the Australian appointment. In view of the delay he had been acting as Minister in India.

9. On 14th September, 1949, the Australian High Commissioner in London was handed a note from the Thai Embassy proposing the exchange of identical notes establishing representation of a Ministerial rank between the two countries. It was pointed out that it was not the desire of His Thai Majesty's Government to insist on immediate reciprocity as provided in exchange of Notes. It was realised that other Governments such as those of Belguim and Sweden had Legations in Australia without our being represented in those countries.

10. On 2nd November, 1949, we replied that such an exchange of diplomatic representatives should properly await the satisfactory completion of negotiations already proceeding in Bangkok between the representatives of Thailand and Australia in respect of the settlement of outstanding claims for war loss and damage". The Thai Government was also informed that Australia "will entertain no objection to the appointment of a Thai Consular representative in Australia" and looks forward to the earliest possible establishment of normal diplomatic relations.

11. The Thai Government understandably took this reply as an affront and immediately announced the abandonment of its intention to establish a Consulate-General in Australia. It has since shown no inclination to re-open the subject. An appropriation for establishment of an Australian Legation was deleted from the 1950 budget and in the 1951 budget no allowance has been made for

/ 3.....

such a contingency.

12. Our attitude rankled particularly with the Thais in view of the fact that the U.S. and U.K. Governments have assiduously courted them since 1945. Our rebuff to their friendly overtures, and our delay in recognising the present regime, have inevitably been contrasted with the flow of aid which the country is receiving from the U.S. and the generous attitude of the U.K. Government in relation to sterling balances and provision of arms and equipment. The reference, in our reply to their formal request for exchange of diplomatic representatives, to the negotiations for settlement of war claims was unfortunate as both of the other countries engaged in such negotiations (U.K. and India) had previously established diplomatic missions in Thailand. At this stage it was apparent that the claims negotiations were proceeding satisfactorily and that the Thai Government was probably as secure as any in South-east Asia.

13. Our establishment in March, 1950, of an Embassy in Djakarta and a Legation in Manila did not pass unnoticed ~~in Thailand whose people~~ regard their country as at least the equal of either of these newly created republics.

14. We have since attempted to reopen the question. In New York on 30th October, 1950, Sir Keith Officer informed the Thai Foreign Minister that Australia could now reply favourably to the Thai proposal of September 1949 for establishment of diplomatic missions of Legation level. The Australian Consul-General in Bangkok was informed that it would be preferable for the proposal to take the form of a revival by the Thai Government of its previous request and of a subsequent reply by us.

15. The Australian Consul-General discussed this matter with the Under-Secretary for Foreign Affairs, Prince Wongsonwat Devakula, on 8th January, 1951. Prince Wongso stressed the unfavourable effects of Australia's previous rebuff on Australia-Thai relations and pointed to the difficulty of obtaining Cabinet approval. At a subsequent interview in February, Prince Wongso appeared to have thawed a little and informed the Consul-General that the matter was receiving consideration by the Foreign Minister and the Prime Minister and that he was hopeful of a satisfactory outcome. ~~It was~~ At the latter interview, ~~that~~ the Consul-General informed Prince Wongso, as instructed, that we were endeavouring to find a suitable person to nominate as Minister. In reporting this interview the Consul-General suggested that, if the Thais should prove unwilling to take any initiative, it might be desirable to make a formal approach which would refer to the earlier Thai approach and indicate that, subject to concurrence of Thailand, the Australian Government now agrees to the exchange of missions on a Legation level. ~~A copy of the Consul-General's memorandum is attached.~~ We ~~have~~ undertaken to instruct him immediately after the elections of April 1951.

16 → 17. For the following reasons we should establish diplomatic relations with Thailand at the earliest opportunity:-

(a) It is an essential prerequisite for reasonably friendly relations with Thailand.

(b) Thailand occupies an important position in relation to strategic planning in South-east Asia, as evidenced by U.S. interest in developments in that country.

(c) There is no longer any valid pretext to withhold our agreement to an exchange of diplomatic missions, war damage claims having now been settled.

(d) Thai resentment of our attitude has made difficulties for Australian representatives and nationals in Thailand. The Australian Consul-General has frequently referred to "pin pricking" in his dealings with the Thai authorities. Mr. R.N. Hamilton, who recently arrived in Bangkok to take up duty as Vice-Consul, ~~was not accorded any immunities in relation to Customs as has been customary.~~

(e) A.C.I. Ltd. recently sought to purchase land in Bangkok for the establishment of a glass factory but has been refused permission by the Thai authorities. The reason given is that foreign nationals and enterprises are prohibited from purchasing land in Thailand except under specific treaty provision. To enable Australian nationals or

enterprises to purchase land in Thailand, it may be necessary to negotiate with the Thais a Treaty of Establishment, Commerce and Navigation as contemplated in the Peace Treaty. The Thais would no doubt consider establishment of diplomatic representation a prerequisite to such negotiations.

(e) Apart from the Portuguese Consul, the Australian Consul-General is the only career consular representative in Bangkok, and suffers from want of diplomatic status in ~~carrying out his duties~~ performing his functions as Australian representative.

(g) The establishment of a Legation in Bangkok need not involve any immediate expense. Thailand was previously willing to accept a Charge d'Affaires and would probably be agreeable to the appointment of the present Consul-General in that capacity. However, it would be more complimentary to promise the speedy installing of a Minister.

17. The final question is whether we should take the initiative as the Australian Consul-General in Bangkok has suggested. In view of our previous attitude, the Thais ~~may indeed prove coy~~, and ~~three~~ months have now passed since they last made any reference to the matter. ~~If we wish to settle the affair satisfactorily, the best course would be to press ahead and approach them again. The risk of a definite rebuff appears to be slight enough to be accepted.~~

~~18.~~ ~~Attached is a draft telegram to the Australian Consul-General, Bangkok.~~

TWC/CG
Pacific Section
7th May, 1951.

NOTE FOR FILE 402/1/5

1. Hay takes up appointment as Minister on 15th March 1955 (~~Cable from Rangoon~~)

2. In meanwhile he is to tour Indo-China - visiting Saigon + Phnom Penh + Vientiane if possible. He will also visit Rangoon + Singapore.

28/2/55

DEPARTMENT OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS.

CABLEGRAM.

RESTRICTED.

PHP:FGM:

O. 4875

Sent: 28th March 1951
1335

ENCYPHERED TO:

Australian Consul General,
BANGKOK.

62. RESTRICTED.

Reference your memorandum 52/51 regarding exchange of diplomatic representatives. You will appreciate that no further action is practicable at the moment. We hope to give you further instructions immediately after forthcoming elections.

E.A.
P.M.'s DEPT:

28th March 1951

EXTERNAL AFFAIRS.

[redacted]

26

Mr. Harvey,

We might ascertain from the Secretary, on his return from N.Z., the present position regarding this matter x Mr Atkin knows really should have further instructions as soon as possible x

19/3/51

FOR THE SECRETARY:

AUSTRALIAN REPRESENTATION IN THAILAND.

The attached memorandum has been received from Mr. Loomes on this subject. Thai reaction to Mr. Loomes' latest informal approach appears to have been somewhat more favourable and the Under Secretary of Foreign Affairs seems to be hopeful that there will be a satisfactory settlement of the matter.

2. If you agree, I would suggest that Mr. Loomes be authorised to follow the procedure he has suggested in paragraph 4. He would of course take no action pending informal agreement in principle and would only follow the course he proposed in the event of its appearing that budgetary difficulties might preclude the immediate establishment of a Thai Legation in Australia. The risk of any rebuff would seem to me to be reduced to an absolute minimum. On the whole it seems that the advantages of creating a Legation in Thailand outweigh any possible disadvantages which might follow an Australian initiative, such disadvantages apparently being confined to prestige considerations. The creation of a Legation in Thailand should of course be some help in recovering lost ground in Thai-Australian relationships reducing also the contrast between the level of Australian representation in Djakarta and Manila on the one hand and Bangkok on the other.

TAP/CG
15th February, 1951.
Pacific Division
File No. 451/1/1

Mr. Cross.

Diplomatic Relations with Thailand.

1. Please see the submission for the Acting-Secretary, dated 10th January, on the attached file.

2. We originally refused to ~~receive a diplomatic~~ exchange diplomatic representatives with Thailand because of the delay in reaching agreement on the Siri claims. The Thais took this hard and have since evinced an unfriendly attitude towards Australia. When a decision was finally taken to seek an exchange of diplomatic representatives, it was thought best to leave the Thais to take the initiative in order to avoid the risk of a rebuff.

3. Loomes reports that, because of budgetary difficulties, the Thais might be reluctant to take the initiative. We must therefore weigh the advantages of early Australian diplomatic representation in Thailand against the loss of face which we will suffer should we take the initiative ourselves (I take it that, informal agreement having been reached, there would be no risk of the Thais rebuffing a formal approach). I feel that some loss of face is small price to pay to bring our representation in Thailand up to a level equal to Indonesia and the Philippines and to recover lost ground in Thai-Australian relations; I suggest that Loomes' recommendation be adopted.

W.J.

EXTERNAL AFFAIRS.

Publication of Loomis
Memo of 6/12. handled to
Mr. Hyde + Enquiries
with Sec. attached to
Submission +

HC

22

DEPARTMENT OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS.

CABLEGRAM.

ACTION COPY

1. 1862

BL:GM

Dated: 30th January, 1951
1530

DECODED FROM:

Rec'd: 31st January, 1951
0830

DISTRIBUTION
Secretary
Deputy Sec.
E.A.M.E.
U.N.
P.A.C.
E.R.
P.I.
L.C.
ANT.
ADM.
A/Cs
EX-COM.

Australian Consul-General,
BANGKOK.

18. UNCLASSIFIED.

Your telegram 7.

Locmes returned to Bangkok on January 29th.

.....

External Affairs
Prime Minister's Department

31st January, 1951.

Circulated to Treasury
BW. 1/2/51

451/1/1

DEPARTMENT OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS.

AMENDED COPY:

CABLEGRAM.

21

JG:KO

G.1512.

Sent January 27 1951.
2250.

ENCODE TO:

Australian Consul General,
BANGKOK.

25. CONFIDENTIAL. IMMEDIATE.

Reference your 511 from London. While you should not give any assurance that we are in a position to nominate a Minister immediately, you can indicate (what is the fact) that we are now endeavouring to find a suitable person to nominate.

2. Proposal to exchange Legations should be kept on basis that we are now prepared to respond favourably to previous Thai request or to a new one.

Minister and Department E.A.
Commonwealth.

January 30.-1951.

T.P.

This is the cablegram in Jones' memo I passed to you late yesterday
W.B.

DEPARTMENT OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS.

CABLEGRAM.

MD/LB. I. 1669.

Dated: 26th January, 1951.
1755.
DECYPHER FROM: Rec'd: 27th January, 1951.
0830.

Australian High Commissioner's Office,
LONDON.

511. CONFIDENTIAL.

For the Secretary from Loomes.

Your 545.

I have completed work in London on which I shall report fully from Bangkok. I am returning to Bangkok tomorrow and will discuss question of future diplomatic relations with the Thai Government early next week. It would I think, assist if I were able to indicate that the early appointment of a Minister is contemplated. I shall therefore in informal discussions with the Minister of Foreign Affairs mention this fact.

Minister and Department of External Affairs.

Prime Minister's Department.

27th January, 1951.

EXTERNAL AFFAIRS.

FOR THE ACTING SECRETARY

Exchange of Diplomatic Representatives with Thailand

1. In view of the unfavourable reaction of the Thai Under-Secretary of State for Foreign Affairs, Prince Wongsa, to our recent informal approach on this matter (telegram No. 7 of 8th January, 1951) (attached) there appears to be little we can do towards concluding an exchange until further information regarding the reactions of the Minister for External Affairs and the Cabinet becomes available. Any further action on our part at this time would give the Thais an opportunity of rebuffing us. I cannot see that we would suffer any serious political disadvantages from a further delay.

2. The "rebuff" of 2nd November, 1949:

(a) Since the signature of the Australian-Thai Final Peace Agreement on 3rd April, 1946 we have received a number of approaches from the Thai Government for the exchange of diplomatic representatives between the two countries.

(b) Although we established a Consulate-General in Thailand in September 1946 it was not until September 1947 that we agreed to receive a Thai Consul-General in Australia and we did not offer the Thai Government any explanation of our delay in agreeing to such reciprocity. Until about the middle of 1949 the Thais took no steps to appoint a Consul-General to Australia, partly because of the disruption caused by two coups d'etat, partly because we refused for more than six months to recognise the new Government, and partly because the Thais were continuing to make informal approaches with a view to the exchange of legations.

(c) During that time the Australian Consul-General was instructed to indicate to the Thais that we were not in a position to agree to the exchange of legations at that stage owing to financial and staffing difficulties. It was indicated that the exchange of legations with Thailand would have to wait until we were in a position to make similar exchanges with other South East Asian countries (e.g. the Philippines), otherwise we would give offence to the latter.

(d) In June 1949 the Thai Government indicated that it proposed to appoint the Counsellor of the Thai Embassy in London as Consul-General in Australia and that he would arrive here later in the year. In September 1949, however, the Thai Ambassador in London presented a formal memorandum to our High Commissioner proposing that the exchange of representatives between Australia and Thailand should be raised to the diplomatic level. The

/2.....

Note mentioned that the Thai Government did not wish to insist on the immediate appointment of an Australian Minister to Thailand, but that the Australian Government might appoint such a Minister at any time they were in a position to do so.

(e) In our reply (telegram No. 73 of 18th November, 1949 attached) we reiterated our willingness to accept a Thai consular representative but regretted our inability to agree to an exchange of diplomatic representatives until current negotiations for the settlement of Australian war damage claims had been satisfactorily concluded. This reply gave great offence to the Thai Government which immediately announced publicly that it had abandoned its intention of sending a representative to Australia and proceeded to recall a number of other incidents as evidence of Australia's consistently unfriendly attitude to Thailand.

(f) In explanation it should be mentioned that the United Kingdom and India, whose war damage claims were in the same position as our own, had already exchanged diplomatic representatives with Thailand.

3. Relations since November, 1949

In March, 1950, we announced the exchange of Embassies with the Netherlands and Indonesia and the exchange of legations with the Philippines. At the same time our Consul-General in Bangkok was instructed to intimate to the Thai Government that Australian relations with Thailand had not been overlooked, that the whole of our diplomatic relations throughout the area were now under consideration and that our interest in Thailand would then receive attention. The Australian attitude on this matter has given rise to much adverse comment in Government and other circles in Thailand and our relations have quite definitely been affected, in spite of our gestures of friendship in other directions. The disappointment of the Thais has been manifest in a variety of small annoying ways, such as difficulty in obtaining appointments with Foreign Office officials and in obtaining speedy replies to correspondence. In August, 1950 the Foreign Office refused to permit the entry of the effects of Mr. Hamilton (Third Secretary) free of duty and inspection, even though this has always been permitted in the past, and he was forced to pay duty. The Chief of Protocol went to some pains to explain to the Consul-General that a consular representative is entitled to no privileges of any kind in Thailand, but that, naturally, diplomatic representatives are entitled to many privileges. As Australia maintains the only career consular mission in Bangkok (apart from Portugal, which recently opened a consulate), this strict enforcement of the law, which has previously been relaxed in a reasonable way, and the denial of facilities normally granted in other countries, can be regarded as directed solely against Australia as some sort of retaliation for our attitude.

4. Therefore, because of our previous statements regarding an exchange of diplomatic representatives, the inconvenience caused to our Consular representatives, and the increasing importance internationally of maintaining good relations between Australia and the Thailand, it was decided in September, 1950 that a further informal approach should be made to the Thais in anticipation of the conclusion of the agreement on the settlement of war claims. This agreement was finally signed on 3rd January, 1951.

5. In order that the Thai Government should not be given the opportunity of rebuffing us on this matter, it was decided that it would be preferable for us if the exchange were to take the form of a revival by the Thai Government of its previous proposal of September, 1949 and of a subsequent favourable reply by us.

6. The Consul-General, Bangkok, was therefore instructed on 20th December to ascertain informally the reactions of the Thai Government to reopening the question of an exchange. The initial reaction was not favourable. (Telegram No.7 of 8th January, 1951 attached).

Pacific Division (File 451/1/1)
BW:PF
10th January, 1951

COPY

CABLEGRAM

O.14474

Sent: 18th November 1949
1626

ENCYPHERED TO:

Australian Consul General
BANGKOK.

73. CONFIDENTIAL

Your B96. Following is text of reply given to Thai Ambassador on 2nd November.

"His Majesty's Australian Government is in receipt of the memorandum presented by the Thai Ambassador in London to the Acting High Commissioner for Australia in London on 14th September 1949, and notes the proposal of His Thai Majesty's Government that there should be an exchange of notes between the High Commissioner for the Commonwealth of Australia and the Thai Ambassador in London, providing for the establishment of diplomatic relations and for the exchange of representatives with the rank of Minister.

His Majesty's Australian Government regrets its inability to accept the proposal of the Thai Government since, in the view of the Australian Government, such an exchange of diplomatic representatives should properly await the satisfactory completion of negotiations already proceeding in Bangkok between the representatives of Thailand and Australia in respect of the settlement of outstanding claims for war loss and damage.

His Majesty's Australian Government, taking this opportunity to renew its previous assurances that it will entertain no objection to the appointment of a Thai consular representative in Australia, looks forward with pleasure to the earliest possible establishment of normal diplomatic relations with the Government of Thailand".

Regret delay. Full details follow by bag.

MIN. & DEPT. E.A. (451/4/1)

22nd November 1949

15

DEPARTMENT OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS.

CABLEGRAM.

RESTRICTED.

ACTION COPY

JERC/MI

I. 384

Dated 8th January, 1951
1740
Rec'd 9th January, 1951
0830

DECYODED FROM:

Australian Consul General,
BANGKOK.

7. RESTRICTED.

Your memorandum 245 December 20th.

Exchange of Diplomatic representatives.

I discussed the question with the under-secretary of State for Foreign Affairs, Prince Wongsa, today and first reaction not favourable. He placed much stress on the "rebuff" suffered by the Thailand Government by earlier refusal to exchange Legations and he felt there would be much opposition in the Cabinet to the proposal. I pointed out the Australian policy of close co-operation with this country and our desire for close and friendly relationships which would be strengthened by an exchange of Diplomatic Missions. Prince Wongsa promised to discuss the question with the Minister for Foreign Affairs, who had not mentioned the approach by Sir Keith Officer, and inform me further on the subject.

- - - - - - -

MIN. & DEPT. E.A. (451/1/1)
P.M.'S.

9th January, 1951

DISTRIBUTION
Secy. 1
D.S.A. 1
U.N. 1
P.A.C. 10
E.R. 1
P.I. 1
L.C. 1
ANT.
ADM.
A/C.
EX-CON.

14

DEPARTMENT OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS.

CABLEGRAM. **SECRET.**

GG:EGM

O. 14474

Sent: 18th November 1949
1626

ENCYPHERED TO:

Australian Consul General,
BANGKOK.

73. CONFIDENTIAL.

Your B96. Following is text of reply given to Thai Ambassador on 2nd November.

"His Majesty's Australian Government is in receipt of the memorandum presented by the Thai Ambassador in London to the Acting High Commissioner for Australia in London on 14th September 1949, and notes the proposal of His Thai Majesty's Government that there should be an exchange of notes between the High Commissioner for the Commonwealth of Australia and the Thai Ambassador in London, providing for the establishment of diplomatic relations and for the exchange of repre-entatives with the rank of Minister.

His Majesty's Australian Government regrets its inability to accept the proposal of the Thai Government since, in the view of the Australian Government, such an exchange of diplomatic representatives should properly await the satisfactory completion of negotiations already proceeding in Bangkok between the representatives of Thailand and Australia in respect of the settlement of outstanding claims for war loss and damage.

His Majesty's Australian Government, taking this opportun to renew its previous assurances that it will entertain no objection to the appointment of a Thai consular representative in Australia, looks forward with pleasure to the earliest possible establishment of normal diplomatic relations with the Government of Thailand".

Regret delay. Full details follow by bag.

MIN. & DEPT: E.A. (451/4/1)

22nd November 1949

DEPARTMENT OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS. RESTRICTED.

CABLEGRAM.

13

JERC/MG

I. 384

Dated 8th January, 1951
1740
Rec'd 9th January, 1951
0830

DECYODED FROM:

Australian Consul General,
BANGKOK.

7. RESTRICTED.

Your memorandum 245 December 20th.

Exchange of Diplomatic representatives.

I discussed the question with the under-secretary of State for Foreign Affairs, Prince Wongsa, today and first reaction not favourable. He placed much stress on the "rebuff" suffered by the Thailand Government by earlier refusal to exchange Legations and he felt there would be much opposition in the Cabinet to the proposal. I pointed out the Australian policy of close co-operation with this country and our desire for close and friendly relationships which would be strengthened by an exchange of Diplomatic Missions. Prince Wongsa promised to discuss the question with the Minister for Foreign Affairs, who had not mentioned the approach by Sir Keith Officer, and inform me further on the subject.

- - - - - -

MIN. & DEPT. E.A. (451/1/1)
P.M.'S.

9th January, 1951

No discuss

DISTRIBUTION

Secretary 1
Deputy Sec. 1
E.A.M.F. 1
U.N. 10
P.A.C.
E.R.
P.I. 1
L.C.
A.N.
A.U.S.
A.J.
S.E.A.T.O.

COMMONWEALTH OF AUSTRALIA.

12

File No. 451/1/1.
Memo. No.

DEPARTMENT OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS.
CANBERRA. A.C.T.

8th December, 1950.

MEMORANDUM for:

The Australian Consul-General,
BANGKOK.

Exchange of Diplomatic Representatives with Thailand.

With reference to your memorandum No. 303 of 5th September, 1950, I wish to advise that, at the Minister's request, Sir Keith Officer saw the Thai Minister of Foreign Affairs in New York on 30th November, 1950.

2. Sir Keith explained that the Australian Government "could now reply favourably to the Thai proposal of September 1949 that Australian representation should be raised to legation level". He said that Australia would welcome the appointment of a Thai Minister to Australia, but that for various reasons the Government would be unable to appoint a Minister to Bangkok for some time, and would be represented there by a Charge d'Affaires.

3. The Minister of Foreign Affairs expressed his appreciation of this information and stated that he quite understood that we could have no more than a Charge d'Affaires for the time being. In case the matter might slip his memory the Minister asked that you should be requested to convey a similar message to the Ministry in Bangkok following his return to Thailand about 10th November.

4. I should be glad if, on the return of the Minister of Foreign Affairs to Bangkok, you would approach the Ministry informally and repeat to them the substance of the message mentioned in paragraph 2 above. It is desired to ascertain informally the reactions of the Thai Government to this suggestion before making any formal communication to them.

5. The matter of the form in which the communications would be exchanged can be considered fully only when the reactions of the Ministry are known. It might be preferable for us if the exchange were to take the form of a revival by the Thai Government of its previous proposal and of a subsequent reply by us.

Holroyd

I thought from my discussions with you the line now in order. Let me know the line

Secretary.

KH 18/12/50

19/12/50

W. Shaw

Please have set for my signature

KH

COMMONWEALTH OF AUSTRALIA.

11

DEPARTMENT OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS.
CANBERRA, A.C.T.

File No. 451/1/1

7th November, 1950.

Memo. No.

MEMORANDUM:

The Australian Consul-General,
BANGKOK.

Exchange of Diplomatic Representatives with Thailand.

With reference to your memorandum No. 303 of 5th September, 1950, I wish to advise that, at the Minister's request, Sir Keith Officer saw the Thai Minister of Foreign Affairs in New York on 30th October, 1950.

2. Sir Keith explained that the Australian Government could now reply favourably to the Thai proposal of September 1949 that Australian representation should be raised to legation level. He said that Australia would welcome the appointment of a Thai Minister to Australia, but that for various reasons the Government would be unable to appoint a Minister to Bangkok for some time, and would be represented there by a Charge d'Affaires.

3. The Minister of Foreign Affairs expressed his appreciation of this information and stated that he quite understood that we could have no more than a Charge d'Affaires for the time being. In case the matter might slip his memory the Minister asked that you should be requested to convey a similar message to the Ministry in Bangkok following his return to Thailand about 10th November.

4. I should be glad if, on the return of the Minister for Foreign Affairs to Bangkok, you would approach the Ministry informally and repeat to them the substance of the message mentioned in paragraph 2 above. It is desired to ascertain informally the reactions of the Thai Government to this suggestion before making any formal communication to them.

5. The matter of the form in which the communications will be exchanged can be considered fully only when the reactions of the Ministry are known. It would be preferable that this exchange should take the form of a revival by the Thai Government of its previous proposal and a reply by us to it, rather than that a fresh proposal should be made by the Australian Government. However, in view of the terms in which the message was conveyed by Sir Keith to the Thai Minister, this may prove difficult to arrange.

Secretary.

DEPARTMENT OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS.

10

CABLEGRAM.

IC:JGH

O.18133

ENCODE TO:

Dated: 15th December, 1950
1345 hours.

The Australian Consulate-General,
BANGKOK.

141. UNCLASSIFIED. PRIORITY.

Your 156. You should represent Australia at the second meeting of E.C.A.F.E. - U.N.E.S.C.O. Joint Working Party.

E.A. (701/9/18).
SUPPLY.
C. OF E.
P.M's. DEP'T.

15th December, 1950.

DISTRIBUTION

451/1/1

DEPARTMENT OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS.

CABLEGRAM.

RESTRICTED.

9

JSH: M:

I. 17106

Dated: 30th October 1950
0014

DECYPHER FROM:

Australian Mission to
United Nations,
NEW YORK.

816. RESTRICTED.

For Watt from Spender.

Exchange of diplomatic representatives with Thailand.

Your memorandum to the Minister of 23rd September paragraph 12. Various arrangements for the Minister to see the Thailand Minister of Foreign Affairs having failed, I saw the latter this morning at Mr. Spender's request.

2. I explained that Australia could now reply favourably to the Thai proposal of September 1949 that representation should be raised to legation level. Australia would welcome the appointment of a Thai Minister to Australia but for various reasons would be unable to appoint a Minister to Bangkok for some time and would be represented there by a Charge d'Affaires.

3. The Minister of Foreign Affairs expressed his appreciation at this information and stated that he quite understood that we could have no more than a Charge d'Affaires for the time being.

4. In case the matter might slip his memory he asked that Loomes should convey similar message to his Ministry in Bangkok when he arrives there in about 10 days time.

A/MIN. & DEPT: E.A.
P.M.'s DEPT:

1st November 1950

W. Shaw
Please R/s with memorandum
W

Dept. E.A. ✓ U.N. ✓ P.A.C. ✓ E.R. ✓ P.I. ✓ L.C. ✓ A

DEPARTMENT OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS.

CABLEGRAM.

RESTRICTED.

8

JSH:[illegible]

I. 17106

Dated: 30th October 1950
0014

DECYPHER FROM:

Australian Mission to
United Nations,
NEW YORK.

ACTION COPY

816. RESTRICTED.

For Watt from ~~Spender~~. ? Officer ?

Exchange of diplomatic representatives with Thailand.

Your memorandum to the Minister of 23rd September paragraph 12. Various arrangements for the Minister to see the Thailand Minister of Foreign Affairs having failed, I saw the latter this morning at Mr. Spender's request.

2. I explained that Australia could now reply favourably to the Thai proposal of September 1949 that representation should be raised to legation level. Australia would welcome the appointment of a Thai Minister to Australia but for various reasons would be unable to appoint a Minister to Bangkok for some time and would be represented there by a Charge d'Affaires.

3. The Minister of Foreign Affairs expressed his appreciation at this information and stated that he quite understood that we could have no more than a Charge d'Affaires for the time being.

4. In case the matter might slip his memory he asked that Loomes should convey similar message to his Ministry in Bangkok when he arrives there in about 10 days time.

A/MIN. & DEPT: E.A.
P.M.'s DEPT:

1st November 1950

[illegible]
Secretary ✓
Dep[illegible] ✓
E.A.M[illegible] ✓
U.N. ✓
P.A.C. ✓
E.R. ✓
P.I. ✓
L.C.

Mr Shaw has memo re
Bangkok to go on this file.

11/12.

DEPARTMENT OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS.

CABLEGRAM.

6

I. 16924.
Dated: 27th October, 1950
1216
Recd: 28th October, 1950
0830

BW/MCG

DECODED FROM:

Australian Trade Commissioner,
HONG KONG.

167. UNCLASSIFIED.

Knox and family now due to arrive Sydney 9th November per Changsha. Please arrange accommodation.

EA
P.M'S.

30th October, 1950.

	✓
P.A.C.	✓
E.R.	
P.I.	
L.C.	
ANT.	
ADM.	✓a
A/Ca	✓
EX-COM.	

45111

FOR THE MINISTER FOR EXTERNAL AFFAIRS

Exchange of Diplomatic Representatives with Thailand

Since the signature of the Australian-Thai Final Peace Agreement on 3rd April 1946 we have received a number of approaches from the Thai Government for the exchange of diplomatic representatives between the two countries.

2. Although we established a Consulate-General in Thailand in September 1946 it was not until September 1947 that we agreed to receive a Thai Consul-General in Australia and we did not offer the Thai Government any explanation of our delay in agreeing to such reciprocity. Until about the middle of 1949 the Thais took no steps to appoint a Consul-General to Australia, partly because of the disruption caused by two coups d'etat, partly because we refused for more than six months to recognise the new Government, and partly because the Thais were continuing to make informal approaches with a view to the exchange of legations.

3. During that time the Australian Consul-General was instructed to indicate to the Thais that we were not in a position to agree to the exchange of legations at that stage owing to financial and staffing difficulties. It was indicated that the exchange of legations with Thailand would have to wait until we were in a position to make similar exchanges with other South East Asian countries (e.g. the Philippines), otherwise we would give offence to the latter.

4. In June 1949 the Thai Government indicated that it proposed to appoint the Counsellor of the Thai Embassy in London as Consul-General in Australia and that he would arrive here later in the year. In September 1949, however, the Thai Ambassador in London presented a formal memorandum to our High Commissioner proposing that the exchange of representatives between Australia and Thailand should be raised to the diplomatic level. The Note mentioned that the Thai Government did not wish to insist on the immediate appointment of an Australian Minister to Thailand, but that the Australian Government might appoint such a Minister at any time they were in a position to do so.

5. In our reply we reiterated our willingness to accept a Thai consular representative but regretted our inability to agree to an exchange of diplomatic representatives until current negotiations for the settlement of Australian war damage claims had been satisfactorily concluded. This reply gave great offence to the Thai Government which immediately announced publicly that it had abandoned its intention of sending a representative to Australia and proceeded to recall a number of other incidents as evidence of Australia's consistently unfriendly attitude to Thailand.

6. In explanation it should be mentioned that the United Kingdom and India, whose war damage claims [illegible] in the same position as our own, had already exchanged diplomatic representatives with Thailand.

45/1/1

7. In March, 1950, we announced the exchange of Embassies with the Netherlands and Indonesia and the exchange of legations with the Philippines. At the same time our Consul-General in Bangkok was instructed to intimate to the Thai Government that Australian relations with Thailand had not been overlooked, that the whole of our diplomatic relations throughout the area were now under consideration and that our interest in Thailand would then receive attention. This message does not appear to have mollified the Thais, who regard Indonesia and the Philippines as much inferior to their own country.

8. By May 1950 the Thai Government had agreed to a lump sum settlement of war damage claims at a figure which was acceptable to the United Kingdom, India and ourselves, and all that remained to be done was to clear certain minor conditions and for the United Kingdom to obtain the concurrence of Burma in respect of the interests of a small number of Burmese claimants.

9. On 25th May 1950 you approved in principle a departmental recommendation that our Consul-General in Bangkok be instructed to approach the Thai authorities and re-open negotiations for an exchange of diplomatic representatives as soon as final agreement concerning the conditions of the lump sum settlement of war damage claims had been reached. At the same time you directed that the costs of Australian representation in Thailand were not to be increased.

10. A satisfactory understanding has now been reached with the Thai Government as to the conditions of the lump sum settlement and the final agreement is held up only because the Burmese Government has at this late stage proposed additional conditions which are unlikely to be acceptable to the Thais and which we would not wish to support.

11. There is therefore likely to be some further delay before a final settlement of the war claims is reached. As, however, this last-minute complication is in no way the fault of the Thai Government, it is recommended that the Thai Government be now approached and informed of our readiness to resume discussions with a view to an early exchange of legations between the two countries.

12. If you agree, you may wish to raise the matter personally with the Thai Minister for Foreign Affairs (Nai Vorakarn Bancha) who is leading the Thai Delegation to the General Assembly. Our previous refusals to exchange legations, added to other factors, have aroused considerable resentment which your personal approach to the Minister for Foreign Affairs should do much to remove. It may be preferable, however, to leave the formal exchange of Notes and other matters of detail to be arranged between our Consul-General in Bangkok and the Thai Ministry of Foreign Affairs.

13. Your direction of 25th May 1950 implies that no Australian Minister to Thailand would be appointed, at least for the present. For this and other tactical reasons we had felt that our approach might take the form of a revival of the Thai proposal contained in the Note presented by the Thai Ambassador in London to our High Commissioner on 14th September 1949, rather than of a fresh proposal by the Australian Government.

Copies of the Thai Note and of our Note in reply dated 2nd November are enclosed for your information.

14. Although the Thai Note of 14th September indicated that the Thai Government would not expect us to appoint a Minister in Bangkok until we felt in a position to do so, any prolonged delay in appointing a Minister to our proposed legation would probably now cause some resentment in view of t[illegible]at we

have recently appointed an Ambassador in Djakarta and a Minister in Manila. From our point of view, however, our present interests in the country would be adequately catered for by a Charge d'Affaires of the status of First Secretary (the rank of the present Consul-General.

15. Although trade between the two countries is relatively small, Australian companies have substantial interests in the tin-mining areas in Southern Thailand, where there is an appreciable Australian community. There are upwards of 80 Thai students attending educational institutions in Australia.

Thailand is of some political importance as the granary of South East Asia and in view of its geographical position between China, Indo-China and Malaya. The Government, which is relatively stable, has taken a stand against Communism and was the first country after the United States to offer troops for service under the United Nations in Korea.

Pacific Division

AJE/BR

21st September, 1950.

23/9/50

Minister

The delay in settling claims against Thailand has continued much longer than anticipated and can no longer be attributed to the Siamese Government. I feel that developments in South East Asia now make the establishment of diplomatic relations with Thailand desirable and somewhat urgent. If you should decide that it is desirable to speak to the Thai Foreign Minister on the subject you may wish to do so on the basis that you will recommend favourably to Cabinet establishment of diplomatic relations if you think this necessary,

A.S.W.

forwarded to Minister 25/9/50

(COPY)

File No. 40/6/1

Memo No. 303/50

Australian Consulate-General,
BANGKOK.

5th September, 1950

CONFIDENTIAL

MEMORANDUM for:

The Secretary,
Department of External Affairs,
CANBERRA. A.C.T.

EXCHANGE OF REPRESENTATIVES WITH THAILAND

I refer to my memorandum of 22nd November, 1949, and my cable No. 72 of 19th May, 1950, in which I raised the question of offering to exchange diplomatic representatives with Thailand. It was indicated in your cable No. 24 of 17th March, 1950, that the question of the exchange of diplomatic representatives with Thailand was then under consideration, and, in accordance with your directions, I informed the Thai Minister of Foreign Affairs of this fact in informal discussion. The fact that there has been no decision on the question, and no further indication of Australia's attitude in the matter since that time cannot have failed to create an unfavourable impression.

2. You will be aware, so far as the settlement of claims is concerned, that the present delay in the finalisation of the settlement cannot be attributed in any way to the Thai Government, who have long since indicated their readiness to conclude the settlement and there seems to be no necessity to defer an offer to accept a Thai legation to Australia on this ground.

3. The Australian attitude on this matter has given rise to much adverse comment in Government and other circles here and our relations with Thailand have quite definitely been affected, in spite of our gestures of friendship in other directions. The fact that Australia has agreed to exchange Ambassadors with Indonesia, which the Thais regard as the political and economic inferior to Thailand, has brought forth many questions and thinly-veiled disappointment and even hostility.

4. This feeling has also been manifested in a variety of small annoying ways, such as difficulty in obtaining appointments with Foreign Office officials, and in obtaining speedy replies to correspondence. Recently, too, the Foreign Office refused to permit the entry of Mr. Hamilton's effects free of duty and inspection, even though this has always been permitted in the past. The result will be that Mr. Hamilton will be forced to pay duty. The Chief of Protocol went to some pains to explain to me that a consular representative is entitled to no privileges of any kind in Thailand, but, naturally, diplomatic representatives are entitled to many. As Australia maintains the only career consular mission here (apart from Portugal, which has recently opened a consulate), this strict enforcement of the law, which has previously been relaxed in a reasonable way, and the denial of facilities normally granted in other countries, can be regarded as directed solely against Australia as some sort of retaliation for our attitude.

/5. In view of

5. In view of all the circumstances, I feel that we should now offer to exchange legations with Thailand. It would, I feel, be better to make this gesture in advance of the conclusion of the claims settlement.

6. I should appreciate your very early instructions.

(Sgd)

CONSUL-GENERAL.

AUSTRALIAN ARCHIVES

NATIONAL ARCHIVES OF AUSTRALIA
A1838 A1838/280
3010/10/6 PART 1
446 1 231 6 2 1 (B2068999)
ITLJ: 2020/00228286
Search room PIN 222380
Indicators: 69
Date Printed: 22/6/2020
586809

07/06/2000 05:11 PM

OPEN WITH EXCEPTION
CP 196 r.
11/8/98.

File No. 3010/10/6