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NAA: A1838, 3010/10/1 PART 1

Series number: A1838

Control symbol: 3010/10/1 PART 1

Barcode: 586799

Number of pages: 312

Thailand - Australian relations with and policy towards Thailand

DEPARTMENT OF FOREIGN AFFAIRS

SECRET

FILE NO. 3010/10/1

PART NO. 1

OFFICE/POST C.R.

TITLE THAILAND - AUSTRALIAN RELATIONS WITH AND POLICY TOWARDS THAILAND.

RECORDED

RELATED FILES		PREVIOUS PAPERS
FILE NO.	TITLE	
3010/10/20	PURCHASE OF LAND IN THAILAND.	SUBSEQUENT PAPERS
		ARCHIVAL ACTION

R.P.

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FILE No. 3010/10/1

PART No. 1

SECRET

18703/71—P.E.B.

W. G. MURRAY, Government Printer, Canberra

PLEASE KEEP

THIS ● TAG

ON TOP OF FILE

CLOSED

CLOSED

31.5.1962

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CONFIDENTIAL

File No.....

EXTERNAL AFFAIRS.

Record of Conversation with Mr. Bunchana Atthakor, Deputy Secretary-General of the Thai National Economic Development Board

on 31st May, 1962

Officers Present The Secretary

279

MAIN SUBJECT(S):

---

1. Mr. Bunchana Atthakor called to leave with me a letter from the Prime Minister of Thailand addressed to Mr. Menzies.

2. I explained that the commitments of Mr. McEwen, the Acting Minister for External Affairs, had made it impossible for him to receive me in Canberra: and Mr. McEwen would not be returning until Saturday. I said that I would convey the letter to Mr. McEwen as soon as he was available and I had no doubt he would reciprocate the cordial sentiments expressed by Field Marshal Sarit.

3. Mr. Bunchana asked whether it would be possible for him to be furnished with a letter to take back to Field Marshal Sarit.

4. I said I could not guarantee that this would be possible, but I would see what I could do.

RDT

→ DKB

3010/10/1

DISTRIBUTION:

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Com. Rel.
Sydney Office
Inf. Br.
✓ Registry
Ex. Comms. Br.
Melbourne Office
Antarctic Division

FOLLOWING POSTS:

✓ Bangkok

ACTION:

Report prepared by.....

(A. H. Tange)

5962/58.

CONFI

(COPY)

278

Office of the Prime Minister,
Government House,
BANGKOK. THAILAND.

May 25, B.E. 2505

My dear Mr. Prime Minister :

I am taking the opportunity of the visit to Australia of Mr. Bunchana Atthakor, Deputy Secretary-General of our National Economic Development Board, at your Government's invitation, to write and reaffirm to you the friendly and cordial relationship existing between Australia and Thailand. These bonds of amity and friendship have recently gained new strength through the close and active co-operation of our two governments in the Organization to which our two countries belong.

I have been informed that there have been some discussions between the officials of your Embassy in Thailand and those of the National Economic Development Board in connection with the possible assistance from your country through the Colombo Plan for the establishment of a Road Equipment Repair and Maintenance Depot at Khonkhaen, the town in the Northeast where major activities as laid out in the Northeast Development Plan will be concentrated.

In this connection, Mr. J. Burns, of the Australian Department of Works,has already conducted a feasibility survey on existing land transportation in the Northeast region. His report has shown that construction of feeder roads would have a strong stimulating effect on the economy of the region. The contemplated setting-up of such depot would enable further construction of transportation means from remote villages to towns, thus opening up new places, presenting possibilities for better livelihood of the local people. We believe the best way to cope adequately and effectively with the communist subversive activities in thatregion is to be economically

strong.....

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strong, and I personally believe this project represents one of the important instruments to tackle such problem.

I would like to assure you, Mr. Prime Minister, that the people and the Government of Thailand, value very highly the friendship and co-operation extended to us by your Government. I am fully confident that the Australian Government under your wise and energetic leadership will do what it can to assist us with our national economic development which will, in the long run, strengthen the fabrics of peace and stability in South East Asia.

Yours sincerely,

Field Marshal S. Dhanarajata

(Srisdi Dhanarajata)
Prime Minister of Thailand

The Right Honourable R.G. Menzies, C.H., M.P.,
Prime Minister of Australia.

DEPARTMENT OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS

INWARD CABLEGRAM

276

3010/10/1

AM

AMENDED COPY

I.11128

FROM:

Sent: 11th May, 1962
1740

☆ Australian Embassy,
BANGKOK.

Recd: 12th May, 1962
0700

271. RESTRICTED.

S.E.A.T.O. Aid.

I officially informed today's meeting of council representatives of new three million allocation. Asian members expressed enthusiastic appreciation and spoke of Australia's strong and practical support of S.E.A.T.O. Western representatives also welcomed announcement.

Booker.

☆ Amendment

14th May, 1962

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

SEC A/Ss MR LOOMES UN PAC&AM AM&SP S&SEA@ SA SEA EAF&ME
E INF DL MT@ IC

RESTRICTED RESTRICTED

DEPARTMENT OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS

301 D/10/1
275

INWARD CABLEGRAM

:GS

I.11133

Sent: 11th May, 1962
1730

Rec'd: 12th May, 1962
0700

FROM:

Australian Embassy,
BANGKOK.

268. CONFIDENTIAL. IMMEDIATE.

Repeated Singapore 15, Kuala Lumpur 5.

Your 291.

From Services Attache.

Reference Air A0362 clearance for sabre flights over Thailand 14th May to 25th May not approved. Delay programme until matter discussed further.

Will advise.

AIR (C)(T/T)
E.A.
P.M.'s

12th May, 1962

For Mr. Anderson
Refers to RAAF sabres at Butterworth.
Butterworth have made request to Thai authorities for clearance of two sets of visits by sabre aircraft to Thai; and Dept. of Air are taking Butterworth to task for not clearing with Ministers in Australia before making request.
Mr Fingleton
- When you have Time, Mr. Anderson ask DL what is background to Thai refusal. The reasons for the Thai refusal to approve the visits is not known. DL 14/5

CR 14/5

Mr. Ritchie
Plse check with DL when you have time.
DL 14/5

SEC
A/S(DIV.1) MR.LOOMES S&SEA SEA DL@ MT IC
DEPT.DUTY OFFICER

3010/10/1 274

DEPARTMENT OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS

INWARD CABLEGRAM

SECRET

:GS

I.9541

Sent: 24th April, 1962
1200

Rec'd: 24th April, 1962
1845

FROM:

Australian Embassy,
BANGKOK.

231. SECRET. PRIORITY.

For Army from Services Attache.

1st Battalion 27th Inf (of 25 Inf. Div. United States Army Pacific) are remaining Thailand after Exercise Air Cobra to conduct deployment exercise from Korat approximately 1st May to 10th May 1962. Aims acclimatisation Ø Terrain study - compan and platoon tactical technique modifications. Colonel Stevens, G.F. United States Commander would welcome Australian observers. Captain K.E. Stilpewich (10 3R.A.R.) and Captain D.B. Anstey (Platoon Commander 1 R.A.R.) have been warned to be prepared to be Australian observers. Return to Australia of above officers to be by R.A.A.F. courier ex Malaya e.t.d. 11th or 18th May, 1962. Travel to Butterworth from Korat by train or service aircraft if available. Recommend officers attend and be attached Australian Services Attache from end of exercise Air Cobra for Administration.

Ø corrupt group.

ARMY
DEFENCE
E.A.
P.M.'s

25th April, 1962

→ m. R. Ridge

SEC A/Ss MR.LOOMES PAC&AM AM&SP S&SEA SA SEA EAF&ME
DL@ MT IC

SECRET SECRET SECRET

213



PERMANENT MISSION OF THAILAND
TO THE UNITED NATIONS
20 EAST 82ND STREET, NEW YORK 28, N.Y.

March 5, 1962

Dear Mike:

I am sending you herewith copies of an article published in Bangkok Post which I have received today. I hope that you will find it interesting.

Dear Dick,

2019/10/11

You probably already have this from B'kok. But it seems worth sending - tho' it is less a pat on the back for us, I think, than a kick in the pants for others. Yrs. McLane.

Some Aid Not Wholehearted, Premier Says

Australia and New Zealand are earnest in the aid that is given to us "while aid from other countries is not wholehearted," Prime Minister Sarit Thanarat told a German newspaperman yesterday, according to a Public Relations Department press release.

Field Marshal Sarit Thanarat was answering questions from Mr. Peter Krubbe of Die Welt on economic aid received by Thailand.

Asked by Mr. Krubbe about aid from the Federal Republic of Germany which has not been significant except for some surveying, Marshal Sarit said:

"Germany has just begun to give us aid and so I want to wait for some time before I make any comments. As for other countries, most of the aid given to us is not wholehearted, except for New Zealand and Australia which are very earnest."

Mr. Krubbe specifically queried the Premier about what kind of aid Thailand would require from Germany—small industries, loans, agricultural technology, or irrigation projects. Marshal Sarit assured him that Thailand was in need of all kinds of aid but was afraid that the matter will not be handled wholeheartedly and earnestly. He pointed out as example the Thai proposal of setting up a steel mill here with no results yet.

"I agree with you that if the Communists take Thailand all Southeast Asia will fall to them," the Prime Minister said, "but what can we do to convey this idea to every corner of the free world?"

Answering another question, he said that Communist China is sending arms and men to initiate aggressions in Southeast Asia while Russia is only sending weapons

Sarit Interview

(Cont. from Pg. 1)

and equipment.

"In Laos at present," he said, "both the Viet Minh and the Red Chinese are sending a large amount of troops. The conflict in Laos is threatening this country since if Laos is dominated by the Communists we will be in trouble. Even now some rebels in the north are getting the support of the Communists and there is evidence of infiltration into this country."

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The following pages are a complete b/w photocopy of the item. DO NOT REMOVE THIS ITEM FROM ITS PROTECTIVE ENCLOSURE- CONTACT CONSERVATION.

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RR

DEPARTMENT OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS

I. 1742

INWARD CABLEGRAM

Sent: 23rd January, 1962.
5.0
Rec'd: 23rd January, 1962.
2030

FROM:

Australian Embassy,
BANGKOK.

44 SECRET PRIORITY

C.M.P.O.'s Appointment.

Speaking privately Thanat told me today that the * appointment of a Thai for the position of C.M.P.O. would be a mistake and that the Foreign Office could not agree to it. He said with every sign of confidence that the Thai nomination would be withdrawn.

2. In view of the ill-feeling that this appointment has generated among the Thais please treat the foregoing with discretion.

Booker.

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

24th January, 1962.

* Amendment

30/10/10/1

SEC A/Ss MR. LOOMES PAC&AM AM&SP S&SEA SA SEA
E.AF&ME E DL MT@ IC

LONDON PARIS SINGAPORE WASHINGTON WELLINGTON

269

Reprinted

11th January, 1962

ALLEGATION OF DEPARTMENTAL PRESSURE ON UNIVERSITY OF BRISBANE REGARDING THAI STUDENT

THE MINISTER

The Brisbane "Truth" on 7th January published a story (full text attached hereto) alleging that the Department of External Affairs had applied pressure on the University of Queensland to grant an examination pass to a Thai student on the ground that he was the son of a member of the Thai Government. The substance of this story was reprinted in the Canberra Times on 11th January.

2. We have checked this story with the Commonwealth Office of Education, Sydney, and with the University of Queensland. There is no evidence to connect the Department in any way with this student, whose identity is still unknown to us.

3. We have sent a telegram (~~attached~~) to our Embassy in Bangkok, giving the gist of the allegations and asking for an immediate report on whether the Embassy has been in any way involved (which is extremely unlikely). We have also sent the full text of the "Truth" report to the Embassy by airmail.

Consultation Last Week

4. On Friday 5th January the Canberra representative of the Sydney "Mirror", Mr. John Gore, telephoned the Department, saying that he was speaking on behalf of the Brisbane "Truth". He said that he had been asked by "Truth" to check with us the accuracy of a report that the Department had advised the University of Queensland to grant a Thai student a pass, under circumstances broadly such as those described in the attached report. Gore said that he understood that the student was the son of either the Prime Minister or a former Prime Minister of Thailand, and that his name might be something like Dhanajarata or Songkram.

5. The relevant Branches of Department were consulted, as well as the Director of the Commonwealth Office of Education (Mr. Weeden), who checked with the C.O.E. representative in Brisbane. We then telephoned Gore and told him that (a) the Department had no connection whatever with the matter and (b) possibly there had been some confusion between this Department and the Department of External Studies of the Queensland University. Gore thanked us for this advice.

(for information)

Mr Blakeney
Mr Ingram

Mr Deschamps
Mr Landale 17/1/62

SE Asia (Mr Dunn Anderson)

A Mr Eastman and ETA Branch informed.

Initialled 11/1/62

→ Tele 3010/10/1

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Consultation This Week

6. Upon reading the Canberra Times report of 11th January (attached) we consulted Mr. Weeden, who gave us the text of the fuller story as published in "Truth" on 7th January (of which publication we had had no earlier notice).

7. Mr. Weeden told us that the C.O.E. had been in touch with the University and had been informed that the Thai student was an internal student of the University who had had one examination to sit for in order to complete his degree course; that he had been allowed to return to Thailand to take the examination there; that he had sat for the examination there, and that the University had decided to grant him a pass. Weeden confirmed that the Thai student was not a Colombo Plan student nor studying under any other officially sponsored scheme.

8. We then telephoned the Registrar of the University of Queensland, Mr. Connell, and told him that this Department had been in no way connected with the matter. Connell said that (a) no other Brisbane paper had run the story; (b) he could confirm that this Department had been in no way involved; (c) that the University's lecturer in Psychology, Dr. Tugby, had earlier suggested to the University that it would be unwise to bring the Thai student back from Bangkok to the University for an oral re-examination; and (d) that the Vice-Chancellor, Dr. Schonell, had made a brief statement as reported in "Truth". We asked Connell where all the circumstantial details about "copper-plate handwriting", etc., came from. He said that it could have been a leakage from some person on the examining staff of the University. He did not volunteer the student's name and we did not ask to know it.

9. We asked Connell if he would consider making a statement to the press that this Department had been in no way involved. He said that he would put this suggestion to the Vice-Chancellor.

Further Action

10. It would seem desirable to issue a brief statement, either Ministerial or Departmental, rebutting the allegation of Departmental interference. It is particularly regrettable that the Canberra Times reprinted the Brisbane report without checking its accuracy with the Department.

11. Draft press statement is attached for consideration. Any further action might await Bangkok Embassy's reply. There seems to be no reason to mention the matter direct to the Thai authorities, either here or in Bangkok.

Information Branch
HG/ET.

(W.D. Forsyth)
Assistant Secretary
Division II.

ARTICLE FROM "BRISBANE TRUTH"

"Asian Faked University Exam"

"Government said "He's Got To Pass It""

The External Affairs Department last week brought pressure to bear on the Queensland University to stop an enquiry into the faking of examination papers in Commerce by an Asian Student. The student is the son of a highly placed member of the Thai Government and sat for his exam as an external student in Thailand under the supervision of a Thai police official.

But the University examiners were "disturbed", to say the least, at the examination papers returned from Thailand. These were some of the points which drew their attention:

In the previous year's exam the student had had great difficulty with the English language and allowance had to be made for this in correcting exam papers. This year, however, all answers were in perfect english.

This year's answers were in copper-plate hand writing and free from errors - so perfect in fact, that the examiners found it difficult to believe any student could have written so carefully in the time allowed for the examination.

In one examination, auditing, the young Asian's answers were correct, but he had used latest American auditing methods in these answers and these methods were not a part of the course, in fact are not taught at the University.

In all examinations the papers submitted suggested a too remarkable improvement by the student since the last examination.

Risk of a Breach

The examiners reported these suspicions to University authorities and it was decided that the student should be brough to Australia for a further oral examination before being awarded a pass.

That is where the Department of External Affairs stepped in.

It told the University that the young student's father was so highly placed in the Government that a suggestion that his son had cheated in an examination could lead to a breach of "harmonious relations" between Australia and Thailand.

The high police official who had supervised the examination might also be deeply offended, the Department said.

Opinion was heated within the University at the course the University should follow.

But it was eventually decided that the Department's advice should be accepted.

However, those who opposed kowtowing to the Department of External Affairs have been told that future examinations will be conducted more strictly.

"It's All Fixed"

The Vice Chancellor of the Queensland University, Professor Chonell said last week "I do not wish to comment on the matter other than it has been staisfactorily settled. No enquiry is planned. The University is undertaking a complete overhaul of its examination procedures, but this decision was made some time before this particular case arose. "

DRAFT PRESS RELEASE

FOR SUBMISSION TO THE MINISTER

ALLEGED DEPARTMENTAL PRESSURE ON UNIVERSITY

Statement by the Minister for External Affairs.

The Minister for External Affairs, Sir Garfield Barwick, today issued the following statement :

A Brisbane newspaper this week published a report alleging that the Department of External Affairs had applied pressure to the University of Queensland to grant an examination pass to a Thai student on the ground that he was the son of a member of the Thai Government.

I have inquired into this. The allegation is entirely without foundation. The Department has in no way concerned itself with this student. A representative of the newspaper sought information from the Department last week and was informed that the Department had no knowledge of the matter.

Enquiries by the Department have established that no student studying under the Colombo Plan or under any other officially sponsored scheme was concerned in an incident of the kind reported.

It should hardly be necessary for me to add that the Department would in no circumstances press a university to depart from its normal procedures in examining students, whether officially sponsored or not.

CONFI TIAL
TIAL

AUSTEMBA

BANGKOK

Confidential

Brisbane Truth 7th January published story alleging that External Affairs Department applied pressure on University to grant examination pass to Thai student because he was son of "highly placed member of Thai Government". Alleged that student sat for an examination as external student in Thailand under supervision of Thai police official and that University examiners were disturbed at great difference between his examination paper and his previous examination papers. Further alleged that Department told University that suggestion of cheating could affect relations between Australia and Thailand and that University eventually accepted Department's advice and granted a pass. Text being sent commercial airmail today.

2. We know nothing of any connection between Department and this student and are saying so to press here. University Registrar confirms no connection whatever. Memorandum follows.

3. Please cable immediately whether Embassy has been in any way involved and if so report details next air-bag. We feel you should not approach Thai authorities.

CONFIDENTIAL

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F. 3010/10/1

SEA

DEPARTMENT OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS, CANBERRA.

263

Name of Paper Daily Report - Far East File No 3010/10/1

Published at ..... Date 29 . 9 . 61

THAILAND SEA 3010/10/1

SARASIN STATEMENT--The secretary general of the Southeast Asian Treaty Organization, Pote Sarasin, said at a news conference in Canberra 28 September that he believed there will be opportunities in several Asian countries for new markets for Australian goods. As an example, he said, Thailand imported large quantities of dairy products from Denmark which could be supplied by Australia. Australia was already playing a major part in the military and economic progress of SEATO; it should explore more fully the possibility of increasing economic links with southeast Asian countries. Later, Sarasin told cadets at the royal military college that the SEATO nations hoped with strength and determination that they would be able to avoid war. If they are strong enough, there is the possibility that an attack will not occur, he said. Sarasin will leave Australia 29 September to return to Bangkok. (Melbourne Overseas English 0900 GMT 28 September 1961--W)

DEPARTMENT OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS

CONFIDENTIAL

262

OUTWARD CABLEGRAM

KW

O.14441

Sent: 22nd Sep tember, 1961.

TO:

3010/10/1

Australian Embassy,
BANGKOK.

555. CONFIDENTIAL.

Visit of Thai Armed Forces Staff College to Australia -

Your memorandum 1352.

Minister for Defence has approved visit.

Assistance would not be possible beyond scale applied to last year's visit of Thai National Defence College. If visit were concentrated upon Sydney area in October Australian assistance could include local transport, Army accommodation at 15/- per day, escorting officers, etc.

MIN.&.DEPT.E.A.(672/2)
MIN.&.DEPT.DEFENCE.
J.I.C.
P.M'S.

(Cost £12.9.0)

26th September, 1961.

SEC A/S'S MR LOOMES S&SEA SEA DL@ MT IC

RL's mods.

File 3010/10/1

261

EXTERNAL AFFAIRS

FILE No. ~~569/10/1~~

DATE 18th Aug, 1961

SUBJECT "NATION" ARTICLE ON THAILAND

FOR [illegible]

Mr Jenkins

Attached is a photostat copy of a memo from Bangkok about an article on Thailand published in the 29th July, 1961 issue of Nation.

2. A copy of the Hansard memo has been sent to the Commonwealth Office of Education at Mr Gilchrist's request.

Ian Hamilton

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AUSTRALIAN EMBASSY,
BANGKOK.

In reply quote No. 500/10
Memorandum No. 1356

15th August, 1961

The Secretary,
Department of External Affairs,
CANBERRA.

Article on Thailand

Please refer to your memorandum 815 of 1st August, 1961.

2. Although there is a considerable amount of truth in the article by John Shaw published in "The Nation" of 29th July, 1961, exaggeration is also present and some of the inferences are in fact questionable if not wrong. Little if any credit is given for what has been achieved by the present regime and to this extent is rather distorted.

3. The former Prime Minister referred to in the text is apparently Khuang Apaivongse who has held office on four occasions, the last being in 1948. To the extent that any semblance of an opposition is tolerated, Apaivongse could be looked on as its leader.

4. Although no publicity has been given to the article in Bangkok, Thanat is certainly aware of it and is reported to have been very annoyed about it last week. Sarasin, who heard of it from Thanat, has also been very critical.

(W.P.J. Hamilton)
First Secretary

The following page is a complete b/w photocopy of the item. DO NOT REMOVE THIS ITEM FROM ITS PROTECTIVE ENCLOSURE- CONTACT CONSERVATION.

260

AUSTRALIAN EMBASSY,
BANGKOK.

In reply quote No. 500/10
Memorandum No. 1356

15th August, 1961

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Department of External Affairs,
CANBERRA.

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(W.P.J. Hardner)
First Secretary

SECRET 259

DEPARTMENT OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS

INWARD CABLEGRAM

3010/10/1

JRR

I.17203

Sent: 10th July, 1961.
2120
Rec'd: 11th July, 1961.
0830

file

FROM:

Australian Embassy,
BANGKOK.

423 SECRET

Laos

Your telegram 465.

2. During my talk with him today, Sarit expressed great concern at developments in Laos and said that he had recently received word of new Pathet Lao build up in the Paksane area, which was clearly aimed at dividing Government held territory into two. Continued deterioration of the situation in Laos was very disturbing to Thai Government. It was very difficult to see how this deterioration could be checked and Thailand must therefore be ready for "all eventualities".

3. I mentioned the Geneva conference and he said that it was useless to expect the conference to find solution. Nor did he believe that early agreement would be reached for the establishment of coalition Government. He thought that such coalition would in any case simply lead to victory for the side supported by the Communists. I asked about the possiblility that Boun Oum would agree to such coalition and he said that both Boun Oum and Phoumi had given him strong assurances that they would not agree to an arrangement which would place the Government under predominant influence of Pathet Lao. He believed that they would go on fighting rather than submit to such an arrangement. He implied that he had urged them to stand firm. I mentioned reports that virtual agreement had been reached but Sarit said that degree of agreement had been greatly exaggerated by Souvanna Phouma and the Communist side. He expressed suspicion that Souvanna Phouma's reported operation was "diplomatic" and said that he was concerned about Souvanna Phouma's activities in Paris. It was very difficult to have any confidence in him.

4. I raised the question of relations with Cambodia but the conversation turned on Sihanouk's role in attempting to reconcile the Laotian groups. Sarit spoke shortly and without hostility about Sinhanouk's efforts but he said that these had no real prospects of success. He drew attention to the fact that Sihanouk himself now belived that the Pathet Lao had already won.

5. Sarit concluded by speaking at some length in appreciation of Australia's role in S.E.A.T.O. and of general sympathy for Thailand's problems. He referred also to Mr. Menzies awareness of dangers of continued Communist defiance of cease-fire (apparently having in mind statement of 9th June).

SECRET

2/.....

file 3010/10/1

SECRET

DEPARTMENT OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS

258

INWARD CABLEGRAM

I.17203

6. As the interview had considerably exceeded time set, regret there was no opportunity of raising regional co-operation, or Mau's visit.

Booker.

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

11th July, 1961.

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

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

SECRET

DEPARTMENT OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS

257

INWARD SAVINGRAM CONFIDENTIAL

3010/10/1

JRR

I.17899

Sent: 28th June, 1961.

Rec'd: 19th July, 1961.

FROM:

Australian Embassy,
BANGKOK.

Sav.17 CONFIDENTIAL

Community Development.

When I saw Thanat on June 26th he mentioned the great importance which the Thai Government attached to community development, especially in the North-east. He said he was aware of our interest in the problem and hoped that we would be able to support these efforts with expert advice and material aid.

2. I told him that we would be willing to provide expert advice and also hoped to develop our future aid activities in Thailand in a way which would assist in the development of the North-East. I described to him the ideas which were already being canvassed with the T.T.E.C. I indicated that it was not always easy for a country like Australia with relatively small aid funds at its disposal to decide on the best order of priorities and to ensure that the most economical use was made of our aid. I emphasised that we relied heavily upon the Thai authorities for guidance in this respect. I mentioned that one advantage which might flow from our proposals for increased counter-subversion effort by SEATO would be that it would establish some order of priorities in dealing with the needs of the North-east.

3. Thanat said that he was personally greatly attracted by the suggestion that Australia might undertake a feeder roads maintenance project. He felt that this would deal directly with one of the most urgent needs in the North-east.
He added that presumably there would be some seasons of the year when the equipment would not be employed on the roads and he felt that a contribution could then be made to the problem of land clearance. He felt that there was considerable prospect for the extension of cultivable area in the North-east but that the heavy work involved was at present beyond the resources of the local communities. I said that this aspect would be borne in mind in developing our project. I indicated that in the first instance we hoped that an expert engineering team would visit Thailand to advise on the precise form which the project should take.

Booker.

file

MIN. & DEPT. E.A.
MIN. & DEPT. DEFENCE
J.I.C.

19th July, 1961.

SEC A/Ss TA ER PAC&AM EA AM&SP S&SEA@ SA SEA E.AF&ME E INF DL MT IC

BANGKOK LONDON CONFIDENTIAL OTTAWA SINGAPORE WASHINGTON

256

DEPARTMENT OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS

OUTWARD CABLEGRAM

CONFIDENTIAL

BW.MC

O.10693

Sent: 7th July 1961
1800

TO:

Australian Embassy,
BANGKOK.

463. CONFIDENTIAL. PRIORITY.

Your 415.

We are studying Thai Note 23245/2504 and will give you text of our reply soonest.

Our first thoughts are that as Qantas operations through Bangkok are under the Australia-Thailand Air Services Agreement, which does not permit either party to impose restrictions on traffic carried by designated airlines on specific sectors it would appear to be contrary to the terms of the agreement and certainly contrary to the spirit of the agreement for the Thais to seek to impose the restrictions they have in mind whether by separate advice (their first note to us) or by attaching conditions to their acceptance of Qantas as the designated airline.

We therefore do not feel disposed to instructing Qantas to comply with Thai conditions pending the outcome of further communications which must now pass between us and Thai authorities. Grateful your comments this regard.

Grateful also for your earliest comments on general Thai attitude in this matter and suggest you might also enquire of Qantas representative his assessment of Thai intentions. Is this manoeuvre part of an overall approach to all operations by foreign airlines.

File 30/10/10/1

E.A. (716/50/4/3)
MIN. & DEPT. CIVIL AVIATION(CCA.45)
P.M.'s.

(COST £30.6.0)

10th July, 1961.

SEC A/Ss LA ER@ S&SEA SEA

J.K. We should keep our eye on this

255

EXTERNAL AFFAIRS

FILE No. 3010/10/1

DATE

SUBJECT

FOR.....

Mr Lawn Smith

To see

+ file pls.

4/4

I spoke to Averill about this, in light of Mr Heydon's note.

I stressed that in our view (i.e. Vanderzyl) Press is a "silly parpous little man — not the sort to be invited here" nor is any way influential. His wife was somewhat better.

~~I said I hoped that N.Z. would not see this way~~

I said I hoped that N.Z. would not agree to visit — such this would put us in difficult position. Averill agreed & would pass on wheels back. 4/4

254

EXTERNAL AFFAIRS

FILE No. _____

DATE 28-2-61

SUBJECT Thailand - Prince Prem

FOR Acting Secretary

Mr Vandley has suggested that the Thai Ambassador may have spoken to you about a possible visit by Prince Prem, & that you probably put him off.

Could you confirm please.

D J Horne.

Mr Horne

I had occasion and from what Mr Vandley said I am sure I was right. I think we should discourage the N Zealanders. Thai Amb. is trying to trap us.

30/3/61

CONFIDENTIAL

P.M.59/3/14

253

3010/10/1

17 March 1961

The High Commissioner,
Office of the High Commissioner for New Zealand,
CANBERRA.

PROPOSED VISIT TO NEW ZEALAND OF PRINCE AND PRINCESS PREM PURACHATRA

In the course of a call on the Prime Minister last December the Thai Ambassador, Mr Vadhana Isarabhakdi, suggested that an invitation should be extended to Prince and Princess Prem Purachatra of Thailand to make an observation tour of New Zealand. In a later letter to the Prime Minister, Mr Vadhana elaborated his proposal in the following way:-

> "I wish to take this opportunity, prior to my return to Canberra, to remind Your Excellency of the names of the couple I mentioned as worthy of being invited to New Zealand for an observation tour which would enable them usefully to disseminate the knowledge they should gain therefrom to the people in Thailand (as well as in some other countries) through the medium of the periodicals they publish in Bangkok.
>
> "The said persons are Prince and Princess Prem Purachatra, who own or edit a lady journal "Revadi" (or "The Lady") in the vernacular and a weekly magazine in the English language, entitled "The Standard" which is widely read both in Thailand and abroad. H.H. Prince Prem is also a Professor of English at two leading universities in Thailand, whilst his consort is a leader in social service and figures in a number of well known organisations in Thailand."

Bangkok's comments on the proposed visit of Prince and Princess Prem are contained in the attached memorandum.

We should be glad to know as soon as possible whether Mr Vadhana has raised the question of a visit to Australia by Prince and Princess Prem and if so, what the Australians' reaction has been.

S. SHARPLEY

Secretary of External Affairs.

Enclosure

Left by Mr Averill 27/3/61.

Discussed - no this specific or formal.
Mr Landale
I know of no approach to us.
Do you?
27/3.

CONFIDENTIAL

Mr Vandy was approached informally - gave no encouragement.

Navy Public Relations No 92 25/61

Canberra 3rd Feb 1961

252

R.A.N. Frigate visits Labuan

Senator Gorton said Australia's second ship serving with the British Commonwealth Strategic Reserve, H.M.A.S. Voyager parted company with Queenborough following their goodwill visit to the Thai capital Bangkok.

Signed on 671/4

DEPARTMENT OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS.

CABLEGRAM.

File No. 3010/10/1

25¹

EXTERNAL AFFAIRS.

Record of Conversation with Mr. Kelly, retired official of the New South Wales Lawn Tennis Association

on 1st December, 1960.

Officers Present Mr. A.M. Morris

MAIN SUBJECT(S):

TENNIS COACHING IN THAILAND

By arrangement I met Mr. Kelly in Sydney to pursue the points he had raised in correspondence with the Minister. He recently visited Bangkok and there was much impressed by Khun Aroon Seeboonruang, a Thai businessman (representative of the British Motor Corporation), who is Honorary Secretary of the Lawn Tennis Association of Thailand. He also had dealings with Dusdee Svasti-Kuto, the Honorary Treasurer.

2. The proposal is that Australia should send up a coach for about three months to teach the older juniors how to organise classes. Australia would provide the fares and if necessary make up the cash salary to £20 a week. The Thais would provide board, lodging (to be air conditioned and regarded by the Embassy as satisfactory) and a weekly salary amounting if possible to the whole of the proposed £20.

3. Mr. Kelly knows of several keen, young, unmarried coaches any of whom would be satisfactory, but he suggests that if it is decided to proceed with the proposal the selection of a suitable candidate should be discussed with Mr. V.A. Edwards, the Honorary Secretary of the New South Wales Lawn Tennis Professionals' Association, Dudley Street, Roseville, N.S.W.

4. I told Mr. Kelly that I would ask the Embassy at Bangkok for its views on the proposal. It would then be necessary to seek funds. I explained that Colombo Plan funds could not be made available for a project of this kind.

5. He told me that Mr. Norman Strange, the President of the Lawn Tennis Association of Australia, hoped to be able to speak to the Minister about the proposal on Saturday, 3rd December.

6. Before leaving I mentioned our search for a coach for Cambodia and he suggested that in this connection too we might approach Mr. Edwards.

Mr Horne
Mr Casey

I have sent note to Mr Blakeney on separate copy drawing attention to similar Cambodian request

DJ 7/12

DISTRIBUTION:

Minister				
Secretary				
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A/S Div. 7	D.L. Br.	E. & T.A. Br.		

+ Mr. Blakeney + Mr. Dingle

FOLLOWING POSTS:

Report prepared by

(A.M. Morris)

ACTION: Bangkok, Phnom Penh.

7748/60.

DEPARTMENT OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS

3010/10/1

250

INWARD CABLEGRAM

CONFIDENTIAL

AD:JT

I.26438

Dated: 7th November, 1960.
2130
Rec'd: 8th November, 1960.
0830

FROM:

Australian Embassy,
BANGKOK.

714. CONFIDENTIAL.

Colombo Plan.

In brief discussion today with Thanad about Colombo Plan meeting in Tokyo, the question came up of Thailand's request regarding capital aid. He said that replies to enquiries, which had been made by several of their Ambassadors and had been to effect that Thailand could receive such aid on bilateral basis. I explained our policy in this connections and spoke on lines of 4th paragraph of attachment to your memorandum 1190.

..Booker.

MIN. & DEPT. E.A.(2036/6)
C.O.E.
P.M'S.

8th November, 1960.

SEC A/Ss MR.EASTMAN TA@ ER S&SEA SEA INF

CONFIDENTIAL

DEPARTMENT OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS

INWARD CABLEGRAM

3010/10/1 249

H:JT

I.25815

Dated: 31st October, 1960.
1253
Rec'd: 1st November, 1960.
0830

FROM:

Australian Embassy,
BANGKOK.

691. CONFIDENTIAL.

Copies 3006/6/2
3018/21

Addressed Canberra 691. Repeated Vientiane 34, savingram Saigon 9.

Vientiane telegram 422.

Vientiane's motive was represented to me as intending the application for petrol permit as a test, which would show up the existance of the Thai blockade (which does not formally exist) and thereby occasion to it.

2. Both the United States and the United Kingdom have flown in supplies under diplomatic privilege and we have in fact arranged with the United Kingdom to take one 44 gallon drum for our Legation.

3. My concern is that if Thailand believed our application was a "test" they would be deeply annoyed. I feel that our views on the question of the blockade should be conveyed to Thailand in the correct manner.

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

1st November, 1960.

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

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

938

DEPARTMENT OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS

CANBERRA

PR No 111

24th October 1960

FOR THE PRESS

Malaya and Thailand Assist Australian Colombo Plan Project.

Statement by the Minister for External Affairs.

The Minister for External Affairs, Mr. Menzies, announced today that 30 covered railway goods wagons which Australia is giving to Cambodia under the Colombo Plan have left Singapore, where they were assembled, to be hauled by rail through Malaya and Thailand to Cambodia. The rail passage across these countries is being made with the co-operation of the Malayan and Thai Governments.

"The assistence of the Governments concerned has made this movement possible", Mr. Menzies said. "I would, in particular, like to express appreciation of the additional generous gesture by the Malayan Government, which has offered to remit all charges for the move".

"Indeed the way the Governments of Australia, Malaya and Thailand have worked together makes the project a practical demonstration of the spirit of the Colombo Plan for Co-operative Economic Development in South and South East Asia."

Mr. J. Langhans, an engineer of the supplying firm, the Perry Engineering Company, of Adelaide, personally assisted in the arrangements for the assembly and transhipment of the wagons.

They are the final instalment of a gift to Cambodia of 75 railway goods wagons and four passenger carriages valued at about £500,000. Forty five of the goods wagons have been assembled in Phnom Penh.

FIL 3010/10/1

CONFIDENTIAL

DEPARTMENT OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS

INWARD CABLEGRAM

3010/10/1 F 242

H:JT

I.25815

Dated: 31st October, 1960.
1253
Rec'd: 1st November, 1960.
0830

FROM:

Australian Embassy,
BANGKOK.

691. CONFIDENTIAL.

Addressed Canberra 691. Repeated Vientiane 34, savingram Saigon 9.

Vientiane telegram 422.

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

1st November, 1960.

DEPARTMENT OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS

CONFIDENTIAL

246

INWARD CABLEGRAM

AMENDED COPY

LS.

I.25596.

Sent: 27th October, 1960
2045.
Recd; 28th October, 1960
0830.

FROM:

Australian Legation,
VIENTIANE.

422 CONFIDENTIAL.

Repeated Saigon 233, Bangkok 88.

From Gibson.

1. Thai Blockade. Since my 421 I have had opportunity of full discussion with Brown today. He told me that as a result of strong United States pressure on the Thailand Government there should be some relaxation of the blockade almost immediately, at least so far as fuel and rice are concerned. (probable alternative was that in the present desperate position, Souvanna Phouma would turn to the Soviet Union for diesel fuel supplies). Brown added in strong terms that the blockade served no useful purpose.

2. Brown confirmed to me (as we already understood to be the case) that the United States Embassy has very recently imported from Thailand petrol. I am aware of no suggestion from any source (including our Ambassador in Bangkok) that such action by the United States represents a breach of the Thai blockade.

3. If handled with due (responsibility) I see no reason why Australia's relations with Thailand should not remain as cordial in Bangkok as they always have been in Vientiane. *

* Amendment.

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

28th October, 1960

DEPARTMENT OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS

INWARD CABLEGRAM

CONFIDENTIAL 245

AH:

I.25595

Sent: 27th October, 1960.
1320
R'cd: 28th October, 1960.
0830

FROM:

Australian Legation,
VIENTIANE.

421. CONFIDENTIAL. IMMEDIATE.

Repeated Saigon 232, Bangkok 87.

From Gibson.

1. In the light of Bangkok's telegram 686, I feel that it may be useful for you to know that:

(a) The Thailand Ambassador in Vientiane was not only formally advised of our approach on petrol, but had spontaneously offered Mr. Forsyth his assistance in this matter.

(b) Our relations with the Thailand Embassy, both officially and personally, remain (as they always have been) excellent.

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

28th October, 1960.

CONFIDENTIAL

DEPARTMENT OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS

INWARD CABLEGRAM

AH:

I.25595

Sent: 27th October, 1960.
1320
R'cd: 28th October, 1960.
0830

FROM:

Australian Legation,
VIENTIANE.

3010/10/1.

421. CONFIDENTIAL. IMMEDIATE.

Repeated Saigon 232, Bangkok 87.

From Gibson.

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

28th October, 1960.

F.

CONFIDENTIAL

SECRET

243

DEPARTMENT OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS

INWARD CABLEGRAM

AH:

I.25466

3010/10/1.

Sent: 26th October, 1960, 1730
R'cd: 27th October, 1960, 0830

FROM:

Australian Embassy,
BANGKOK.

686. SECRET. IMMEDIATE.

Repeated Vientiane 32, Saigon Sav.7.

Reference Vientiane telegram 416.

I hope nothing has been said to the Thai Ambassador to suggest we had ulterior motives in requesting permission for the transition of petrol. We were puzzled (as were the Thais) by the token amount requested but we lodged the application in good faith and indicated that larger quantities would probably be needed.

2. If (as I am now given to understand), the real intention of Vientiane was to use this Embassy to break the blockade I can only regard this as highly unfortunate. It could seriously embarrass our relations with the Government to which we are accredited and in any case make the Thais all the more obstructive. We should surely have been frankly consulted about any such move.

3. You will know that I disagree strongly with the judgments emanating from Vientiane, but my own concern is that nothing should be done to endanger unnecessarily relations between us and the Thais.

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

27th October, 1960.

SEC A/Ss MR.EASTMAN UN ER PAC&AM AM&SP S&SEA SA SEA@ EAF&ME INF DL MT INTELL G
KARACHI KUALA LUMPUR LONDON MANILA NEW DELHI NEW YORK(UN) OTTAWA PARIS PHNOM PENH RANGOON SAIGON SINGAPORE TOKYO WASHINGTON WELLINGTON

Mr Holdich

Pls put on file 3010/10/1

SECRET

242

CONFIDENTIAL.

PL

I.25339

Dated: 25th October, 1960.
2010
Rec'd: 26th October, 1960.
0830

FROM:

Australian Legation,
VIENTIANE.

416 CONFIDENTIAL.

Saigon 230, Bangkok 83.

Thai blockade. of Laos.

Addis, Falaize and I raised the matter informally with the Thai Ambassador yesterday in the course of meeting convened by the latter to discuss the participation by Laos in S.E.A.T.O. Heads of Universities conference. Addis felt the time was about ripe for the United Kingdom, United States and French Ambassadors to make high level representations in Bangkok for the lifting of the blockade. I informed the Thai Ambassador of steps we have taken recently through the Bangkok Embassy to try and secure the import of petrol under diplomatic privilege. I said I hoped we would not be obliged to make approach to the Thai Government on the possible hold up of Colombo Plan shipments (radio equipment, school supplies) in transit to Laos.

2. Zellweger (himself a lawyer) seems to think the case has merit for attention by the Security Council (Reference my telegram 289).

26th October, 1960.

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

SEC A/Ss MR EASTMAN UN PACMA AM&SP S&SEA S.A. SEAG
L.A.P.M.L. INF DL MT INTELL

G

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

CONFIDENTIAL.

3010/10/1 24

19th October, 1960.

Dear Lord Casey,

This morning Parks and Gardens Section informed us that the plants for Princess Chumbhot had been obtained and would be sent to Bangkok by air leaving Monday, 24th October.

I have arranged for the plants to be addressed in the first instance to the Embassy, who will make the necessary arrangements for them to be handed over to the Princess. I think it best that this should be done as soon as possible, but since you yourself will no doubt now wish to write to Princess Chumbhot direct, I shall therefore ask the Embassy to inform her in this sense when they deliver the plants.

With best wishes,

Yours sincerely,

(P.R. HEYDON)

The Right Honourable Lord Casey, C.H., D.S.O., M.C.,
Commonwealth Offices,
Treasury Place,
MELBOURNE.

DEPARTMENT OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS

RESTRICTED

240

OUTWARD CABLEGRAM

:SRT

O.16273

Sent: 20th October, 1960.
1000

TO:

Australian Embassy,
BANGKOK.

756. RESTRICTED.

Our memorandum 1156.

Please deliver plants Princess Chumbhot as from Lord Casey and inform her that he will be writing.

(Cost - £2/14/-)

E.A. (3010/10/1)
RT. HON. LORD CASEY
CH, D.S.O., M.C.
P.M.'s

20th October, 1960.

SEC A/S(DIV. 1) S&SEA SEA

Feli

3010/10/1 239

Extract from Parliamentary Debates - SENATE - 20th October, 1960

"Visit to Australia by Queen of Thailand

Senator LAUGHT - My question is addressed to the Acting Minister for External Affairs. Has the Minister's attention been directed to a report in a Sydney newspaper that the Queen of Thailand hoped shortly to pay a visit to Australia? This information was apparently conveyed by Her Majesty to a lady friend of hers in Australia. I am sure that Her Majesty's wish will be received with feelings of gladness by the Australian people when the report is confirmed in official quarters, because Thailand is one of our partners in the South-East Asia Treaty Organisation. Will the Minister state the official position in regard to this matter?

Senator GORTON - The official position is that visits to Australia by heads of state are arranged by the Prime Minister's Department. The King and Queen of Thailand have been told that they will be welcome in Australia whenever they care to come. However, there are no grounds for the statement that the Queen of Thailand is to come here soon."

P.R. H[redacted]don, Esq., C.B.E.

With
Lord Casey's
Compliments.

To see. Many thanks for fixing this up.

Melbourne, C.2.
4th November 1960.

COMMONWEALTH OF AUSTRALIA

With

Mr. R. G. Casey's

Compliments

COMMONWEALTH OFFICES
TREASURY GARDENS
MELBOURNE, C.2

(COPY)

352 Sri Ayudhya Road. 238

28th October.

Dearest Maie,

Mrs. Booker, the wife of your Ambassador, called on me today, bringing with her the plants you and Lord Casey so kindly sent me. Although detained in the Customs over the week-end, they are still in very good condition and I hope they will flourish in my country garden. Thank you very much indeed.

After my aunt and I left England, we went to Vienna for 10 days, which we enjoyed very much, and spent the rest of the summer in Switzerland. It was cold and raining most of the time. In September we went to Greece for a fortnight; there it was very hot and the sun nearly roasted us alive. I noticed the oleander standards that you told me about. Greece was surprisingly Oriental, and much more barren and rocky than I had anticipated. The cruise ship was rather uncomfortable, and I enjoyed the motor tour much more. We drove to Sparta as well, and saw the Byzantine ruins of Mistria, which were beautiful, but the site of Delphi is breath taking.

On the way home we stopped at Israel and met friends of the Kidrons (Israel Ambassador here and my favourite diplomat) who made us very welcome. The progress made in Israel is remarkable. We liked Istanbul also but found Teheran nothing more than a gigantic dustheap. Luckily we had Iranian friends and spent most of our stay in their garden.

I have been very busy since I got back. The collection is now open to the public and I feel somewhat like a pale imitation of the Duke of Bedford!

Kindest regards to your husband, and best love to yourself. Do let me know when you pass through again.

Affectionately -

(Sgd.) PANTIP

Don

(1) Interior claims to have sent another account to us — by mail this time. Registry haven't yet seen it. However it should definitely go through them before being sent to us.

(2) U.N. have not received an account, but do not expect to do so as their trees were a "gift of the Austr. Govt." They have not received the account meant for us.

(3) The next bag from Bangkok will come in tomorrows morning at 10.

HH.

Person concerned in Parks & Gardens is Mrs Hewett, phone (direct line) J 4665.

Total cost = £9.10.0

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Commonwealth Offices,
Treasury Place,
Melbourne, C.2.

24th October 1960.

My dear Peter -

What about the cost of the plants for Princess Chumbhot? What do I owe you in this regard?

Yours

Valerie

P.R. Heydon, Esq., C.B.E.,
Department of External Affairs,
CANBERRA. A.C.T.

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DEPARTMENT OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS
28 OCT 1960
3010/10/1
CANBERRA

AUSTRALIAN EMBASSY,
BANGKOK.

In reply quote No. 621/4/6/14
Memorandum No. 1727

26th October, 1960.

The Secretary,
Department of External Affairs,
CANBERRA.

PLANTS FOR PRINCESS CHUMBHOT.

Please refer to your memorandum 1156 of 19th October, 1960 (file 3010/10/1). This is the second occasion in the past 10 days when the Department has sent us a small consignment of plants, the previous occasion being the despatch of six Eucalyptus trees for the U.N. Day tree planting ceremony.

2. Customs formalities at Bangkok have always been particularly difficult and it is very likely indeed that the plants for Princess Chumbhot will be either dead or past the stage of revival by the time we are able to take delivery. If this is in fact the case we shall let you know immediately so that replacements can be forwarded.

3. We should stress that the only practicable method of consigning plants to Bangkok is for them to be brought up personally by the courier. I should be glad if this could be kept in mind when any future consignments may be sent to us.

A. F. Blackburn

(A. F. Blackburn)
Second Secretary.

Mr [illegible] 31/10/60

This is all very well, after the event, but nothing was said to us before hand although B'KoK knew that we intended to send the ~~not~~ plants.
Parks & Gardens tell us that they should get 4-5 days W.O. attention - they should have arrived 26/10 or 27/10
Presumably B'KoK will make every effort to expedite clearance -

or should we send tel. on this pt.
28/10

RESTRICTED

RESTRICTED

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AUSTRALIAN EMBASSY,
BANGKOK.

In reply quote No. 621/4/3/2

Memorandum No. 1666

18th October 1960

DEPARTMENT OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS
20 OCT 1960
3010/10/1
CANBERRA

The Secretary,
Department of External Affairs,
CANBERRA.

National Defence College

I gave an informal speech to the Thai National Defence College on October 14th on conditions in Australia, and also gave some description of Australia's relations with South-East Asia.

2. Several questions were asked following my address. They were mostly concerned with enquiries about Australia, but it may be of interest that a senior Army officer enquired whether we regarded the dispute with Indonesia over West New Guinea as likely to endanger peace or to create a situation which could be exploited by the Communists. I briefly explained Australia's policy in regard to West New Guinea and drew attention to the statements by Indonesian leaders renouncing the use of force in connection with the dispute. I also took the opportunity of describing our policy in Australian New Guinea and Papua along the lines of recent instructions. I emphasised that our general relations with Indonesia were close and cordial.

3. An Air Force officer asked a question regarding rice production in Australia, which he couched in critical terms. I described the development of rice production in the irrigation area and also mentioned that it was one of the crops which might be used to develop our tropical areas. I endeavoured to discount any fears however that our production would be a direct threat to Thai rice exports.

(M. R. Booker)
Ambassador

RESTRICTED

RESTRICTED 233

AUSTEMBA

BANGKOK

3010/10/1

RESTRICTED

Our Memorandum 1156.

Please deliver plants Princess Chumbhot as from Lord Casey and inform her that he will be writing.

PRH

3010/10/1

RESTRICTED

19/10/60

ARMS PRODUCTION IN SOUTH AFRICA.

South Africa plans to develop an armaments industry which eventually will supply most of the weapons and ammunitions it needs for its armed forces. The Defence Minister said yesterday that agreements had been reached with overseas manufacturers to produce arms in South Africa, and the Government was investigating ways of making the Union independent of outside supply. He said South Africa was building up a task force for internal defence, but in an emergency it would be used also outside South Africa.

U.S. NAVY REPORTS SOVIET ROCKET TRACKING SHIPS RETURNING FROM PACIFIC.

The United States Navy said today that four Soviet ships of the type used to track missiles and space rockets are heading towards home after having been stationed in the Pacific for four weeks. The ships took up their positions in the Pacific shortly before Mr. Khrushchev arrived in New York to attend the United Nations Meetings. Correspondents say their appearance tended to support claims that the Russians intended a spectacular space achievement whilst Mr. Khrushchev was in New York, but that it had failed or had been postponed. The Navy said in Washington that the four tracking ships had been stationed in the Pacific in a line stretching 1500 miles. However at the weekend they turned around and began to steam towards Siberia.

"FRIENDS AND NEIGHBOURS" TO BE USED AS TEXT BOOK IN THAI SCHOOLS

A book written by Lord Casey, Australia's former Minister for External Affairs, has been adopted in Thailand for a textbook for secondary schools. The book called "Friends and Neighbours" discusses Australia's foreign policy in Asian countries. It has been translated into Thai by a former journalist, Mr. Manas, who once studied in Australia. The Director of Information in Thailand said the book would be used in courses on social studies.

F → 3010/10/1

A.B.C. NEWS - 12.30 p.m. Wednesday, 19th October.

MR. MENZIES RETURNS FROM NEW YORK.

The Prime Minister, Mr. Menzies, said today that he was convinced that there were excellent prospects for a Big Four Summit Meeting next April or May. The Prime Minister was speaking at Sydney's Kingsford Smith Airport on his return from New York where he addressed the General Assembly of the United Nations. Mr. Menzies said that a greatly enhanced prospect of a summit meeting was the one positive result which had emerged from the General Assembly Meeting. Private talks which he had had with Mr. Khrushchev had convinced him that the Russian Premier wanted the United States, the Soviet Union, Britain and France to meet at the summit after the next American Presidential Elections. Mr. Menzies said that in the talk, which lasted 70 minutes, he had discussed with Mr. Khrushchev the priorities which might be given to agenda items at a summit meeting. Mr. Khrushchev had said that a broad discussion on nuclear disarmament was the most vital issue. Mr. Khrushchev had added that he would give disarmament priority over all other matters including the issue of West Berlin. Mr. Menzies described the Russian Premier as an assertive dictator with an earthy sense of humour. Mr. Khrushchev clearly saw himself as a potential leader of a world organisation other than the United Nations in its present form. His comments in the General Assembly that the United Nations headquarters should be transferred to Moscow were not entirely a jest. Mr. Menzies said that Mr. Khrushchev had displayed a keen knowledge of Australia, both geographically and economically. Discussing his amendment in the General Assembly seeking a Four Power Meeting, Mr. Menzies said, he had put the proposal entirely on his own initiative. He had not been sounded out beforehand by any country, nor was his amendment a political stratagem.. He did not anticipate at any stage that his amendment would be carried by the General Assembly, but he wanted to get rid of the persistent notion that the future of the whole world rested on the United States and the Soviet Union. The Prime Minister said that there was no reality in the motion by the neutral nations seeking a meeting between Mr. Khrushchev and President Eisenhower. 48 hours before the motion was put both the Russian Premier and President Eisenhower, individually, had rejected the idea of a meeting. Mr. Menzies said that he was deeply surprised by the comments of the Indian Prime Minister, Mr. Nehru, on his amendment. He added "I dare say Mr. Nehru now regrets some of the things he said". Mr. Menzies said that he saw no sign among nations of the assembly meeting that Australia had lost prestige as a result of his amendment. The only suggestion of a loss of prestige appeared to come from Australia itself.

U.N. POLITICAL COMMITTEE TO GIVE PRIORITY TO DISARMAMENT.

The United Nations main committee, the Political Committee of 99 nations, decided today to give priority to the disarmament problem in its discussions. after a long procedural wrangle the committee decided that the United Nations programme for African independence and development should be taken up next, and this should be followed by a debate on Algeria. The Committee would take four items related to disarmament together the suspension of nuclear tests, the prevention of wide organisation of nuclear weapons, the report of the disarmament commission, and general disarmament.

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3010/10/1
1156

19th October, 1960.

The Australian Embass y,
BANGKOK.

PLANTS FOR PRINCESS CHUMBHOT

Please refer to your memorandum 1466 of 16th September, 1960 (file 621/4/6/14).

2. These plants, addressed to the Embassy, will be freighted on BOAC Flight BA.705 on 24th October, 1960.

(D.J. HORNE)
for the Secretary.

The Director,
Parkes and Gardens,
CANBERRA.

Referred in connection with telephone conversation this morning.

(DJ. HORNE)
for the Secretary.

3010/10/1
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AUSTRALIAN EMBASSY,
ROME.

In reply quote No. 226/3
Memorandum No. 905

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

4th October, 1960.

State Visit of the King and Queen of Thailand.

The King and Queen of Thailand arrived in Rome for a three-day State Visit on 28th September. As you will be aware, they have already paid similar State Visits to England and Sweden and following Italy, their European itinerary takes them to Belgium, France, Luxembourg, Holland and Spain.

2. While in Rome, they were the guests of the President, Signor Gronchi, at the Quirinale Palace, and a comprehensive programme of sightseeing and official entertainment kept them strenuously occupied during their three days in the city. An unusual feature of the programme was an equestrian display by the Carabinieri in the Piazza di Siena, which included an impressive cavalry charge past the official stand.

3. Together with my diplomatic colleagues I was presented to King Bhumibol Adulyadej at the usual ceremony held for the purpose on the day of the royal visitors' arrival. Unlike many Heads of State on such occasions, the King not merely shook hands with each Head of Mission but had a personal word or two to say to them. In my case, he said that he had just come from Switzerland where he had had the pleasure of visiting the Australian Pavilion at the Lausanne Fair. After speaking in most complimentary terms of our exhibit, he went on to express the hope that he would be able to visit Australia itself someday. I replied that we had felt greatly honoured by his visit to our pavilion at Lausanne and that I knew it would give great pleasure both to the Government and people of Australia were he to visit our country at some future date.

4. Accompanied by my wife, I subsequently attended an official reception given for the King and Queen of Thailand by President Gronchi at the Quirinale at which we were both presented to Their Majesties and had a few words of conversation with both of them. On the last day of the visit, my wife also attended a reception given by the Thai Ambassador in honour of both the King and Queen and the Italian President and Donna Carla Gronchi. I was unfortunately prevented from attending by a heavy cold and my wife made apologies for my absence. On this occasion, as on the former ones, the King and Queen, whose charm and dignity greatly impressed everyone, appeared to want to show a special cordiality to Australia's representatives and my wife was invited to sit with each of them in turn for some minutes' conversation. At the Quirinale Reception the King had spoken to me warmly

Mr Blakeney B/10
Sections marked
Mr L Smith Holyoak
File
12/10
seen 4/11/10 ER (Please note para 3)
SEA (retain) orig - 37/1/4/17 11/10

of the close ties between our two countries and his appreciation of the role, both political and economic, which we were playing in South East Asia.

5. At the conclusion of the King's State Visit to President Gronchi, he was received in Special Audience by the Pope. The Rome press drew attention to the fact that this was one of the rare cases (and the first during the reign of Pope John XXIII) in which a Pope had received a sovereign who was also the head of a religious cult. As you will be aware, King Bhumibol is not only the religious head of his country with a title somewhat similar to that of "Defender of the Faith" carried by our own Monarch, but he is also a fully ordained Bhuddist priest and lived as such for three years before coming to the Throne in accordance with the traditions of his country.

6. The Italian press reported the events of the Visit prominently and sympathetically. Both the King and Queen created a very good impression everywhere they went and quickly obtained wide popularity.

H. A. McClure Smith
AMBASSADOR

SEATO

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SEATO - RESTRICTED

SOUTH-EAST ASIA TREATY ORGANIZATION

COUNCIL REPRESENTATIVES

SCR/60/D-171
October 11, 1960

SEATO SKILLED LABOUR PROJECT

Australia - Thailand Element

Progress Report

References:
EE/5/D-2 and Add. 2 & 3
EE/5/Rep, pp. 15-16
SCR/59/D-119
SCR/59/R-10, Item 11(b)
EE/6/D-10
EE/6/D-14
EE/6/Rep, pp. 16-17
SCR/60/R-7, Annex B, Item 5(a)

Note by the Office of the Secretary-General

The report at Annex A (No. 86/03, dated September 1, 1960) on the progress achieved in the establishment of the Military Technical Training School, which has been received by the Secretary-General from Group-Captain CHAMRAS Vinagupta, RTAF, Director of the School, is circulated for the information of Council Representatives.

3010/10/1

F

W. WORTH

Fils - Aust/Thailde pl

SEATO - RESTRICTED

Annex A to
SCR/60/D-171

SEATO Skilled Labour Project
(Australia - Thailand Element)

MILITARY TECHNICAL TRAINING SCHOOL

Progress Report at September 1, 1960

The Military Technical Training School was established under one of four educational programmes offered by the Government of Australia as an aid to Thailand for the purpose of collective defence under SEATO. This programme is called "Programme for the Establishment of a Basic Trade Training Centre for All Services".

2. The Government of Australia had sent a mission to investigate the need for skilled labour in Thailand in the year 1957-58, and submitted a report to the Committee of Economic Experts of SEATO on November 25, 1958.

3. Finally, the two Governments agreed that a Military Technical Training School should be set up for which:-

(a) The Thai Government would supply land as well as buildings, including supplies and fixtures, and would also provide officers and instructors as necessary to keep the school running.

(b) The Australian Government would provide equipment and materials, including machinery, in addition to providing a teaching staff of 5 instructors for a period of at least 2 years.

4. The Thai Government had directed the Ministry of Defence - through its General Staff Department - to acquire land and to build school buildings with the advice of the Australian Chief Instructor (Lt. Colonel B.C. Sefton) who was sent by the Australian Government at the end of 1959 to give suggestions on the details of construction and the possibility of acquiring equipment and materials locally.

5. The General Staff Department bought a piece of land of about 3 acres in Aladdin Lane at 12.8 Km. on Paholyothin Road at a cost of 453,920 baht, and completed the construction of a building on July 28, 1960 at a cost of 2,810,950 baht, and has acquired supplies and fixtures, including stationery and transport vehicles, at a cost of about 570,936 baht.

6. The total outlay by the Thai Government amounts to about 3,835,806 baht.

7. If the salaries and wages of 67 officers and employees are also included, the total outlay would be 4,042,527 baht. Such expenditure has amounted to 69,000 baht per month from June 1960 to the present time, totalling 207,000 baht.

/8.

8. The Australian Government has supplied equipment and materials, starting with the first delivery in February 1959 up to the present, amounting to more than 100 tons valued at 7,050,000 baht. The balance of the shipment - about 10% - will arrive no later than the end of October 1960.

9. The instructional staff from Australia, with Lt. Colonel B.C. Sefton as Chief Instructor, Captain Tinkler as his assistant and three other Warrant Officers (First Class), arrived on February 29, 1960. The expenditure of the staff, including transportation, salaries, per diem, rent, representation, etc., up to the present amounts to 658,000 baht.

10. The total outlay made by the Australian Government amounts to 7,708,000 baht.

11. The total expenditure of the School up to September 1, 1960 is 11,750,527 baht.

Objectives

12. This School is aimed at teaching a universal standard of basic skill to the trainees in order to enable them to receive further training and become foremen, supervisors or instructors in the following technical fields:-

(a) General Fitting;
(b) Machining;
(c) Electrical Fitting;
(d) Welding and Blacksmithing;
(e) Sheet-Metal Working.

Period of training

13. It will take the trainees two years to graduate from this School, but they shall have to be apprentices in other factories and carry on assignments in their particular fields for about 2 more years before they can be called skilled craftsmen. After that they should attend higher special courses, including administration. According to Australian standards, it will take from 5 to 7 years before skilled craftsmen can effectively perform their duties or before experienced foremen can be obtained.

14. This School is scheduled to produce about 100 students annually. Consequently, at the beginning of the second academic year as well as the following years, there will be about 200 regular students. On September 1, 1960, the following had reported for duty:-

From	the Army	50	students
"	the Navy	20	"
"	the Air Force	20	"
"	the General Staff Dept.	3	"
"	Military Industry Dept.	7	"
"	Police Dept.	10	"
	Total	110	"

/15.

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Annex A to
SCR/60/D-171

15. Preliminary courses are being offered at present to test the technical ability of the trainees. It is expected that about 10 students may have to be dismissed after 3 months (the Australian standard dismissing rate is 10-15%).

16. There has been no way of ascertaining the actual total budget of this School. It is estimated that 2 million baht will have to be spent annually. The rate of expenditure is about the same as that of the Technical College of Northern Bangkok (conducted with German assistance), which turns out 50 students a year (plus another number of special evening students) with an estimated expenditure of 1.5 million baht per year.

DRAFT ONLY

Miss Bell 224
Could you type up pls
19/10

The Right Honourable Lord Casey, C.H., D.S.O., M.C.,
Commonwealth Offices,
Treasury Place,
MELBOURNE.

19-9-60

Dear Lord Casey,

This morning Parks and Gardens Section ~~advised~~ informed us that the plants for Princes Chumbhot had been obtained and would be sent to Bangkok by air ~~freight~~ leaving Monday 24th October.

I have arranged for
The plants ~~are~~ to be addressed in the first instance to the Embassy, who will make the necessary arrangements for them to be handed over to the Princess. I think it best that this should be done as soon as possible, but since you yourself will no doubt wish to write to Princess Chumbhot direct, ~~and~~ I shall therefore ask the Embassy to inform her (now) in this sense when they ~~hand over~~ deliver the plants.

Yours sincerely

(P.R HEYDON)

Mr Heydon
For your approval about draft. I will draft tel to B'KOK in sense of last sentence.
So far, I am only informed them of flight arrangements.
Earlier letter from Lord Casey flagged.
19/9

223

3010/10/1

6th October, 1960.

The Director,
Parks and Gardens Section,
Department of the Interior,
A C T O N. A.C.T.

PLANTS FOR PRINCESS CHUMBHOT OF THAILAND.

Please refer to Mr Shoobridge's letter of 30th May, and our memorandum to you dated 23rd June.

2. The list of plants (the seven readily available species listed in paragraph 2 of Mr Shoobridge's letter) was referred to the Thai quarantine authorities who have replied as follows:-

> "According to the Plant Diseases and Pests Prevention Act, BE.2495, the importation into Thailand of such plants requires no other formalities other than a Phytosanitary certificate issued by the competent authorities of the country of origin to be produced to the port authorities upon arrival of the plants in Thailand."

3. We should be grateful -

(a) if you would now take steps to procure one specimen of each of the following and despatch them on our behalf by air to Bangkok accompanied by a Phytosanitary certificate:-

Pimelea ferruginea
Chamaelaucium uncinatum
Grevillea punica
Olearia dentata
Epaeris longiflora
Prostanthera nivea
Calistemon citrinus var splendens

(b) for an estimate of when you expect procurement to be completed as we would like to keep both Lord Casey and Princess Chumbhot informed of developments.

(D. J. Horne)
for the Secretary.

Mr Hewitt (?) (Parks & Gardens) rang this morning about freight requirements. I asked her to arrange on forwarding for us, addressing plants to Embassy. She agreed, & phoned back flight details - BOAC BA701, 24/10/60.

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AUSTRALIAN EMBASSY,
BANGKOK.

DEPARTMENT OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS
20 SEP 1960
30/8/1/1
CANBERRA

In reply quote No. 621/4/6/14
Memorandum No. 1466

16th September, 1960.

The Secretary,
Department of External Affairs,
CANBERRA.

PLANTS FOR PRINCESS CHUMBHOT.

Please refer to your memorandum No. 664 of 21st June, 1960 on file 3010/10/1.

2. The list of plants was referred to the Thai authorities on 5th July. The Ministry of Foreign Affairs has now replied that "according to the Plant Diseases and Pests Prevention Act, B.E.2495, the importation into Thailand of such plants requires no other formalities other than a Phytosanitary certificate issued by the competent authorities of the country of origin to be produced to the port authorities upon arrival of the plants in Thailand".

(W. P. J. Handmer)
Second Secretary.

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AUSTRALIAN EMBASSY,
BANGKOK.

621/4/6/14

In reply quote No. 1466

Memorandum No.

16th September, 1960.

The Secretary,
Department of External Affairs,
CANBERRA.

PLANTS FOR PRINCESS CHUMBHOT.

Please refer to your memorandum No. 664 of 21st June, 1960 on file 3010/10/1.

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(W. P. J. Handmer)
Second Secretary.

DEPARTMENT OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS

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OUTWARD CABLEGRAM

CONFIDENTIAL

→ 3010/10/1

JRR

O.13391

Sent: 25th August, 1960

1630

TO:

Australian Embassy,
BANGKOK....638

Repeated:

Australian Embassy,
PHNOM PENH....158

Australian Commission,
SINGAPORE....720

CONFIDENTIAL

Cambodian rail wagons.

Your telegram No. 532.

Agree you should make new approach to Thanad on transit of wagons.

2. If Thais still refuse our request you should indicate to Thanad our keen disappointment and regret that Thailand will not help us in this problem of Colombo Plan administration. Tell him this is contrary to spirit of co-operation embodied in the Colombo Plan and the only effect will be to inconvenience the Australian Government and put it to further expense.

(Cost - £27.8.2)
25th August, 1960.

MIN. & DEPT. E.A. (2036/15/3)
P.M's.

SEC A/Ss TA@ S&SEA SEA CPSD
KUALA LUMPUR

CONFIDENTIAL

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DEPARTMENT OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS

INWARD CABLEGRAM

GJW:FH:HC

I.18582

Dated: 10th August, 1960.
1830
Rec'd: 11th August, 1960.
0830

FROM:

Australian Embassy,
BANGKOK.

3010/10/1

483. CONFIDENTIAL IMMEDIATE.

Addressed Canberra 483, repeated Phnom Penh 31.

Thanat told me today that at its meeting yesterday Cabinet had not repeat not approved the transit of waggons through Thailand to Cambodia. The view had been taken that to do so would imply acceptance of the statement broadcast by Cambodian Radio that Thailand was obliged to allow transit of the waggons because of its obligations under the Colombo Plan.

2. I pointed out that Australia had made the request for transit and we, of course, fully acknowledged Thailand's right to refuse. We hoped, however, that it would not do so because it would involve us in considerable extra difficulties and cost. Thanat said that Cabinet regretted any inconvenience to us, but felt a request should also be made by Cambodia. Supposedly international courtesy required this but, in the view of the Cambodian Government's previous statements, it was now necessary to protect Thailand's sovereign rights.

3. I said that there seemed little prospect that Cambodia would make a formal request and the consequence would be that we would be placed in a position of considerable embarrassment. Thanat replied feelingly that Thailand was continually being asked to make concessions while Cambodian behaviour became more and more outrageous. He said that he hoped Stuart might at least be able to indicate to them that a request of some kind to Thailand was desirable. If nothing came of this he would be glad to have another talk with me about the problem.

4. It is clear it has now become difficult to disentangle this matter from the general question of Thai Cambodian relations (see my immediately following telegram) and although I pressed the argument for an immediate decision, Thanat remained adamant. If you feel Stuart should make the suggested approach glad if you would instruct him accordingly. My own belief, however, is that as we are clearly entering a delicate and difficult stage in Thai Cambodian relations it might be preferable to accept the need to ship the waggons by sea and thus remove one source of friction.

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

11th August, 1960.

SEC A/Ss T/C S&SEA SEA INF
C.P.S.D.
KUALA LUMPUR SINGAPORE

CONFIDENTIAL

3010/10/1. 218

CONFIDENTIAL

DEPARTMENT OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS

INWARD CABLEGRAM (F) Aust/Thai Hist

I. 14631.

Dated: 27th June, 1960.
2110.

FPS:MP Rec'd: 28th June, 1960.
0830.

FROM:

Australian Embassy,
BANGKOK.

404. CONFIDENTIAL

Repeated Savingram Phnom Penh, Saigon, Vientiane.

SARIT.

When I paid my formal call on Sarit today we had some discussion about Thai relations with Cambodia. I gave some account of Ministers' views as expressed at S.E.A.T.O. Council on desirability of development of community of Nations in South East Asia and this led to the subject of outstanding differences between countries in the area. Sarit said that Thailand had tried to be friendly with Cambodians but Sihanouk had made it very difficult. He was constantly attacking Thailand. He had made himself a kind of leader or 'Fuhrer' in Cambodia and Sarit said he did not even know now what his position really was. He seemed to have become King, President and Prime Minister all in one and it was difficult to know what he would do next. He is foolish enough to believe that he could manage Communists but, in fact, was falling more and more into their hands. I said that if friendly relations could be established between Thailand and Cambodia it might be possible for Thais to influence Cambodians to adopt wiser policies in their dealings with Chinese Communists. Sarit repeated that Cambodians made it very difficult to be friendly. The Acting Foreign Minister (who was present at interview) argued vehemently that the Thais were very anxious to establish friendly relations and had done their best to do so. Sarit assented to this. The Acting Foreign Minister recalled that Australia was also trying to help Cambodians "even by sending railway trucks to them through Thailand". But they seemed to be merely determined to get as much as possible from everybody, including Communists.

2. I said that it was a pity that the problem of the Temple at Viharn could not be settled. Sarit said that Thai people could not be expected to give up their territory.

3. Situation in Laos was then briefly discussed and Sarit said that it was most unfortunate that the N.L.H.S. leaders had escaped. He was afraid that more trouble could be expected in Laos before long. Although new Government had been formed he did not think that position could be regarded as 'stabilised'.

4. Sarit said that he was glad to know that the new Chief of Military Planning Office at S.E.A.T.O. was an Australian. He mentioned that Thais had hoped to secure post of Deputy Chief but that Pakistanis had managed to get this. He said this good humourdly. I said that we were very gratified that

CONFIDENTIAL ./.

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CONFIDENTIAL

DEPARTMENT OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS

INWARD CABLEGRAM

I. 14631.

2.

Sarasin had agreed to carry on as Secretary General and that we greatly valued his leadership..

5. Sarit seemed in good health and ebullient spirits. He expressed high regard for Waller and said that he attached great importance to relations with Australia.

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

28th June, 1960.

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

KARACHI LONDON MANILA NEW DELHI UN NEW YORK OTTAWA
PARIS SINGAPORE TOKYO WASHINGTON WELLINGTON

CONFIDENTIAL

3010/10/1/216

CONFIDENTIAL

26th July, 1960

THAI REQUEST FOR TRAINING AT DUNTROON

Canfels 676/2/13

MR. BLAKENEY

Please see Army's letter of 7th July.

2. This request is complicated somewhat by the fact that the enquirer - General Tak - is President of the National Defence College. It is with that College or its graduates that we are at present having certain difficulties. I think we must react sympathetically even if in the end we find we are unable to accede.

3. Two related points are raised -

(A) The particular case of Tak's son.

(B) The general question of training Asians at Duntroon.

4. For the time being, I think we can confine ourselves to (A). It may be that Tak's son does not meet our entrance standards in which case he must be politely turned down. However, we have no background information about him at all, other than a bare recommendation from the Service Attache. Before going further we must obviously have the additional details required. If he could qualify for entry, it may still be possible to stall - Duntroon is not the same as Sandhurst or Cranwell; Portsea is available, as well as other general courses; Duntroon is specifically designed for Australian/New Zealand requirements; arguments of that sort.

5. Defence will be writing to us shortly, but these about views, if acceptable to you and D.L. might be passed informally to Defence. We should reply quickly. The enquiry was made in May.

(1) Mr Lamb please.

(2) File.

6. I would suggest that the reply to Bangkok might be made through the Embassy - telegram would ensure that. If the additional information required is not readily available and an approach to Tak is necessary, this will need to be handled very carefully to ensure that no commitment is made, and what is equally important that no impression is given that Duntroon may in fact be available.

7. It may not prove possible, however, to hold Tak off for ever, and I believe we should invit Defence/Army to give serious thought now to the general problem raised by Tak's request. The U.S. do not I believe take in other than Americans at West Point. Why ? This may help us in our consider ation. There may be good reasons on military or security grounds for confining Duntroon to Australia and New Zealanders. Facilities may be insufficient etc. These are matters for Defence.

CONFIDENTIAL

CONFIDENTIAL

8. From our point of view, providing Defence has no fundamental objection, we should try to aim at some quantitative arrangement similar to that at present existing for Thai participation at the Army Staff College at Queenscliff.

(D.J. Horne)

CONFIDENTIAL

→ 3010/10/1 2nd

CONFIDENTIAL

DEPARTMENT OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS

INWARD CABLEGRAM

I. 14631.

Dated: 27th June, 1960.
2110.

FPS:MP

Rec'd: 28th June, 1960.
0830.

FROM:

Australian Embassy,
BANGKOK.

404. CONFIDENTIAL

Repeated Savingram Phnom Penh, Saigon, Vientiane.

SARIT.

When I paid my formal call on Sarit today we had some discussion about Thai relations with Cambodia. I gave some account of Ministers' views as expressed at S.E.A.T.O. Council on desirability of development of community of Nations in South East Asia and this led to the subject of outstanding differences between countries in the area. Sarit said that Thailand had tried to be friendly with Cambodians but Sihanouk had made it very difficult. He was constantly attacking Thailand. He had made himself a kind of leader or 'Fuhrer' in Cambodia and Sarit said he did not even know now what his position really was. He seemed to have become King, President and Prime Minister all in one and it was difficult to know what he would do next. He is foolish enough to believe that he could manage Communists but, in fact, was falling more and more into their hands. I said that if friendly relations could be established between Thailand and Cambodia it might be possible for Thais to influence Cambodians to adopt wiser policies in their dealings with Chinese Communists. Sarit repeated that Cambodians made it very difficult to be friendly. The Acting Foreign Minister (who was present at interview) argued vehemently that the Thais were very anxious to establish friendly relations and had done their best to do so. Sarit assented to this. The Acting Foreign Minister recalled that Australia was also trying to help Cambodians "even by sending railway trucks to them through Thailand". But they seemed to be merely determined to get as much as possible from everybody, including Communists.

2. I said that it was a pity that the problem of the Temple at Viharn could not be settled. Sarit said that Thai people could not be expected to give up their territory.

3. Situation in Laos was then briefly discussed and Sarit said that it was most unfortunate that the N.L.H.S. leaders had escaped. He was afraid that more trouble could be expected in Laos before long. Although new Government had been formed he did not think that position could be regarded as 'stabilised'.

4. Sarit said that he was glad to know that the new Chief of Military Planning Office at S.E.A.T.O. was an Australian. He mentioned that Thais had hoped to secure post of Deputy Chief but that Pakistanis had managed to get this. He said this good humourdly. I said that we were very gratified that

CONFIDENTIAL ./.

CONFIDENTIAL

DEPARTMENT OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS

INWARD CABLEGRAM

I. 14631.

2.

Sarasin had agreed to carry on as Secretary General and that we greatly valued his leadership..

5. Sarit seemed in good health and ebullient spirits. He expressed high regard for Waller and said that he attached great importance to relations with Australia.

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

28th June, 1960.

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

KARACHI LONDON MANILA NEW DELHI UN NEW YORK OTTAWA
PARIS SINGAPORE TOKYO WASHINGTON WELLINGTON

as from - 73 St.James's St.
London, S.W.1.

212

3010/10/1

24th June, 1960.

My dear Peter -

Thank you for your letter of June 17th and for what you have done about the Australian plants for Princess Chumbhot, which is very good of you. I notice that the total cost is likely to come ~~me~~ to about £10.

I will refund Dept. per this on return.

No doubt you have been in touch with our Embassy in Bangkok about this - and have asked them to let Princess Chumbhot know how the matter stands. When it is all fixed up you might let me know and I will send a personal letter to her.

Things seem to be going quite reasonably well here. There is a great deal more to do than I had expected in connectiom with the House of Lords etc. - and it looks unlikely as if we will be able to leave London before August 1st. My present idea is to spend a few days in Pakistan, New Delhi and Singapore on the way home.

Best wishes -

Yours

M.S.C.

Melbourne
Admin No. 139/4

Peter Heydon, Esq., CBE.
Department of External Affairs,
CANBERRA, A.C.T.

W. Blackeney

DLS/GB

211

3010/10/1

23rd June, 1960.

The Director,
Parks and Gardens Section,
Department of the Interior,
CANBERRA. A.C.T.

PLANTS FOR PRINCESS CHUMBHOT OF THAILAND

Please refer to Mr. Shoobridge's memorandum of 30th May.

2. Due to difficulties in obtaining specimens of Grevillea Ornithopoda, Hibiscus Husgelii and Epacris Longiflora it has been suggested to Lord Casey that his gift of plants to Princess Chumbhot be confined to the seven readily available species listed in Mr. Shoobridge's memorandum.

3. The Australian Embassy in Bangkok has been asked to obtain clearance from the Thai quarantine authorities for the admission to Thailand of the seven species. It is suggested therefore that procurement of plants be delayed until this clearance is received from Bangkok.

(D.J. Horne)
for the Secretary

DLS/GB

3010/10/1
664

21st June, 1960.

The Australian Embassy,
BANGKOK.

PLANTS FOR PRINCESS CHUMBHOT

Attached are copies of self-explanatory correspondence between Lord Casey and Mr. Heydon on Princess Chumbhot's request for some Australian plants.

2. As you will see from Mr. Heydon's letter of 17th June, the Australian quarantine authorities will not allow the plants to leave Australia until they have written confirmation from their Thai counterparts that the plants will be allowed into Bangkok.

3. We should be grateful if you could obtain this confirmation (as well as any other documentation which may be required) in respect of all the plants except Crevillea Ornithopoda, Hibiscus Husgelii and Epacris Longiflora.

(D.J. Horne)
for the Secretary

→ 3010/10/1 209

DEPARTMENT OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS.

INWARD CABLEGRAM.

JMF:HC

I.13736

Dated: 16th June, 1960.
1648
Rec'd: 17th June, 1960.
0830

FROM:

Australian Embassy,
BANGKOK.

391. UNCLASSIFIED PRIORITY.

For the Director of Air Force Intelligence from Service Attache.

I was today informed by R.T.A.F. that 3 C47's will be leaving for a visit to Australia in about 2 weeks time. They will travel via Singapore and Djakarta. They have no maps or plotted charts for this journey. Can you assist?

AIR
DEFENCE
P.M's.

17th June, 1960.

SEC A/Ss SEA DL@ MT INTELL S&SEA

Wing Cmd THOMPSON

2852

3010/10/1

17th June, 1960.

Dear Lord Casey,

In my letter of 24th May, I undertook to consult the Parks and Gardens section of the Department of Interior about Princess Chumbhot's request for some Australian plants.

Of the ten species requested by Princess Chumbhot, all but three can be obtained within about six weeks and should be successful in Bangkok. The total cost of one specimen of each of these plants would be £3.0.0 and air freight charges (despatch by sea is not recommended) would amount to approximately £7.0.0 making a total of £10.0.0 in all.

Our quarantine authorities will not allow the plants to leave Australia until they have written confirmation from the Thai authorities that the plants will be allowed into Bangkok. As soon as I receive this confirmation through our Embassy, I shall ask Parks and Gardens to go ahead with procurement, packing and despatch of the plants.

The Director of Parks and Gardens has been unable, so far, to obtain Grevillea Ornithopoda, Hibiscus Husgelii and Epacris Longiflora from his normal sources of supply. It may take up to six months before specimens can be found. In the circumstances, I am inclined to think it best to send the seven plants already available and leave it at that.

Yours sincerely,

(Sgd) PRH

(P. R. Heydon)

The Right Honourable Lord Casey, P.C., C.H.,
D.S.O., M.C.

C/- Australia House,
Strand,
LONDON. W.C.2.

EXTERNAL AFFAIRS

Melbourne Memo to Bangkok No. 20/6

Acting Secretary Letter signed by Mr Heyes on 17/10/60

Plants for Thai Princess

Attached is self-explanatory.

We should ask our Embassy, Bangkok, in next bag to seek Thai approval of enclosure.

Lord Casey said he was prepared to meet cost if it were around £10.

17/6

206

Mr Blakeney

Premiers Chumbhosts Plans

Earlier correspondence is flagged.

Attached self explanatory draft for your approval.

When letter is signed, we then propose to take steps to obtain necessary authority from B'desh authorities. (thro' the Embassy).

[signature] 14/6

Mr Horne

[illegible]

14/6

COMMONWEALTH OF AUSTRALIA.

MINISTER FOR EXTERNAL AFFAIRS.

204

3010/10/1

DRAFT

Dear Lord Casey

In my letter of 24th May, I ~~promised~~ undertook to consult the Parks and Gardens section of the Department of Interior about Princess Chumbhot's request for some Australian plants.

Of the ten species requested by Princess Chumbhot, all but three can be obtained within about six weeks and should, ~~under suitable cultura~~, be successful in Bangkok. The total cost of one specimen of each of these plants would be £3-0-0 and air freight charges (despatch by sea is not recommended) would amount to approximately £7 making a total of £10 in all.

~~Unfortunately~~ Our quarantine authorities will not allow the plants to leave Australia until they have written confirmation from the Thai authorities that the plants will be allowed into Bangkok. As soon as I receive this confirmation through our Embassy, ~~there~~ I shall ask Parks and Gardens to go ahead with procurement, packing and despatch of the plants.

The Director of Parks and Gardens has been unable, so far, to ~~locate~~ obtain Grevillea Ornithopoda, Hibiscus Husgelii and Epacris Longiflora, from his normal ~~re~~sources of supply. ~~and he has said that~~ It ~~might~~ may take up to six months before specimens can be found. In the circumstances, I am inclined to think ~~that~~ at best to send the seven plants already available and leave it at that.

P. R. Heydon

TELEGRAPHIC ADDRESS
"INTERIOR," CANBERRA.

IN REPLY PLEASE QUOTE
NO. 203

COMMONWEALTH OF AUSTRALIA.

DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR,
CANBERRA, A.C.T.

Shoobridge - J 0411

30th May, 1960

DEPARTMENT OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS
1 JUN 1960
CANBERRA

3010/10/1.

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

Attention Mr. D. J. Horne

I have looked into the proposition to supply some plants to Princess Chumbhot of Thailand on behalf of Lord Casey, and find that we can obtain a specimen of each of the following, and prepare them for despatch at a cost of £3.0.0.

It would be necessary for you to obtain necessary permits and clearances from quarantine authorities in Australia and Thailand, etc., and arrange despatch. The parcel would weigh about 12lbs.

Pimelea ferruginea
Chamaelaucium uncinatum
Grevillea punica
Olearia dentata
Epaeris longiflora
Prostanthera nivea
Calistemon citrinus var splendens.

I believe that under suitable culture, these would be successful in Bangkok.

So far I cannot locate a source of supply of plants of the remaining three species listed. Will you please advise me if you wish me to procure these plants which could be available in about four to six weeks after confirmation.

(D.W. Shoobridge)
Director
Parks and Gardens

Mr Lightbody

Spoke to Shoobridge who confirmed that it will take about 6 weeks to obtain the plants but not about. He is not hopeful of obtaining samples of the remaining three species. It may take up to six months.

Before the Australian quarantine authorities will approve despatch written confirmation must be obtained from Bangkok that the plants will be admitted to Thailand

Post 10/6

Pimelea Ferruginea	Western Australia
Grevilla Ornithopoda	" "
Chamaelaucium Uncinatum	" "

Grevillea Punicea	New South Wales
Hibiscus Hugelii	" " "
Olearia dentata	" " "
Epacris Longiflora	" " "
Acacia Armata	" " "

Prostanthera Nivea

Calistemon Citrinus Var Splendens

Princess Chumbhot of Nagor Svarga,
Suan Pakkad,
354 Sri Ayudhya Road,
BANGKOK.

Princess Sunthorntida Vorvudh

Same address as above.

Pimelea Ferruginea	Western Austmlia
Grevilla Ornithopoda	" "
Chamaelaucium Uncinatum	" "

Grevillea Punicea	New South Wales
Hibiscus Hugelii	" " "
Olearia dentata	" " "
Epacris Longiflora	" " "
Acacia Armata	" " "

Prostanthera Nivea

Calistemon Citrinus Var Splendens

Princess Chumbhot of Nagor Svarga,
Suan Pakkad,
354 Sri Ayudhya Road,
BANGKOK.

Princess Sunthorntida Vorvudh

Same address as above.

200

Mr. Blakeney

....

In the movements of Lord Casey sent to Mr. Heydon by Mr. Casey before he left, the indications were that he would be at Australia House (for purposes of address) after 19th May. I have therefore changed the attached. If you think otherwise, pls. correct me.

24/5

Letter signed by Mr. Heydon as actg/Sec. JB 24/5

Acting Secretary

Herewith acknowledgment to Lord Casey for signature if approved.

Consequential action with Banks + Gardiens is being taken

J 23/5

Mr Bourne
Mr Lawson
Mr Smith
Pls send attached letter + letter to P+G.

J 24/5

198

→ 3010/10/1

23rd May, 1960.

The Director,
Parks and Gardens Section,
Department of the Interior.
ACTON. A.C.T.

....

I attach a list of Western Australian and New South Wales plants samples of which Princess Chumbhot of Thailand hopes to be able to obtain here. Lord Casey has passed us the request and is personally interested in doing what is possible to meet her wishes.

Would you please, at your earliest convenience, confirm that the plants are readily available and let us have an estimate of cost (one sample of each). Your comments on the suitability or otherwise of those plants for Bangkok climatic conditions would also be appreciated.

(D.J. Horne)
for the Acting Secretary

Pimelea Ferruginea	West Australia
Grevillea Ornithopoda	" "
Chamaelaucium Uncinatum	" "
Grevillea punicea	New South Wales
Hibiscus Husgelii	" " "
Olearia dentata	" " "
Epaeris Longiflora	" " "
Acacia Armata	" " "
Prostanthera Nivea	
Calistemon Citrinus var. Splendens.	

FJB
PRH/SCB

3010/10/1

24th May, 1960

Dear Lord Casey,

Thank you for your note of 10th May about Princess Chumbhot's interest in obtaining Australian plants for her garden in Bangkok.

I think the Department of the Interior (Parks and Gardens Section) are best qualified to look into this matter.

I am asking "Parks and Gardens" to comment on the availability and suitability of the plants for Bangkok conditions and I shall let you have their views as soon as they come to hand.

We enjoyed reading your introduction to the House of Lords.

With best wishes,

Yours sincerely,

(P. R. Heydon)
Acting Secretary

The Right Honourable Lord Casey, P.C., C.H.,
D.S.O., M.C.,
C/o Australia House,
Strand,
LONDON, W.C.2.

195

DEPARTMENT OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS.
CANBERRA

In reply quote No. 3010/10/1

23rd May, 1960.

Dear Lord Casey:

Thank you for your note of 10th May about Princess Chumbhot's interest in obtaining Australian plants for her garden in Bangkok.

I think the Department of Interior (Parks and Gardens Section) are best qualified to look into this matter, ~~and I have asked them to check that the plants are available and to give an estimate of cost.~~

availability and

I am ~~also~~ asking Parks and Gardens to comment on the suitability of the plants for Bangkok conditions and I shall let you have their views as soon as they come to hand.

We enjoyed reading your introduction to the Hon'ble Lord with best wishes

Yours sincerely.

(P.R. Heydon)
Acting Secretary

The Right Honourable Lord Casey, P.C., C.H., D.S.O., M.C.
The Ritz Hotel,
Piccadilly,
LONDON. W.I.

3010/10/1/194

OFFICE OF THE HIGH COMMISSIONER FOR AUSTRALIA.

At - The Ritz Hotel,
Piccadilly,
London, W.1.

10th May, 1960.

My dear Peter -

Just a note to say that Princess Chumbhot (of Thailand) came to see us in London yesterday. She had been to Kew Gardens recently and had seen a number of Australian plants in the hot houses there which she would like very much to have in her garden in Bangkok. She left the attached list of plants from Western Australia and N.S.W., in the hope that it might be possible to have samples of them sent to her in Bangkok, possibly through our Embassy there.

I do not know whether you would find yourself able to do anything about this, but I know that it would be very well taken if you could. I asked her if plants from other countries were allowed to enter Thailand, and she said that they were, so that there is no question of quarantine.

I do not know what the cost of the above might be - but if it is not very much I should be prepared to pay for it. By "not very much" I mean round about £10.

Yours.

→ Melbourne Executive advised, £23/5

→ Mr Blakeney

→ S E Asia

Peter Heydon, Esq.,
Department of External Affairs,
Canberra.

Melbourne pls

Pls. let me have advice if possible - advise Tim

Pimelea Ferruginea	West Australia	✓
grevillea Ornithopoda	" "	*
Chamaelaucium Uncinatum	" "	✓
Grevillea punicea	New South Wales	✓
Hibiscus Hugelii	" " "	*
Olearia dentata	" " "	✓
Epacris Longiflora	" " "	✓
Acacia Armata	" " "	*
Prostanthera Nivea		✓
Calistemon Citrinus	var. Splendens.	✓

Princess Chumbhot of Nagor Svarga.
Suan Pakkad
354 Sri Ayudhya Road.
Bangkok

Princess Sunthorntida Voravudh
Same address asabove.

1U

192

TRANSIT SLIP

File No.....

File Passed to.....

From.....

Date.....

Please tear off and return to
Records Clerk..... Section.

TRANSIT SLIP

File No.....

File Passed to.....

From.....

Date.....

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TRANSIT SLIP

File No.....

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From.....

Date.....

Please tear off and return to
Records Clerk.....Section.

3010/10/1 Restricted 191

NOTES FOR SPEECH BY THE RT. HON. H. HOLT AT LUNCHEON FOR H.E. MR. VADHANA ISARABHAKDI, THE AMBASSADOR FOR THAILAND, ON 29TH MARCH, 1960.

---

1. As near neighbours faced by many similar problems, Thailand and Australia have much in common :

(a) Both have a long tradition of independence. (Thailand was in fact the only South East Asian country to retain its independence during the period of European expansion in the 19th century - although it did cede territory to France).

(b) Both respect and value the established system of a constitutional monarchy. (The present Thai monarch, King Bhumibol ascended the throne in 1950. His consort is Queen Sirikit. Plans for a visit by Their Majesties to Australia in March 1961 are at present being discussed with the Thai authorities. No public announcement of the intended visit has yet been made.)

(c) Both recognise the value of defensive regional associations (both are strongly anti-communist). Both are members of SEATO the Headquarters of which is situated in Bangkok. Its Secretary-General is a Thai (Mr. Sarasin). The next Chief of the SEATO Military Planning Office is to be Major General Wilton, at present Commandant of the R.M.C. Duntroon. He takes up his appointment shortly.

(d) Both recognise the value of other forms of regional association - such as ECAFE and the Colombo Plan of which both are members. (Australian Colombo Plan aid to Thailand totals approximately £A420,000. 141 Thai students have trained or are still training in Australia under

the Colombo Plan and 24 advisers and experts have been sent to Thailand. Many more Thai students have studied privately in Australia. As capital aid, we have provided 90 ambulances and a lignite thermal power station.)

Note on Australian Representation

An Australian Consulate General was opened in Bangkok in 1946 (only after conclusion of the Peace Treaty with Thailand) and a Thai Consulate General was established in Australia in 1947 (after the Australian Parliament had approved the Peace Treaty). Diplomatic Missions at Legation level were established in 1951 and were raised to Embassy level in 1955. (Difficulties over our war damage claims on Thailand had caused delays in establishing diplomatic missions before 1951). Mr. Waller the present Ambassador has recently been appointed to Moscow. Mr. Booker (Minister in Washington) will replace him in Bangkok.

Warnings

1. Thailand supported Japan during World War II.

2. The Thai Government is a military dictatorship. The Prime Minister is Field Marshal Sarit whose health is not good. He is prone to dropsy.

3. Thai relations with Cambodia are strained. Cambodia accuses Thailand (and South Viet Nam) of having designs on Cambodian territory (the Preah Vihear temple dispute, see attachment, is only one aspect of this); of interfering in Cambodian internal affairs - of harbouring and instigating anti-Government rebels.

4. There has also been some ill-feeling between Thailand and South Viet Nam over the agreement between the Thai and Communist North Vietnamese Red Cross Societies to repatriate to North Vietnam, on a voluntary basis, the 50,000 Vietnamese refugees in Thailand. Repatriation is now proceeding. Otherwise relations with Viet Nam are generally good, and the King and Queen of Thailand recently visited Vietnam.

Preah Vihear Temple Dispute

Cambodia and Thailand are disputing ownership of the Temple of Preah Vihear in the border region between Cambodia and Thailand. Thailand has de facto possession of the Temple. Cambodia has referred the dispute to the International Court and referred the dispute to the International Court and has sought "Australian support" for its case against Thailand. We have explained to the Cambodian Ambassador that Australia cannot comment publicly on the merits of the case that is sub judice and that, because of the nature of the Court, Australia cannot attempt to influence Sir Percy Spender's views. (We thought that the Cambodian Ambassador has now taken this point but recent indications are that he has not.)

3010/10/1 188

DEPARTMENT OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS.

~~3016/10/15~~

~~3006/3/3~~

INWARD CABLEGRAM.

HD:BMW

I.23740

Sent: 23rd December,1959.
1840
Rec'd: 24th December,1959.
0830

FROM:

Australian Embassy,
BANGKOK.

625. UNCLASSIFIED.

Addressed Canberra 625 repeated Phnom Penh 17, Singapore 32 .

Press announced today Cabinet had decided to permit transit of rail carraiges for Cambodia.

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

24th December,1959.

SEC A/Ss TA@ S&SEA SEA C.P.S.D.

CONFIDENTIAL 187

DEPARTMENT OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS.

INWARD CABLEGRAM.

FH.MMc

I.22964

Dated: 11th December 1959
1920
Rec'd: 12th December 1959
0830

FROM:

Austra lian Embassy,
BANGKOK.

605. CONFIDENTIAL.

Reference your memorandum 1156.

Scully.

I should judge Australian refusal to extradite Scully would not seriously affect Thai-Australian relations. Alleged (fraud Ø) committed too far from Bangkok to rouse any comment here.

MIN. & DEPT. E.A. (1542/833)
P.M.'s.

14th December, 1959.

Ø Corrupt group.

SEC A/Ss S&SEA SEA C&P@

F 3010/10/1

File pls.
D.S. 15/12

F. 3010/10/1

SECRET 186

THAILAND

Objective

(a) Maintain present Thai Foreign policy;

(b) Consolidate Thai borders, which is essential if Communism is to be contained;

(c) Ensure friendly relations between Thailand and her Indo-Chinese neighbours;

(d) Maintenance of a strong anti-Communist Central Government in Thailand.

Present Methods

(i) Diplomatic Representation;

(ii) SEATO;

(iii) Asian Visits Fund;

(iv) Colombo Plan.

Present State of Relations - cordial

Chief ties

(i) through agencies noted above;

(ii) Common security interests;

(iii) Limited trade relations;

(iv) Australia and Thailand - both Constitutional Monarchies.

Future policy - in addition to continuance of our present policy

(i) Must aim at securing of Thai borders - particularly sealing of North-Eastern frontier - here our policy must aim at:

(a) Increased Colombo Plan aid for this poverty-stricken area;

(b) Improvement of communications in this region (both physical and telegraphic);

(c) Removal of the Vietnamese refugees.

(ii) Restraining Thailand's chauvinism with regards to its claims to Laotian and Cambodian territory;

(iii) Constant reminders to the Thai Government regarding methods of Communist subversives.

SECRET

File please

D.S. 1/xii

DEPARTMENT OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS.

INWARD CABLEGRAM.

RESTRICTED

F) 3010/10/1

(F) 3010/10/1

:MAC

I. 23253.

FROM:

Dated: 16th December, 1959.
1930
Rec'd: 17th December, 1959.
0830

Australian Embassy,
BANGKOK.

613. RESTRICTED.

When I raised with the Foreign Minister today the question of transit rights for Cambodian rail carriages, he countered by saying that the Thai Government had been greatly distressed by reports of attacks on the Thai Government in general and Sarit in particular in the Australian press. Criticism had included references to the execution earlier this year of a Chinese Communist spy. Thanad said that he presumed that the reports were in the Left-Wing papers but he had sent for the full texts. He believed that they had appeared in both Sydney and Melbourne papers and that one paper was called "Magnet".

2. Grateful texts by air mail and summary of any scurrilous passages by cable.

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

17th December, 1959.

FS 3010/10/1 3006/3/3 184

DEPARTMENT OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS

CONFIDENTIAL

OUTWARD CABLEGRAM

JMF:JT

O.17086

Sent: 18th December, 1959.
1910

TO:

Australian Embassy,
BANGKOK.

731. CONFIDENTIAL.

Your 613.

Thanat's comments probably reflect in large part resentment at article by Denis Warner depicting Sarit unfavourably. This was widely published in press in mid-October and portion was incorporated in Departmental "Press Opinion Digest No. 41/59" on 14th October. "Digests" are made available "by courtesy" and on strictly informal basis to Thai and other Embassies by request.

2. Thai Embassy formally protested at this incorporation. Minister's reply of 12th November (full text of which now despatched by bag) drew attention explicit statement in all Digests that "Nothing may be construed by reason of its inclusion as being endorsed or authenticated by Australian Government". Minister "regretted personally" that Warner's references had appeared in press but drew attention to wide freedom of expression which press enjoys. Minister concluded "Thailand may continue to rely on friendship understanding and goodwill of her Australian ally and (I) assure you that what may have been said in the newspaper article .... is in no way related to attitude of Australian Government".

3. Unable locate reference to execution of Chinese spy.

4. In pursuing matter further with Thanat you should have him understand that:

(i) we can scarcely be expected to do more in way of disclaimer;

(ii) we see, at all events, no connection between press comment and our enquiry regarding rail carriages.

5. In matter of rail carriages Gibson is approaching Cambodians pursuant to your 602 but we see little prospect that Cambodian representations would be more effective than Australian. We hope therefore, that you will seek to convince Thanat that:

(i) we do not offer unwanted advice to Thais in respect of their relations with Cambodia;

(ii) principle of co-operation under Colombo Plan should not be allowed to suffer from existence

DEPARTMENT OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS

CONFIDENTIAL

OUTWARD CABLEGRAM

of disputes between some participating governments;

(iii) Thai Government has already, in formal note, agreed in principle to transit facilities for carriage. (Your memorandum No. 815 of 11th July, 1958) and arrangements have proceeded accordingly

---

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

(Cost £41/8/-)

21st December, 1959

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

HONG KONG LONDON NEWYORK(UN) OTTAWA TOKYO
WASHINGTON

3010/10/1 182

Australian Embassy

BANGKOK.

CONFIDENTIAL

Your 613.

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18.12.59

CONFIDENTIAL

CONFIDENTIAL

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ii) we see, at all events, no connection between press comment and our enquiry regarding rail carriages.

5. In matter of rail carriages Gibson is approaching Cambodians pursuant to your 602 but we see little prospect that Cambodian representations would be more effective than Australian. We hope therefore that you will seek to convince Thanat that:

i) we do not offer unwanted advice to Thais in respect of their relations with Cambodia;

ii) principle of cooperation under Colombo Plan should not be allowed to suffer from existence of disputes between some participating governments;

iii) Thai Government has already informal note agreed in principle to transit facilities for carriage. (Your memorandum No.815 of 11th July,1958) and arrangements have proceeded accordingly.

DEPARTMENT OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS.

~~3088~~ 3010 | 10 | 1 | 180

CABLEGRAM FOR DESPATCH.

ADDRESS

Australian Embassy,

BANGKOK

Serial No. ..... ***Classification*** Confidential

Your 613

Thanat's comments probably reflect in large part resentment at article by Denis Warner ~~a article~~ depicting Sarit unfavourably. This ~~which~~ was widely published in press ~~on~~ in mid October and portion ~~of~~ was ~~which~~ incorporated in Departmental "Press Opinion Digest No.41/59" on 14th October. "Digests" are made available "by courtesy" and on strictly informal basis to Thai Embassy + other ~~at its~~ by request.

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3. Unable locate reference to execution of Chinese spy. ~~Understand "Magnet" is official organ.~~

AUTHORIZED BY .....

E.A. FILE NO. ..... DATE 18.12.59

PROPOSED DISTRIBUTION.

Sec.	**Sent by**
A.S.(U.N.)	
A.S.(G.R.)	
AS.(A.&G.)	
Cr.(L. & T.)	**Time Sent**
U.N.	
E.T.A.	
E. Rel	
Pac.	
West	**Typed by**
Central	
P.I.	
Con. & Pro.	
Ant.	**No. of Copies**
Admin.	
Finance	
Ex. Comms.	

3705...

(i) Thai govt has already in formal note agreed in principle to transit facilities for carriage. (See your memo No 815 of 11 July 58) & arrangements have proceeded accordingly.

EXTERNAL AFFAIRS.

4. In pursing matter further with Thanat you should have him understand that:

i) we can scarcely be expected to ~~move~~ do more in way of disclaimer;

ii) we see, at all events, no connection between press comment and our enquiry regarding rail carriages.

5. In matter of rail carriages Gibson is approaching Cambodians pursuant to your 602 but we see little prospect that Cambodian representations would be more effective than Australian. We hope therefore that you will seek to convince Thanat that :

i) We ~~have no desire~~ do not offer unwanted advice to Thais in respect of their relations with Cambodia;

ii) ~~we nevertheless feel that~~ principle of cooperation under Colombo Plan ~~(under which Thailand has received far more from Australia than has Cambodia)~~ should not be allowed to suffer from existence of disputes between some participating governments.

EXTERNAL AFFAIRS

Mr Hoad

You may be interested in seeing these papers.

D.S. 18/12

CONFIDENTIAL

F3008/10/1

18th December, 1959

The Australian Embassy,
BANGKOK.

Thailand and the Australian Press

I refer to your cablegram No. 613 of 16th December, 1959, concerning reports of attacks in the Australian press on the Thai Government in general and Sarit in particular.

2. We have not been able to locate any articles in Australian newspapers referring to the execution of a Chinese Communist spy in Thailand. However, the Foreign Minister in part may be referring to an article by Denis Warner which appeared in a number of Australian papers, including the "Melbourne Herald" (8th October), and the Adelaide "Advertiser" (13th October). Warner's article, extracts from which appeared on page 8 of the Department's weekly Press Opinion Digest No. 41/59 for the week ended 14th October, 1959, became the subject of a formal Note of Protest from the Thai Ambassador on 22nd October, 1959, on the grounds that, by including the article in one of its publications, the Department had endorsed a mischievous and objectionable composition.

3. The Acting Minister for External Affairs on 12th November replied to the Ambassador's letter in the following terms:-

"My dear Ambassador,

May I acknowledge your letter of 22nd October, 1959, in which you invited my attention to a reference made in an article by Mr. Denis Warner, subsequently summarized in the Digest of Press Opinion compiled in this Department, to the Prime Minister of Thailand, Field Marshal Sarit Dhanarat.

As you have noted in your letter, the inclusion of any item in the Digest does not imply any endorsement or authentication by the Australian Government. The Digest is essentially designed to inform our posts abroad of what is being said in the press in Australia in relation to international affairs and in fulfilling this purpose may be expected to reproduce from time to time critical comments by individual newspapers or correspondents of standing about Governments of countries friendly to Australia as well as about the Australian Government itself.

What may not however have been made clear to you previously is the Digest of Press Opinion is in no sense a publication issued by the Department of External Affairs. Its distribution is essentially restricted to officers of the Department. This departmental paper has however been made available as a courtesy and on a strictly informal basis to certain diplomatic missions established in Canberra, at their request. It has not in any sense of the term been circulated generally to diplomatic missions in Australia.

CONFIDENTIAL

CONFIDENTIAL

I hope you will find this explanation helpful. I regret personally that references to which you take exception should have appeared in the press, but as you know, newspapers, radio and television commentators in Australia have wide freedom of expression and what they say is entirely within their own discretion. Your comments on what Mr. Denis Warner published in his article have, of course, been made available to the appropriate Australian Government authorities so that there will be no misunderstanding about the factual basis of what is said in that article.

May I say in conclusion that Thailand may continue to rely on the friendship, understanding and goodwill of her Australian ally and assure you that what may have been said in the newspaper article you have mentioned is in no way related to the attitude of the Australian Government.

Yours sincerely,

(Sgd.) G.E. Barwick."

... 4. For your information I am enclosing a copy of Warner's article.

(R.N. Hamilton)
for the Secretary

CONFIDENTIAL

Melbourne Herald 8/10/59 175

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ng branch of
RCIAL BANKING CO.
YDNEY LTD.
HORISED A.F.T. AGENT

A TALE OF ONE MAN'S LIVER . . .

From DENIS WARNER, The Herald's expert on Asian affairs, who is visiting Eastern crisis centres

BANGKOK. — Thai politics grow less complicated as the years pass by. Coups once had to be calculated in terms of the Navy, the Army, the Air Force and the Police, and it was a wise man who could tell where the balance of power lay.

Today it is not nearly so difficult. Everything hinges on one man's LIVER.

It is at the moment more significant than all the Thai armed forces put together. In fact, I'm scarcely exaggerating when I say that in the big South-East Asian picture it's one of the key political factors.

The owner of the liver is Field-Marshal Sarit Thanarat, 51-year-old dictator of Thailand, who has seen all his rivals into exile and is now rapidly gathering merit for his future life by social reforms in and around Bangkok.

But the Marshal's liver, as everybody from ambassador to smalor driver knows, is not in good shape. In his youth, the Marshal lived it up. He was a bottle-of-brandy-a-day man. He was also a good family man, as his thirty-seven wives still cheerfully attest.

In the late middle age, before he had disposed of Field-Marshal Pibul and Police Chief Phao, Sarit's liver sent him off to hospital. Now, according to the detailed medical accounts which are available here in the highways and byways, the liver is in exceedingly bad shape.

Opinions vary as to quite how bad. The AMERICANS claim that ingenious operations have bypassed it and that the Marshal is good for a couple of energetic years yet.

The THAIS shake their heads knowingly. A month or two, they say. The Marshal can't last much longer than that. And they remark on the size of his ankles, which are said to be swelling.

AFTERWARDS?

The BRITISH take their usual middle course. The liver is neither so firm as the Americans insist nor so shaky as the Thais believe, they say. Perhaps the Marshal will last for another year.

And after he goes? On all sides there are mournful headshakes. The guess is that the coups will be on again. No one thinks that Pradit (in exile in Communist China), Pibul (in exile in Japan) or Phao (in exile in Switzerland) have any chance of a comeback. The new strong man, they believe, will come from Sarit's Army. But few can point a finger at the likely successor.

No one doubts that Sarit will hold power while he lives, but the rumblings on the horizon could become a dangerous storm when he dies.

"A military oligarchy is not as expensive as a democratic bureaucracy," one Western diplomat told me. "But it's very expensive and Thailand is beginning to feel the pinch.

"Rice isn't doing as well as it was. Rubber and tin are down and there just isn't enough money to keep all the people in the Army as happy as they'd like to be."

DISCONTENTED

There are said to be discontented young colonels and majors, who are not getting the handouts they expect.

There are also a lot of discontented Chinese.

"The Chinese are really being squeezed," a Western businessman told me. "The military are getting every golden egg from every Chinese goose. I don't like to think what will happen when Sarit goes."

Everything, in fact, goes back to the Marshal's liver and how long it can hold out. "We need have no worry about Thailand and SEATO while Sarit is about," an American said. "I don't think he particularly cares for us very much, though he's completely on our side. But after he goes . . ." and he pulled a long face.

CLEAN-UP

Leaders of Bangkok's once lurid vice life also speculate about the Marshal's liver. Things have gone from bad to worse in the underworld since Sarit began picking up merit.

The opium dens, South-East Asia's biggest and dirtiest, have been closed down. Street walkers have been sent to walk elsewhere. Even the strip tease shows (Australian girls used to be a highly valued commodity here) have been told to watch their strip.

Bangkok is a cleaner, busier, brighter city. As a show window for SEATO it's first-class, better than the treaty organisation merits.

But how long will all this last? Naturally, that depends on the Marshal's liver.



CITY

ALLAN & CO. P/L.
"Home of Music"
276 Collins St, MF 0451

CITY

BALL & WELCH LTD.
180 Flinders Street
MF 0251

CITY

BRASH'S
3 BIG STORES
108 Elizabeth Street and
287 Little Collins Street.
Phone: MF 6701
72 Wells St., Frankston
32 493

CITY

CLAUSCENS FURNITURE WAREHOUSE
131 Bourke St. MF 4811
Also Suburban Stores

CITY

FOY & GIBSON LTD.
246 Bourke St. FB 040
Also at:
Prahran and Collingwood

CITY

I. LENNOX & CO.
392 Little Collins Street
MU 7631

CITY

THE MYER EMPORIUM LTD.
Melbourne, FB 041
Also at Geelong & Ballarat

CITY

Learie back —for politics



ey's.
Birthday

DEPARTMENT OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS.

RESTRICTED

F 3008/10/1

174

INWARD CABLEGRAM.

:MAC

I. 23253.

FROM:

Dated: 16th December, 1959.
1930
Rec'd: 17th December, 1959.
0830

Australian Embassy,
BANGKOK.

613. RESTRICTED.

When I raised with the Foreign Minister today the question of transit rights for Cambodian rail carriages, he countered by saying that the Thai Government had been greatly distressed by reports of attacks on the Thai Government in general and Sarit in particular in the Australian press. Criticism had included references to the execution earlier this year of a Chinese Communist spy. Thanad said that he presumed that the reports were in the Left-Wing papers but he had sent for the full texts. He believed that they had appeared in both Sydney and Melbourne papers and that one paper was called "Magnet".

2. Grateful texts by air mail and summary of any scurrilous passages by cable.

File 555/1/99

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

17th December, 1959.

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

HONG KONG LONDON NEW YORK (UN) OTTAWA TOKYO WASHINGTON

RESTRICTED

3008/10/1

DEPARTMENT OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS

CONFIDENTIAL

172

OUTWARD CABLEGRAM.

REW:GM

O.16823

Sent: 15th December, 1959.
1420

TO:

Australian Embassy,
PHNOM PENH.....128

Repeated to:

Australian Embassy,
BANGKOK.....717

CONFIDENTIAL

Rail Carriages.

Thailand has not yet given decision to permit transit of carriages.

Glad if you would make discreet approach to Cambodians to elicit a request to Thailand for transit facilities. We would not wish Thais to know this initiative being taken by us.

FOR BANGKOK ONLY.

Glad if you would keep pressure on Thais for early decision.

E.A.
P.M'S.

(Cost £16/1/-)
15th December, 1959.

AS (DIV 3) TAO C.P.S.D.

F7 3008/10/1 173

~~3010/10/15~~

OUTWARD CABLEGRAM

FH/JS

O. 16824

Sent: 15th December, 1959.
1400

TO:

Australian Embassy,
BANGKOK..... 718

Repeated:-

Australian Embassy,
PHNOM PENH..... 129.

UNCLASSIFIED.

Cambodian Carriages.

Your telegram 603 and Phnom Penh memorandum No. 471.

Please keep Phnom Penh informed about arrangements and timing with regard to despatch of adaptor wagon to Bangkok.

E.A. (2036/15/3)
P.M.'s.

(COST £5/2/0)
15th December, 1959.

A/S(DIV.3) TA@ C.P.S.D.

3008/10/1

DEPARTMENT OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS

OUTWARD CABLE

CONFIDENTIAL

172

The following pages are a complete b/w photocopy of the item. DO NOT REMOVE THIS ITEM FROM ITS PROTECTIVE ENCLOSURE- CONTACT CONSERVATION.

REW:GM

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FOR BANGKOK ONLY.

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E.A.
P.M'S.

(Cost £16/1/4)
15th December, 1959.

AS (DIV 3) TAD C.P.S.D.

3008/10/1

CONFIDENTIAL 182

OUTWARD CABLEGRAM

REW:GM

O.16823

Sent: 15th December, 1959.
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TO:

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PHNOM PENH.....128

Repeated to:

Australian Embassy,
BANGKOK.....717

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(Cost £16/1/-)
15th December, 1959.

AS (DIV 3) TAD C.P.S.D.

FP 3008/10/1 173

~~3008/10/15~~

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Sent: 15th December, 1959.
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BANGKOK..... 718

Repeated:-

Australian Embassy,
PHNOM PENH..... 129.

UNCLASSIFIED.

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E.A. (2036/15/3)
P.M.'s.

(COST £5/2/0)
15th December, 1959.

A/S(DIV.3) TA© C.P.S.D.

F. 3010/10/1 171

DEPARTMENT OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS

OUTWARD CABLEGRAM

CONFIDENTIAL

AH: 0.15739

Sent: 26th November, 1959.
1400

TO:

Australian Embassy,
BANGKOK.

674. CONFIDENTIAL. PRIORITY.

Our telegram 670.

Our nominee is Professor Donald Cochrane (Sydney Myer Professor of Commerce, Melbourne University).

Please advise result earliest.

E.A. (2509/3/6)
DEFENCE
C.O.E.
J.I.C.
P.M.'S

(Cost £4.19.0)

26th November, 1959.

SEC A/Ss MR.EASTMAN TA S&SEA SEA INF DL MT@ INTELL

file pls
D.S. 27/11

CONFIDENTIAL

3010/10/1, 170

DEPARTMENT OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS

OUTWARD CABLEGRAM

RESTRICTED

FH:JT

O.15599

Sent: 24th November, 1959.
1200

TO:

Australian Embassy,
BANGKOK.

669. RESTRICTED.

From Army.

WO1 Sinclair and WO2 Boase have been posted for duty with Basic Trade Training Centre, Bangkok as Instructors. Tenure of posting 2 years. Date of movement will be advised.

(Cost £4/1/-)

ARMY
E.A.
P.M'S.

25th November, 1959.

SEC A/Ss MR.EASTMAN S&SEA SEA DL MT ADMIN
PERS INV FIN TRAV INTELL

File pls
D.S. 27/11

→ 3010/10/11 169

RESTRICTED

DEPARTMENT OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS

SAVINGRAM.

CW 0.14330

Sent: 30th October, 1959.

TO:

Australian Legation,
PHNOM PENH....SAV.29

Australian High Commission,
COLOMBO.....SAV.35

Australian High Commission,
NEW DELHI.....SAV.78

Australian Embassy,
TOKYO.....SAV.42

Australian High Commission,
KARACHI.....SAV.43

Australian Embassy,
RANGOON.....SAV.27

Australian Legation,
VIENTIANE.....SAV.3

Australian Embassy,
BANGKOK.....SAV.58

Australian Embassy,
DJAKARTA.....SAV.48

Australian Delegation to U.N.C.U.R.K.
SEOUL.....SAV.16

Australian High Commission,
KUALA LUMPUR..SAV.40

Australian Embassy,
MANILA.....SAV.36

Australian Embassy,
SAIGON.....SAV.44

Australian Commission,
SINGAPORE.....SAV.42

Australian Embassy,
WASHINGTON....SAV.334

External Affairs Office,
LONDON.....SAV.EA.161

Australian High Commission,
WELLINGTON....SAV.67.

RESTRICTED.

I.L.O. Governing Body.

1. Elections to I.L.O. Governing Body for term 1960-1963

RESTRICTED

will take place next June.

2. Australia stood down from titular (full) membership in 1957 making it known that it would seek re-election in 1960, and is at present a deputy member (without voting rights).

3. Please advise Government to which you are accredited that it is consequently our intention to seek election to one of the two Asian Regional Seats next year, and advise by cable whether they will support.

4. It is not, however, desired that you formally announce our candidature. If the response we receive is not encouraging we may not proceed with candidature.

5. For your information Australia has been either a titular or deputy member of Governing Body since 1945.

For Colombo and Kuala Lumpur only.

Ceylon and Malaya are also candidates.

We are not in a position to enter into commitments for support at this stage and cannot in these circumstances press for a positive response from other candidates.

For Manila only.

We regret that we cannot support Philippines for re-election.

A/MIN. & DEPT. E.A.(859/31)
L.&.NS

30th October, 1959.

SEC A/Ss UN@ ER CR PAC&AM EA AM&SP S&SEA SA SEA
E.AF&ME E INF

Telegram 3010/10/1

167

FOR THE PRESS

DEPARTMENT OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS
CANBERRA
PR 127
15th October 1959

COLOMBO PLAN AMBULANCES FOR THAILAND

The Acting Minister for External Affairs, Sir Garfield Barwick, announced today that the first consignment of 94 Australian-made ambulances which Australia is giving to Thailand under the Colombo Plan would be shipped on the "Thorsgaard" which is due to leave Adelaide on 17th October.

Sir Garfield said: "Thailand has very few ambulances to serve its hospitals. This Colombo Plan gift will provide essential medical service to the people of Thailand. Most of the ambulances will serve provincial hospitals, many of which have previously had no proper form of transport for patients."

"The ambulances were designed by a member of the Australian Army Medical Services, Major A.R. Bradmore, who visited Thailand early this year to study the conditions under which the vehicles would operate. Each ambulance will be fitted out with medical equipment for treatment in transit and for use as a mobile treatment centre. The vehicles are designed to stand up to the very rough roads in the remote areas of Thailand."

The ambulances are being made by Chrysler-Dodge Australia at their works in Adelaide.

.....

3018/10/1

166

AUSTRALIAN LEGATION
PHNOM PENH.

In reply quote No......
Memorandum No. 412

14TH October, 1959

The Secretary,
Department of External Affairs,
CANBERRA.

1960 Dyason Lectures
(your file 574/4/75)

Please refer to your memorandum No.292 of 23rd September, 1959.

2. I regret that Cambodia is unlikely to provide a suitable candidate as a Dyason lecturer.

(Francis Stuart)
Minister

→ SEA
Original on file 574/4/75

EXTERNAL AFFAIRS

→ W Hoyle
→ File pls 165

FILE No 3010/10/1

DATE 14th October, 1959

SUBJECT

FOR ACTING MINISTER

As requested I am enclosing a suggested reply to Mr. Calwell's letter of 22nd September about Paul Rigby's "Buddha" cartoon which appeared in the Melbourne "Herald" of 13th September.

for (P.R.Heydon)
Assistant Secretary, Division 1

W Sadler

Acting

3010/10/1

14 OCT 1959

Dear Mr. Calwell,

Thank you for your letter of 22nd September, enclosing correspondence concerning a cartoon which appeared in the Melbourne "Herald" on Saturday 13th September, 1959.

While I appreciate the sentiments which gave rise to Mr. Dow's letter, the Government supports the principle of freedom of the press and to endeavour to control it would be contrary to our philosophy of Government. As I am sure you will agree Rigby is usually a cartoonist of some discretion, and whilst this particular cartoon could be described as in bad taste I doubt whether it was intentional. Moreover the cartoon seems to have passed generally unnoticed.

In your reply to Mr. Dow I suggest that you make these observations to him. You might also point out to Mr. Dow that the Government does not necessarily endorse or share the views of press articles or cartoons. I am returning Mr. Dow's file as you requested.

Yours sincerely,

Sgd. G.E.B.

(G.E. Barwick)

Honourable A.A. Calwell, M.P.,
Parliament House,
CANBERRA. A.C.T.

Telegrels → 3010/10/1 163

14th October, 1959

FOR ACTING MINISTER

As requested I am enclosing a suggested reply to Mr. Calwell's letter of 22nd September about Paul Rigby's "Buddha" cartoon which appeared in the Melbourne "Herald" of 13th September.

(P.R.Heydon)
Assistant Secretary, Division 1

File pls → 3010/10/1/162

DEPARTMENT OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS.

INWARD CABLEGRAM.

:FPG

I,17767

Dated: 2nd October, 1959
2130

Rec'd: 4th October, 1959
0830

FROM:

Australian Embassy,
BANGKOK.

482 UNCLASSIFIED.

Pratt from Bartlett.

Your telegram 565.

Scientific Society requires only photographic series illustrating nuclear reactors and atomic science.

INTERIOR(N.I.B.)(KKJ3)
E.A.
P.M.'.S.

5th October, 1959.

SEC A/Ss TA ER S&SEA SEA INF

~~3040/10/1~~ 161

RESTRICTED

3010/10/1

DEPARTMENT OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS

GM.MMc

INWARD CABLEGRAM

I.17612

Dated: 1st October 1959
2005

Rec'd: 2nd October 1959
0830

FROM:

Australian Embassy,
BANGKOK.

478. RESTRICTED. PRIORITY.

My letter 1005.

Anderson.

Sununta, wife of foster parent, applied for six months visitor's visa to take Wilamina Anderson to Australi to visit father. Child is included on Sununta's Thai passport, and return tickets by air are held. They are booked to depart on 4th October. In view of the possible legal problems, grateful for urgent cabled confirmation that visa may be issued.

E.A.
IMMIGRATION.
P.M.'s.

2nd October, 1959.

SEC A/Ss LA TA S&SEA SEA C&P

RESTRICTED

File pls
3010/10/1.

160

22nd September, 1959

Dear Sir Garfield,

I send you enclosed herewith the letter and cartoon about which I spoke to you briefly when we were leaving the House on Tuesday evening last. I should like you to keep the cartoon and take whatever action you think appropriate to protect Australian interests, and I should be glad to have any comments you might care to offer when you return my correspondent's file.

Yours sincerely,

(ARTHUR A. CALWELL)

The Hon. Sir Garfield Barwick, Q.C., M.H.R.,
Acting Minister for External Affairs,
House of Representatives,
CANBERRA. A.C.T.

The Secretary,
DEPT. OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS. (Mr. McMillan).

Referred for preparation of a reply for the Acting Minister's signature, please. This letter has not been acknowledged.

C M Dawson
Asst. Private Secretary.
30/9/1959.

F. 3010/10/1

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DEPARTMENT OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS.

INWARD CABLEGRAM.

JMF:HP

I.16672

FROM:

Dated: 20th September, 1959.
1745
Rec'd: 21st September, 1959.
0830

Australian Embassy,
BANGKOK.

451. UNCLASSIFIED.

Following for the Acting Minister for External Affairs from Waller.

Sarasin asked me to thank you for your helpful statement on Laos and S.E.A.T.O. from which he has already quoted extensively in television interview of 18th September.

A/Min. & Dept. External Affairs.
" " " Defence.
P.M.'s.

21st September, 1959.

SEC A/Ss LA MR.EASTMAN UN COMREL PAC&AM EA AM&SP S&SEA SA SEA EAF&ME E INF DL MT INTELL G
HONG KONG KARACHI LONDON MANILA NEW DELHI UN NEW YORK OTTAWA PARIS PHNOM PENH RANGOON SAIGON SINGAPORE TOKYO WASHINGTON WELLINGTON

→ 3010/10/1
General
158

B. World 8.8.59

Aussie Envoys To Meet Here

BW.8

A meeting of Australian diplomats from widely-scattered posts in South and Southeast Asia and elsewhere will be held in Bangkok beginning on August 13, AIS reported yesterday.

Announcing this in Canberra, the Australian Minister for External Affairs, Mr. R.G. Casey, said the conference was a routine gathering to enable Heads of Mission to consult and report upon various aspects of Australia's interests and relations with Asian countries.

The Heads of Mission will be in Bangkok for about a week.

The Permanent Under Secretary of the Department of External Affairs, Sir Arthur Tange will be chairman of the meeting.

In addition to the Australian Ambassador to Thailand, Mr. J.K. Waller, Heads of Mission attending the conference will be:-

Sir Alan Watt, Tokyo, Messrs. J.E.G. Kevin, Colombo, A.T. Stirling, Manila, W.R. Crocker, New Delhi, A.R. Cutler V.C., Karachi, W.D. Forsyth, Saigon, T.K. Critchley, Kuala Lumpur, L.R. McIntyre, Djakarta, F.H. Stuart, Pnom Penh, A.H. Loomes, Rangoon, and Mr. D.W. McNicol, Singapore.

อย่างที่สองก็คือการจัดตั้งระบบแห่งการปรึกษาหารือกัน ระหว่างประเทศที่จัดส่งสินค้าออกจำหน่ายนอกประเทศชั้นนำห้าประเทศเป็นทางการ เกี่ยวกับเรื่องราวต่างๆทุกๆเรื่องที่กระทบกระเทือนถึงการกำจัดของเหลือใช้

มิสเตอร์แม็คอีเว็นกล่าวว่า "การรับรองถึงความจำเป็น ในอันที่จะต้องมีการป้องกันตลาดการค้า เป็นสิ่งที่สำคัญอย่างที่สุดตามทัศนะของออสเตรเลีย เราได้เน้นถึงความจำเป็นสำหรับการนี้ มานับตั้งแต่เป็นที่เห็นได้อย่างชัดแจ้งว่า การกำจัดสิ่งเหลือใช้ก่อให้เกิดผลเสียหายแก่กิจการค้าสินค้าขาออกของเรา

"บัดนี้เป็นครั้งแรกที่ได้มีการบันทึกข้อตกลงกันในหมู่ประเทศใหญ่ๆห้าประเทศ ที่จัดส่งข้างสาลีออกจำหน่ายนอกประเทศ ว่าการกำจัดข้าวสาลีเหลือใช้นั้น จะดำเนินไปในแบบที่คุ้มครองป้องกันบรรดาโอกาสในทางการค้า"

การประชุมเรื่อง "อาหารเพื่อสันติ" นี้ ได้ถูกจัดดำเนินขึ้น โดยมีการเพิ่มพูนจำนวนมากขึ้นของข้าวสาลีเหลือใช้ การกดดันให้กำจัดข้าวสาลีเหล่านี้เสียของรัฐสภาสหรัฐ และความต้องการจำนวนเสบียงอาหารให้เพียงพอยิ่งขึ้นอีก ของชาติต่างๆอีกหลายชาติ เป็นเบื้องหลังอยู่

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U.N. LEAD AND ZINC DECISION

การตกลงใจเกี่ยวกับสังกะสีและตะกั่วของสหประชาชาติ

แคนเบอรา (เอไอเอส) ข้อตกลงในเรื่องการอุตสาหกรรมตะกั่วและสังกะสี ของบรรดาประเทศชั้นนำในการผลิตแร่เหล่านี้ ในอันที่จะจำกัดจำนวนของโลหะดังกล่าวที่กำลังจะออกมาสู่ตลาดโลก ควรจะยังผลให้เกิดความมั่นคงยิ่งขึ้นแก่กิจการค้าขายตะกั่วและสังกะสีระหว่างประเทศ

ท่านรัฐมนตรีว่าการกระทรวงการพาณิชย์และผู้รักษาการแทนนายกรัฐมนตรี มิสเตอร์ เจ.แม็คอีเว็น กล่าวดังนี้เมื่อพูดถึงผลของการประชุมคณะกรรมการตะกั่วและสังกะสีแห่งสหประชาชาติในนครนิวยอร์ค

มิสเตอร์แม็คอีเว็นกล่าวว่า "ข้อตกลงนี้เป็นผลของการเจรจาปรึกษาหารือกันระหว่างประเทศ อยู่เป็นเวลาเกือบ ๑๒ เดือน มุ่งไปสู่การที่จะให้ได้มาซึ่งวิธีการในอันที่จะแก้ปัญหาที่กำลังกลุ้มรุมกิจการค้าตะกั่วและสังกะสีของโลกอยู่ อันจะเป็นที่ตกลงยอมรับกันได้ทั่วโลก

"อันกำหนดการที่ก่อกำเนิดจากการประชุมในนครนิวยอร์คครั้งนี้ ควรจะทำให้จำนวนอุปทานและอุปสงค์สำหรับโลหะเหล่านี้ เข้าสู่ดุลยภาพที่ใกล้ชิดกันยิ่งขึ้นอย่างมากมาย"

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F.3010/10/1

CONFIDENTIAL 157

DEPARTMENT OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS

INWARD CABLEGRAM

GJW:ABJ. I.13190.

Dated: 27th July, 1959.
2035.
Rec'd: 28th July, 1959.
0830.

FROM:

Australian Embassy,
BANGKOK.

343 CONFIDENTIAL

Thailand has asked for Australian support for election to the Board of Governors of I.A.E.A. in one of the places to be vacated by Pakistan or Korea.

Grateful for advice.

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

28th July, 1959.

SEC A/Ss UN ER CR PAC&AM EA AM&SP S&SEA SEA E.AF&ME E INF

KARACHI SEOUL TOKYO

CONFIDENTIAL

CONFIDENTIAL

CONFIDENTIAL

General

F.3010/10/1
156

Standard 25.4.59

● A book written by the Australian Minister of External Affairs, Mr. R.G. Casey, "Friends And Neighbours", is shortly to appear in a Siamese version.

มิสเตอร์ออสบอร์นกล่าวว่า การบินของเครื่องบินเน็บธูนเที่ยวนี้จะได้ผ่านไปทางฟีจิ เกาะแคนต็ตน แหลมบาร์เบอร์ส (ฮาไวอิ) และอลาเมด้า (ใกล้ๆซานฟรานซิสโก)

การเคลื่อนไปสู่สหรัฐอเมริกาและกลับของหมู่เครื่องบินดังกล่าวนี้ จะเป็นการซ้อมฝึกการบินระยะยาว ที่มีค่าและกว้างขวางมากที่สุด

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AUSTRALIAN FILM FOR VENICE FESTIVAL

ภาพยนตร์ของออสเตรเลียสำหรับงานประกวดภาพยนตร์ในเวนิส

ซิดนี่ย์ (เอไอเอส) ภาพยนตร์ของออสเตรเลียเรื่อง " Desert Conquest" จะถูกนำออกฉายที่งานฉลองประกวดภาพยนตร์นานาชาติแห่งนครเวนิชในเดือนนี้

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 สำหรับใช้ในระดับโรงเรียนมัธยมทั้งขั้นต่ำและขั้นสูง หนังสือเหล่านี้ทั้งหมดเป็นหนังสือที่แต่งขึ้นโดยนักประพันธ์ชาวออสเตรเลียน

มิสเตอร์เคซี่ย์กล่าวว่า ท่านหวังว่าเยาวชนชาวอินโดนิเซียนคงจะได้รับความพอใจจากเรื่องราวต่างๆเหล่านี้ มากเท่าๆกันกับที่บรรดาเยาวชนชาวออสเตรเลียนได้รับมาแล้ว ในขณะที่พวกเขาก้าวหน้าไปในด้านความรู้ภาษาอังกฤษของเขา เขาก็จะได้เรียนรู้ถึงชีวิตในออสเตรเลียอีกอย่างมากมายไปด้วย ท่านเชื่อแน่ว่าการทั้งนี้จะมีส่วนช่วยให้บังเกิดความเข้าใจซึ่งกันและกันยิ่งขึ้นไปอีก ระหว่างประชาชาวอินโดนิเซียนกับประชาชาวออสเตรเลียนทั้งหลาย

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Tele 3010/10/1, 155

NOTES FOR THE MINISTER FOR USE AT THE
RECEPTION FOR NAI KONTHI

Nai Konthi was the first Thai Minister to be appointed to Australia (December 1952).

A distinguished career diplomat, who had previously served in Tokyo and Washington and had also held senior posts in the Thai Foreign Ministry, where he was an associate of the present Foreign Minister of Thailand, Nai Thanat.

During his six and a half years in this country relations between Thailand and Australia have steadily become both stronger and more intimate. In 1956 the diplom tic missions we had exchanged were raised in status from Legations to Embassies.

Among the links which have brought our two countries closer together in recent years have been:-

(a) a firm recognition of a common interest in securing the peaceful prosperous and democratic development of South-East Asia;

(b) our common interest in dispelling from South-East Asia the threat to freedom posed by Communist expansionism.

This common interest is reflected by the growing Thai-Australian partnership in:-

(a) the Colombo Plan. In 1953 some eight Thai students had been or were being trained in Australia under the Plan, by May, 1959, the number increased to 137; in addition there are also some 200 Thai private students in Australia at the moment .

(b) South-East Asia Treaty Organisation, whose headquarters are now in Bangkok.

Commercial relations between our two countries continue to prosper. Thailand has become a significant market for Australian flour and dairy produce.

The period of Nai Konthi's Embassy has been marked by an ever increasing exchange of visits, both official and unofficial, between our two countries. (The Australian Prime Minister visited Thailand in April,

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1957.)

We recently have occasion to welcome Thailand's distinguished Foreign Minister, H.E. Nai Thanat, in Canberra when he was on his way back from the SEATO Council Meeting in Wellington. There have been an increasing flow of visits in both directions in the conduct of SEATO business. For our part, we have recently welcomed His Excellencey Nai Pote Sarasin, the Secretary General of SEATO, and a number of high ranking officers from the Thai armed services.

Nai Konthi's term of office has thus been marked by a growing realisation of Australia's common interests with Thailand and increasing knowledge and understanding of the way of life and aims of our respective countries.

We are sorry that he is leaving us and wish him well in the future. We understand that he is returning to the Foreign Ministry in Bangkok. We are sure that we shall have a friend there who knows us well - and who can count on support and co-operation in any matters concerning ourselves with which he may have to deal.

Retained

3010/10/1

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Minute for use if ta

NOTES FOR THE ~~MINISTER'S~~ RECEPTION FOR NAI KONTHI

Nai Konthi was the first Thai Minister to be appointed to Australia (December 1952). ~~Australia was honoured to receive~~ so distinguished a career diplomat, ~~(Nai Konthi~~ who had previously served in Tokyo and Washington and had also held senior posts in the Thai Foreign Ministry, where he was an associate of the present Foreign Minister of Thailand, Nai Thanat Khoman.

2. During his six and a half years in this country relations between Thailand and Australia have steadily become both stronger and more intimate. ~~This was underlined~~ In 1956 when the diplomatic missions we had exchanged were raised in status from Legations to Embassies.

3. Among the links which have brought our two countries closer together in recent years have been:-

(a) a firm recognition of a common interest in securing the peaceful prosperous and democratic developments of South-East Asia;

(b) our common interest in dispelling from South-East Asia the threat to freedom posed by ~~imperialistic~~ Communism, expansionism.

4. This common interest is reflected by the growing Thai/Australian partnership in:-

(a) the Colombo Plan ~~whereas~~ In 1953 some 8 Thai students had been or were being trained in Australia (under the plan); by May, 1959, the number had increased to 137; in addition there are also some 200 Thai private students in Australia at the moment;

(b) South-East Asia Treaty Organization, where the headquarters was now in Bangkok.

5. Commercial relations between our two countries continue to prosper and Thailand has become a significant market for Australian flour and dairy produce.

6. The period of Nai Konthi's Embassy has also been marked by an ever increasing exchange of visits, both official and unofficial, between our two countries. (The

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Australian Prime Minister visited Thailand in April, 1957.)

7. Nai Konthi's term of office has thus been ~~punctuated~~ marked by a growing realization of ~~our~~ Australia's common interests with Thailand and increasing knowledge and understanding of the way of life and aims of our respective countries.

8. We are sorry that he is leaving us and wish him well in the future. We understand that he is returning to the Foreign Ministry in Bangkok. We have no doubt that we shall have a friend there who knows us well — and who can count on support and cooperation in any matters concerning ourselves with which he may have to deal.

We recently had occasion to welcome Thailand's distinguished Foreign Minister, His Excellency Nai Thanat, in Canberra where he was on his way back from the SEATO Council meeting in Wellington. There have been increasing flow of visits in both directions in the course of SEATO business. For our part we have recently welcomed H.E. Nai Pote Sarasin, to Secretary General of SEATO, on a number of his various flights for their current services.

His Excellency

Pote Sarasin

F.3010/10/1,151

Published in
Shih Chieh Jih Pao(Morning Edition)
July 18, 1959.

"Mr. Casey Today(July 10) Achieves Record Service As A.F.M."



General
150
F.3010/10/1

Thai People 11.7.59

Mr. Casey's Record

THE Australian Minister for External Affairs, Mr. R.G. Casey, yesterday completed a longer period of service as head of the foreign affairs department than any of his predecessors.

Mr. Casey became Minister on April 27, 1951. He will be 69 on August 29. He was born in Brisbane, Queensland, and educated at Melbourne and Cambridge Universities.

มิสเตอร์สวอร์ทซกล่าวว่า อนุสนธิจากการเดินทางเยือนครั้งนี้ ผู้แทนฝ่ายผลิตของประเทศพะม่าได้แสดงความสนใจที่จะขยายการค้ากับออสเตรเลียให้กว้างขวางยิ่งขึ้น

TRADE MISSION IN SOUTHERN RHODESIA
คณะทูตสันถวไมตรีทางการค้าในโรดีเซียใต้

แคนเบอรา (เอไอเอส) คณะทูตสันถวไมตรีทางการค้าของออสเตรเลีย ซึ่งในปัจจุบันนี้กำลังอยู่ในโรดีเซียใต้ สามารถทำการจำหน่ายสินค้าต่างๆได้รวมทั้งเครื่องไฟฟ้าและเครื่องใช้ในสำนักงาน พลั่ว ผลไม้สดและเครื่องบริโภค

นอกจากนั้นยังได้รับการไต่ถามเกี่ยวกับหัวรถจักรดีเซลสำหรับใช้ในการทำเหมืองแร่ สูบน้ำและเครื่องตากเสื้อผ้า

บรรดาบริษัทยาสูบก็มีความสนใจเป็นพิเศษ ในอันที่จะพบปะกับมิสเตอร์ บี.อี.ไวท์ หัวหน้าคณะทูต ผู้ซึ่งเป็นบุคคลสำคัญในวงการอุตสาหกรรมยาสูบของออสเตรเลีย

ออสเตรเลียได้ซื้อยาสูบของโรดีเซียอยู่แล้วเป็นมูลค่า ๓,๐๐๐,๐๐๐ ปอนด์ต่อปี

ก่อนที่จะเดินทางกลับคืนสู่ออสเตรเลีย คณะทูตดังกล่าวนี้จะไปเยือนบัลวาโย ลูซากา นโดลา เอ็นเท็บบี้ ไนโรบี้ มอมบาซา ซันซีบากับดาร์-เอส-สลามและเมารีทุส มิสเตอร์สวอร์ทซบอก

SURVEY OF AUSTRALIA'S NORTHERN TERRITORY
การสำรวจรังวัดอาณาเขตดินแดนเหนือของออสเตรเลีย

แคนเบอรา (เอไอเอส) พนักงานรังวัดของกองทัพบกคณะหนึ่ง จำนวน ๔๘ นาย กำลังดำเนินการทำแผนที่เนื้อที่จำนวน ๑๐๐,๐๐๐ ตารางไมล์แห่งภูมิประเทศอันอ้างว้างปราศจากผู้คนอาศัยอยู่ ในตอนเหนือของออสเตรเลีย

อาณาบริเวณที่กำลังทำแผนที่กันอยู่นี้ เหยียดยาวจากดาร์บี้ในรัฐออสเตรเลียตะวันตกไปจนถึงดาบูวีลในรัฐควีนสแลนด์ นอกจากนั้นยังรวมทั้งแนวชายฝั่งทะเลแห่งรัฐควีนสแลนด์ตั้งแต่เทาน์สวิลล์ตอนเหนือไปจนถึงคุกเทาน์อีกด้วย

การปฏิบัติงานสำรวจรังวัดครั้งนี้ กำลังดำเนินควบกันไปกับสภาการทำแผนที่แห่งชาติในโครงการทำแผนที่ทั่วประเทศออสเตรเลีย

๕/....

DEPARTMENT OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS, CANBERRA.

Name of Paper: Herald — File No:

Published at: Melbourne — Date: 18/5/59

Why not Thailand?

THE Australian-Asian Association at the gala premiere of "J'accuse" last year raised £2000 to send a social worker to Thailand.

Recently it has reversed this decision in favor of sending the social worker to Indonesia. The reason given is that there is political unrest in Thailand and that the Thai Government is not co-operative in the matter.

I would like to point out as a Thai student that there is far more political unrest in Sumatra than in Thailand and that our Government has not been properly approached.

With this in mind, I would like the A A A to express publicly their reasons for not sending a social worker to Thailand after they have raised money from the people of Melbourne for this express purpose.

—**B. Bhuchongkul,** International House, Melbourne University.

[The president of the Australian-Asian Association, Sir Charles Lowe, said today that it was felt to be unwise to send the social worker to Thailand at the present time, because of the disturbed state of affairs.

"We had very long communications with the Thailand Government and with the Australian Embassy," he said. "We understood from the Embassy that we couldn't get official approval from the Government."]

3010/10/1 148

DEPARTMENT OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS.

OUTWARD CABLEGRAM.

CONFIDENTIAL

MG:CM

0.6069

Sent: 8th May, 1959.
1830

TO:

Australian Embassy,
BANGKOK.

249. CONFIDENTIAL. PRIORITY.

For Holmes from Trade.

Refer our 241 re trade negotiations.

Would be pleased receive any ideas you have on additional points which could be covered in negotiations e.g. protecting trade interests in particular commodities; any specific ways in which Thailand could assist Australian Trade etc., having in mind things we might do to help Thailand.

MIN. & DEPT. TRADE (C-S-M)
MIN. & DEPT. PRIMARY INDUSTRY (C-M)
MIN. & DEPT. E.A.
TREASURER & TREASURY
MIN. & DEPT. N.D.
MIN. & DEPT. CUSTOMS & EXCISE
P.M'S DEPT.
P.M'S

Cost £7/4/0

11th May, 1959.

SEC A/S(DIV.1) A/S(DIV.2) ER S&SEA SEA INF

EXTERNAL AFFAIRS.

F 3010/10/1 147

Mr Quinn acty A.S. Asia 1

Here notes may be of assistance for briefing in connection with visits of Pakistan & Thai foreign ministers following SEATO Conference.

Apart from general background, it may be useful to make the point in connection with criticism of our capital aid to Pakistan that we have welcomed Pakistan co-operation in taking remedial measures. Criticism of aid use could affect future aid provided by Australia

M.R. Y.

9/4/59

THAILAND

(1) General

Australian expenditure on Colombo Plan aid to Thailand has been as follows:-

Training	171,344
Experts	4,743
Technical Equipment	69,048
Economic Aid	2,974
T O T A L - - -	248,109

(2) Training

From Thailand, 132 men and women have come to Australia to study. Of these 86 have returned home and 46 are still here.

(3) Experts

Thailand has had the services of 9 Australian experts under the Colombo Plan. An additional 7 Australian experts have been to Thailand to investigate special fields and problems with a view to advising us on the aid extended to Thailand in their fields.

(4) Technical Equipment

Australia is currently providing 500 radio receivers for distribution to schools under a school broadcasting scheme recently inaugurated by the Thai Ministry of Education.

Shipments have begun of a selection of equipment (Holden assembly, Ford Customline assembly, tractor and exhaustgas analyser) to be used in the establishment of an automotive Engineering Faculty at the Chulalongkorn University. It is likely that additional equipment of this nature will be supplied in 1959/60.

(5) Capital Aid

(a) Lignite Plant

Australia is providing Thailand with a fuel preparation plant for use at the Mae Moh lignite project. The equipment has been designed and the Manager of the Lignite Organization, Mr. Reinback, is presently in Australia with a view to finalising details prior to production. Some drilling equipment has arrived in Thailand (£871) but the estimated total cost of the project is £90,000.

(b) Ambulances

Australia has agreed to provide Thailand with 87 ambulances to serve provincial and city hospitals.

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F3010/10/1 144

CONFIDENTIAL

10th April, 1959.

DISCUSSIONS WITH FOREIGN MINISTER OF THAILAND.

THE ACTING MINISTER.

We have no outstanding problems with Thailand, our relations being consistantly good, and revolving principally around our joint association with the Colombo Plan and SEATO.

Thai Foreign Policy.

2. Inevitably because of its geographical position, Thailand is vitally interested in developments in the neighbouring countries of South-East Asia and shares our concern about preserving the stability of the area and resisting the spread of Communist bloc influence there. These considerations explain Thailand's membership of SEATO, its close association with the United States of America, and its non-recognition of Communist China.

3. As a country with a long tradition of independence and with both a more sophisticated administration and more stable economy than most of its neighbours, Thailand is in a position to exert considerable influence in South-East Asian affairs. In the past Thailand has generally supported Western policies on international issues, but its leaders have not played a prominent part outside their own frontiers in attempting to promote sympathy for a positive anti-Communist as opposed to a neutralist outlook on the part of Asian governments.

4. A recent indication that the Thai Government may intend to be more active in South-East Asian affairs was given by Field Marshal Sarit when he announced last month that he intended to invite the leaders of non-Communist South-East Asian countries to a conference in Bangkok for discussions on matters of mutual interest.

Relations with Cambodia.

5. During the past six months we have been concerned about the development of tension in relations between Thailand and Cambodia. Difficulties arose first over the demarcation of their joint border (both countries claim ownership of an ancient temple near the frontier), and more recently over allegations by Cambodia that Thailand had been involved in an abortive plot against the Cambodian Government. Towards the end of last year, Cambodia temporarily suspended diplomatic relations with Thailand but agreed to their resumption last February after a visit to both capitals by a representative of the United Nations Secretary-General.

6. Should Thai-Cambodian relations be mentioned by the Thai Foreign Minister, it is recommended that you express satisfaction over the recent improvement in relations between the two countries and hope that an early solution may be found to the outstanding differences between them.

CONFIDENTIAL

Relations with Australia under SEATO.

7. We do not yet have a detailed account of discussions at the SEATO Council meeting in Wellington. But we understood that at this meeting the Thai representatives would make a special plea for increasing SEATO activities in the economic field. SEATO members are divided on this point. Our view has been that there are already adequate existing international organizations for the provision of economic aid to the area. However, we recognize that there are marginal cases for economic assistance with a defence connotation which do not fall under the categories provided by existing bodies. To help meet these we have established a special fund of £3 million for Economic Assistance for SEATO Defence. Approximately £2 million has already been committed. Projects for assistance to Thailand include the following:-

(a) A gift of 1,200 horses for the Thai cavalry. The first shipment left Australia in March.

(b) A programme of training and goodwill visits to Australia by senior and junior Thai Service personnel. Admiral Takleo, of the Thai Navy, is at present in Australia on a six weeks' tour to study logistics. Three other senior officers arrived on 31st March for the same purpose. The Thai Military Adviser to SEATO, General Kolyayud, will also visit Australia this month.

(c) Skilled Labour Project. Towards the end of last year an Australian team visited Thailand, Pakistan and the Philippines to examine how we could help these countries overcome the problem of the shortage of skilled labour (which has a direct relation to defence preparedness). Their recommendations are still under consideration in Australia, but we are hopeful that assistance to Thailand under this head will include the establishment in Bangkok of a trade training centre for the Thai Services.

(d) We have also offered assistance in either training or equipment for the Thai Security Services. This plan has not yet advanced beyond preliminary enquiries but we understand the Thais are interested in a grant of equipment.

8. Notes on the situation in Thailand have been sent to you separately.

(J.P. Quinn)

Acting Assistant Secretary.

CONFIDENTIAL

JPQ/IC.

F3010/10/1 142
Confidential

THAILAND: Notes for Discussions with the Thai Foreign Minister, Nai Thanat Khoman.

1. We have no outstanding problems with Thailand, our relations being consistantly good and revolving principally around our joint association with the Colombo Plan and S.E.A.T.O.

2. Thai Foreign Policy

Inevitably because of its geographical position, Thailand is vitally interested in developments in the neighbouring countries of South - East Asia and shares our concern about preserving the stability of the area and resisting the spread of Communist bloc influence there. These considerations explain Thailand's membership of S.E.A.T.O., its close association with the United States of America, and its non-recognition of Communist China.

As a country with a long tradition of independence and with both a more sophisticated administration and more stable economy than most of its neighbours, Thailand is in position to exert considerable influence in South-East Asian affairs. In the past Thailand has generally supported Western policies on international issues, but its leaders have not played a prominent part outside their own frontiers in attempting to promote sympathy for positive anti-communist as opposed to a neutralist outlook on the part of Asian governments.

A recent indication that the Thai Government may intend to be more active in South-East Asian affairs was given by Field Marshal Sarit when he announced last month that he intended to invite the leaders of non-Communist South-East Asian countries to a conference in Bangkok for discussions on matters of mutual interest.

3. Relations with Cambodia

During the past 6 months we have been concerned about the development of tension in relations between Thailand and Cambodia. Difficulties arose first over the demarcation of their joint border (where both countries claim ownership of an ancient temple near the frontier), and more recently over allegations by Cambodia that Thailand had been involved in an abortive plot against the Cambodian Government. Towards the end of last year Cambodia temporarily suspended diplomatic relations with Thailand but agreed to their resumption last February following the visit to both capitals by a representative of the United Nations Secretary-General. Should this problem be raised by the Thai Foreign Minister, it is recommended that you express satisfaction over the recent improvement in relations between the two countries and hope that an early solution may be found to the outstanding differences between them.

4. Relations with Australia under S.E.A.T.O.

We do not yet have a detailed account of discussions at the S.E.A.T.O. Council meeting in Wellington. But we understood that at this meeting the Thai representatives would make a special plea for increasing S.E.A.T.O. activities in the economic field. S.E.A.T.O. members are divided on this point. Our view has been that there are already adequate existing international organizations for the provision of economic aid to the area. However, we recognize that there are marginal cases for economic assistance with a defence connotation which do not fall under the categories provided by existing bodies. To help meet these we have established a special fund of £3 million for Economic Assistance for S.E.A.T.O. Defence. Approximately £2 million has already been committed. Projects for assistance to Thailand include the following:-

(1) A gift of 1200 horses for the Thai cavalry. The first shipment left Australia in March.

(2) A programme of training and goodwill visits to Australia by senior and junior Thai Service personnel. Admiral Takleo, of the Thai Navy is at present in Australia on a 6 week's tour to study Logistics. Three other Officers arrived on 31st March (Group Captain Prayat Jiratitya, Deputy Director of Operations, Thai Air Force; Col. Yanyoung Prayusene and Captain Chirdcha Thomya). The Thai Military Adviser to S.E.A.T.O., General Kolyayud will also visit Australia this month.

(3) **Skilled Labour Project.** Towards the end of last year an Australian team visited Thailand, Pakistan and the Philippines to examine how we could help these countries overcome the problem of the shortage of skilled labour. Their recommendations are still under Government consideration but we are hopeful that assistance to Thailand under this head will include the establishment in Bangkok of a trade training centre for the Thai Services.

(4) We have also offered assistance in either training or equipment for the Thai Security Services. This plan has not yet advanced beyond preliminary enquiries but we understand the Thais are interested in a grant of equipment.

AUSTRALIAN EMBASSY

BANGKOK

UNCLASSIFIED

Your 51.

Please pass following message to Thanat Khoman from Mr. Casey:-

(Begins) Best wishes on your assumption of duties as Minister for Foreign Affairs of Thailand. I remember our meeting in Washington last year and I look forward to seeing you again in April at the SEATO Council. (Ends)

M.

3010/10/1

13/2/1959

3010/10/1 139

DEPARTMENT OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS.

OUTWARD CABLEGRAM.

PVR

O. 2083

SENT: 13th February, 1959
1845

TO:

Australian Embassy,
BANGKOK.

82. UNCLASSIFIED.

Your 51.

Please pass following message to Thanat Khoman from Mr. Casey:-

(Begins) Best wishes on your assumption of duties as Minister for Foreign Affairs of Thailand. I remember our meeting in Washington last year and I look forward to seeing you again in April at the SEATO Council. (Ends)

MIN. & DEPT. E.A.(3010/10/1)
P.M.'s

Cost £8. 2. 0.
15th February, 1959.

A/Ss LA S&SEA SEA INF DL C&P INTELL MR.EASTMAN

30/10/1

Mr. Waller.

Thus he

just come in

seen
Rev.

RJE 20.1.58.

Miss Nelson cc F

Discussed with Mr Waller on the basis of his conversation with you. No further action appears to be required. [illegible] 1/2

DEPARTMENT OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS. CONFIDENTIAL

INWARD CABLEGRAM.

RD.HD:MMc

I.1811

Dated: 29th January 1959
2000
Rec'd: 30th January 1959
0830

FROM:

Australian Embassy,
BANGKOK.

33. CONFIDENTIAL.

An interim constitution containing 20 clauses received Royal assent and was announced by the Revolutionary Party last night. It provides for a 240 members Constituent Assembly to draft a permanent constitution and ''to concurrently act as National Assembly vested with legislative powers''. All members of the Constituent Assembly will be appointed. There will be a Council of Ministers whose members are debarred from membership of the Constituent Assembly but who are nevertheless given the right to be present at the Assembly's deliberations to express opinions. Sarit will act as Prime Minister until a Council of Ministers and Prime Minister are appointed by the King.

2. The interim Constitution acknowledges the King as Head of State and Commander in Chief of the Armed Forces. Provision is made for the appointment by him of a Regent's Council of not more than nine members. The Council of Ministers will exercise Executive powers and veto laws, will exercise judicial powers in the name of the King, while all acts must obtain Royal Assent.

3. Article 17 provides for the assumption of wide powers by the Prime Minister in certain cases. It says inter alia ''during enforcement of the present Constitution, whenever the Prime Minister deems appropriate for the purpose of repressing or suppressing actions, whether of internal or external origin, which jeopardize national security or the Throne or subvert or threaten law and order, the Prime Minister, by resolution of Council of Ministers, is empowered to issue orders or take steps accordingly. Such orders or steps shall be considered legal''.

4. A procedure is laid down for approving the draft of the permanent Constitution in due course, but opinion here is that the Government, under the interim Constitution, will continue for some time - the most cautious estimate comes from the United Kingdom Ambassador who says ''at least one year''.

5. An announcement of 27th January preparing the way for the Constitution, empowers the Prime Minister ''to appoint such qualified persons as he thinks fit to carry out any official duties and to determine amount of remuneration to be disbursed to them''.

6. I propose to send full text of the Constitution and comments by bag unless you require this earlier.

CONFIDENTIAL

DEPARTMENT OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS.

INWARD CABLEGRAM.

I.1811

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

30th January, 1959.

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

G

WASHINGTON

CONFIDENTIAL

→ Mr Lamb

F 3010/10/1

Miss Nyhus

Work 2/12

134

MESSAGE NO. MIN. 1452 6.30 28.11.5

TO - HAY

FROM - MINISTER

I HAVE SEEN YOUR MESSAGE NO. 1654 - RECOGNITION OF NEW THAI GOVERNMENT - AND AGREE.

MESSAGE ENDS.

→ Mr. Hay

CONFIDENTIAL

DEPARTMENT OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS.

OUTWARD CABLEGRAM.

135

O. 15007.

RDS:MP

Sent: 1st December, 1958.

1410.

F 3010/10/1

TO:

Australian Embassy,
BANGKOK.

417. CONFIDENTIAL

New Thai Government.

Your telegram 296, paragraph 2. Agree with your proposal.

If conditions set out in your Saving 43 are not met please seek instructions by cable.

MIN.&DEPT. E.A.(3019/10/1)
MIN.&DEPT. DEFENCE
P.M's

1st December, 1958.

(Cost - £3.15.0.)

SEC A/Ss LA UN CR PA C&AM A M&SP S&SEA
SEA© E.AF&ME E INF DL C&P MR EASTMAN

G

WASHINGTON.

CONFIDENTIAL

CONFIDENTIAL

MESSAGE NUMBER 1654 27.11.58

TO THE MINISTER FOR EXTERNAL AFFAIRS, MELBOURNS

FROM HAY, EA, CANBERRA

CONFIDENTIAL - PRIORITY

RECOGNITION OF NEW THAI GOVERNMENT.

PLEASE SEE PAPER FOR SIGNATURE OR APPROVAL BELOW

CONFIDENTIAL

133

MR WALLER HAS REPORTED IN TELEGRAM 296 OF 25TH NOVEMBER (COPY OF WHICH HAS BENT TO YOU) THAT HE WILL PROBABLY BE ADVISED OF THE FORMATION OF THE NEW THAI GOVERNMENT (EXPECTED SOON) BY A FORMAL NOTE FROM THE THAI MINISTRY OF FOREIGN AFFAIRS. HE PROPOSES TO ACKNOWLEDGE THE COMMUNICATION IN THE ORDINARY WAY AND NOT RAISE THE QUESTION OF RECOGNITION, PROVIDED CERTAIN CONDITIONS ARE MET. THESE ARE THAT THE NEW GOVERNMENT

(1) IS PROCLAIMED BY THE KING,

(11) IS EITHER HEADED BY SARIT OR ONE OF HIS HENCHMENT, AND

(111) RENEWS ITS PLEDGE TO MAINTAIN AND CARRY OUT EXISTING INTERNATIONAL OBLIGATIONS.

Mr P. M. Says I agree This Mr

2. THE UNITED KINGDOM GOVERNMENT HAS ALREADY INSTRUCTED ITS AMBASSADOR IN BANGKOK TO ACT AS ABOVE ON THE SAME CONDITIONS. THE LEGAL BASIS FOR THE UNITED KINGDOM POSITION THAT THE NEED TO EXPRESS RECOGNITION DOES NOT ARISE IS THAT

(A) THE KING CONTINUES AND THE NEW MINISTERS WILL BE HIS MINISTERS, AND

(B) SARIT IS IN FULL CONTROL AND THERE IS NOBODY CLAIMING TO BE THE OLD GOVERNMENT OR ANY OTHER RIVAL GOVERNMENT.

3. WE UNDERSTAND THIS IS ALSO THE UNITED STATES VIEW.

4. AFTER SARIT COUP IN SEPTEMBER 1957 WE AUTHORISED MR WALLER MERELY TO ACKNOWLEDGE THE FOREIGN MINISTRY LETTER ADVISING THE FORMATION OF SARASIN'S INTERIM GOVERNMENT. SIMILARLY NOW WE DO NOT CONSIDER THE RECOGNITION NEED BE RAISED AS THE KING REMAINS HEAD OF STATE.

5. SUBJECT TO YOUR APPROVAL WE PROPOSE TO ADVISE WALLER THAT WE AGREE WITH HIS PROPOSAL.

MESSAGE ENDS FILE 3010/10/1 JD

CONFIDENTIAL

BACK TO PI PIC

d Mr [illegible]
d file 3010/10/1

132

The Australian Embassy,
BANGKOK.

CONFIDENTIAL

New Thai Government.

Your telegram 296, paragraph 2. Agree with your proposal.

If conditions set out in your saving 43 are not met please seek instructions by cable.

Miss Nyulasy S.E.A

We cleared this with the Ministers and it was sent off this morning

WSMS 1/12

3010/10/1 27/11/1958.

DEPARTMENT OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS.

INWARD TELETYPE MESSAGE.

EXD

1958 NOV 28 PM 6:37

131

MESSAGE NO. MIN.1452 6.30 28.11.5

TO - HAY

FROM - MINISTER

I HAVE SEEN YOUR MESSAGE NO. 1654 - RECOGNITION OF NEW THAI GOVERNMENT - AND AGREE.

MESSAGE ENDS.

THE MINISTER FOR EXTERNAL AFFAIRS, MELBOURNE

HAY, EA, CANBERRA 3010/10/1

CONFIDENTIAL - PRIORITY

RECOGNITION OF NEW THAI GOVERNMENT.

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27.11.1958

EXTERNAL AFFAIRS.

128

Confidential

File No. 3010/10/1

Date 27th November, 1958.

SUBJECT RECOGNITION OF NEW THAI GOVERNMENT.

FOR MR. CUTLER

(Copy for C. & P.)

Mr. Waller has reported, in attached telegram 296 of 25th November, that he will probably be advised of the formation of the new Thai Government (expected soon) by a formal note from the Thai Ministry of Foreign Affairs. He proposes to acknowledge the communication in the ordinary way and not raise the question of recognition, provided certain conditions are met. These are that the new government

(i) is proclaimed by the King;

(ii) is either headed by Sarit or one of his henchmen; and

(iii) renews its pledge to maintain and carry out existing international obligations.

2. The United Kingdom Government has already instructed its Ambassador in Bangkok to act as above on the same conditions. The legal basis for the United Kingdom position that the need to express recognition does not arise is that

(a) the King continues and the new Ministers will be his Ministers; and

(b) Sarit is in full control and there is nobody claiming to be the old government or any other rival government.

3. We understand this is also the United States view.

4. After Sarit's coup in September 1957 we authorized Mr. Waller merely to acknowledge the Foreign Ministry letter advising the formation of Sarasin's interim government. Similarly now Dr. Wynes does not consider the question of recognition need be raised as the King remains Head of State.

5. Therefore, subject to C. & P.'s agreement it is recommended that Mr. Waller's telegram be replied to in the accompanying terms.

I agree that the question of recognition does not arise unless the form of government changes (eg from monarchy to a republic) (C. Nelson) CR

Mr Waller should, subject to provisos i – iii in 2nd para above, acknowledge the Note from the Thai Govt when it is received.

AHB 27/11/58

Mr Landale

DEPARTMENT OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS. RESTRICTED

INWARD CABLEGRAM.

R7

I.20678

Sent: 25th November, 1958.
1955
Rec'd: 26th November, 1958.
0830

JERC/ENM

FROM:

Australian Embassy,
BANGKOK.

296 RESTRICTED.

Visutr told me that he still hopes interim Government and Constituent Assembly with legislative powers will be proclaimed this week and that Thanat, who is at present Ambassador to Washington, will be Foreign Minister. Thanat has now returned to Bangkok.

The new Government will probably be notified to us by formal note from the Ministry of Foreign Affairs. Provided the conditions set out in my savingram 43 are met, I propose to acknowledge the communication in the ordinary way and not raise the question of recognition.

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

26th November, 1958.

SEC. A/SS LA UN CR PAC&AM AM&SP S&SEA SA
SEA E.AF&ME E INF DL MT C&P MR. EASTMAN

G

WASHINGTON

RESTRICTED

126

27th November, 1958.

RECOGNITION OF NEW THAI GOVERNMENT.

MR. CUTLER

(Copy for C. & P.)

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(C. Nelson)

South East Asia

DEPARTMENT OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS.

OUTWARD TELETYPE MESSAGE.

MESSAGE NUMBER 1654 27.11.58

TO THE MINISTER FOR EXTERNAL AFFAIRS, MELBOURNE

FROM HAY, EA, CANBERRA

CONFIDENTIAL - PRIORITY

RECOGNITION OF NEW THAI GOVERNMENT.

MR WALLER HAS REPORTED IN TELEGRAM 296 OF 25TH NOVEMBER (COPY OF WHICH HAS BENT TO YOU) THAT HE WILL PROBABLY BE ADVISED OF THE FORMATION OF THE NEW THAI GOVERNMENT (EXPECTED SOON) BY A FORMAL NOTE FROM THE THAI MINISTRY OF FOREIGN AFFAIRS. HE PROPOSES TO ACKNOWLEDGE THE COMMUNICATION IN THE ORDINARY WAY AND NOT RAISE THE QUESTION OF RECOGNITION, PROVIDED CERTAIN CONDITIONS ARE MET. THESE ARE THAT THE NEW GOVERNMENT

(1) IS PROCLAIMED BY THE KING,

(11) IS EITHER HEADED BY SARIT OR ONE OF HIS HENCHMENT, AND

(111) RENEWS ITS PLEDGE TO MAINTAIN AND CARRY OUT EXISTING INTERNATIONAL OBLIGATIONS.

2. THE UNITED KINGDOM GOVERNMENT HAS ALREADY INSTRUCTED ITS AMBASSADOR IN BANGKOK TO ACT AS ABOVE ON THE SAME CONDITIONS. THE LEGAL BASIS FOR THE UNITED KINGDOM POSITION THAT THE NEED TO EXPRESS RECOGNITION DOES NOT ARISE IS THAT

(A) THE KING CONTINUES AND THE NEW MINISTERS WILL BE HIS MINISTERS, AND

(B) SARIT IS IN FULL CONTROL AND THERE IS NOBODY CLAIMING TO BE THE OLD GOVERNMENT OR ANY OTHER RIVAL GOVERNMENT.

3. WE UNDERSTAND THIS IS ALSO THE UNITED STATES VIEW.

4. AFTER SARIT COUP IN SEPTEMBER 1957 WE AUTHORISED MR WALLER MERELY TO ACKNOWLEDGE THE FOREIGN MINISTRY LETTER ADVISING THE FORMATION OF SARASIN'S INTERIM GOVERNMENT. SIMILARLY NOW WE DO NOT CONSIDER THE RECOGNITION NEED BE RAISED AS THE KING REMAINS HEAD OF STATE.

5. SUBJECT TO YOUR APPROVAL WE PROPOSE TO ADVISE WALLER THAT WE AGREE WITH HIS PROPOSAL.

MESSAGE ENDS FILE 3010/10/1 JD

F3010/10/1 125

1958 NOV 27 PM 4:31

"EX COMMS BRANCH"

Mr Lyndale

Miss Nelson
WMZ 9/12.

124

3010/10/1

27th November, 1958.

RECOGNITION OF NEW THAI GOVERNMENT.

MR. CUTLER

(Copy for C. & P.)

Mr. Waller has reported, in attached telegram 296 of 25th November, that he will probably be advised of the formation of the new Thai Government (expected soon) by a formal note from the Thai Ministry of Foreign Affairs. He proposes to acknowledge the communication in the ordinary way and not raise the question of recognition, provided certain conditions are met. These are that the new government

(i) is proclaimed by the King;

(ii) is either headed by Sarit or one of his henchmen; and

(iii) renews its pledge to maintain and carry out existing international obligations.

2. The United Kingdom Government has already instructed its Ambassador in Bangkok to act as above on the same conditions. The legal basis for the United Kingdom position that the need to express recognition does not arise is that

(a) the King continues and the new Ministers will be his Ministers; and

(b) Sarit is in full control and there is nobody claiming to be the old government or any other rival government.

3. We understand this is also the United States view.

4. After Sarit's coup in September 1957 we authorized Mr. Waller merely to acknowledge the Foreign Ministry letter advising the formation of Sarasin's interim government. Similarly now Dr. Wynes does not consider the question of recognition need be raised as the King remains Head of State.

5. Therefore, subject to C. & P.'s agreement it is recommended that Mr. Waller's telegram be replied to in the accompanying terms.

(C. Nelson)

South East Asia

123

The Australian Embassy,
BANGKOK.

CONFIDENTIAL

New Thai Government.

Your telegram 296, paragraph 2. Agree with your proposal.

If conditions set out in your saving 43 are not met please seek instructions by cable.

3010/10/1 27/11/1958.

3010/10/1

RESTRICTED

122

DEPARTMENT OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS.

INWARD CABLEGRAM.

I.20678

Sent: 25th November, 1958.
1955

JERC/ENM

Rec'd: 26th November, 1958.
0830

FROM:

Australian Embassy,
BANGKOK.

296 RESTRICTED.

Visutr told me that he still hopes interim Government and Constituent Assembly with legislative powers will be proclaimed this week and that Thanat, who is at present Ambassador to Washington, will be Foreign Minister. Thanat has now returned to Bangkok.

The new Government will probably be notified to us by formal note from the Ministry of Foreign Affairs. Provided the conditions set out in my savingram 43 are met, I propose to acknowledge the communication in the ordinary way and not raise the question of recognition.

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

26th November, 1958.

SEC. A/SS LA UN CR PAC&AM AM&SP S&SEA SA
SEA E.AF&ME E INF DL MT C&P MR.EASTMAN

G

WASHINGTON

RESTRICTED

Outward Telegram from Commonwealth Relations Office

TO: OTTAWA, CANBERRA (BY AIR MAIL)
WELLINGTON
PRETORIA (ACTING H.C.)
DELHI, KARACHI, COLOMBO (ACTING H.C.), ACCRA (BY AIR MAIL)
KUALA LUMPUR (ACTING H.C.)
SALISBURY (BY AIR MAIL)

RPTD: SINGAPORE, BANGKOK (SAVING)(VIA FOREIGN OFFICE)

(Sent 19.15 hours 4th November 1958)

CYPHER
PRIORITY TO WELLINGTON

W. No. 948 CONFIDENTIAL

Air Mail to Ottawa, Canberra, Pretoria, Delhi, Karachi, Colombo, Accra and Salisbury repeated Saving to Singapore and Bangkok.

My W. No. 460 Saving.

see Bangkok Sav 43 on file 3010/2/1

T H A I L A N D

Field Marshal Sarit and his followers are undisputed masters of situation in Thailand and new Government which King is expected to appoint within next month will probably be formed from, and certainly with support of, Sarit's Army Group.

2. United Kingdom Government consider no special formalities need be observed and intend to move straight into normal relations with new Government when formed on understanding that it is

(a) appointed by King

(b) clearly fully backed by Revolutionary Party now in power and

(c) clearly intends to maintain and carry out existing international obligations.

3. Legal basis for United Kingdom position i.e. that need for express recognition does not arise, is that

(a) King continues and new Ministers will be his Ministers and

(b) Sarit is in full control and there is nobody claiming to be the old Government or any other rival Government.

4. Please inform Commonwealth authorities of United Kingdom attitude.

Copy to:-/

Copy to:-

D. II

Foreign Office — Miss Chevallier

Dublin
U.K. Embassy Washington — Mr. J.R.A. Bottomley
U.K. Mission to U.N. New York — Mr. T.W. Keeble

Lagos — Mr. Fingland

Ottawa (6)
Canberra (6)
Pretoria (4)
Delhi (11)
Karachi (4)
Colombo (4)
Accra (4)
Salisbury (4)

Copies to Foreign Office for retransmission SAVING to Singapore and Bangkok.

SOUTH ASIA AND FAR EASTERN DEPT.
FE.24/20/2

DEPARTMENT OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS

CONFIDENTIAL

120

OUTWARD CABLEGRAM.

O. 14245.

JRC:MP

Sent: 13th November, 1958.
1210.

3010/10/1

TO:

Australian Embassy,
BANGKOK.

391. CONFIDENTIAL

For Ambassador.

We have instructed Australian Delegation at U.N.E.S.C.O. Conference in Paris to vote for Thailand in Executive Board Elections today. This may help mitigate Thai disappointment over failure to obtain seat on I.A.E.A. Board of Governors (our memorandum 997).

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

(Cost - £6.15.0.)

14th November, 1958.

SEC A/Ss LA UN@ TA PAC&AM S&SEA SEA
E.AF&ME INF C&P

CONFIDENTIAL

CONFIDENTIAL

file 3010/10/1

K/E. 28/10/58

3010/10/1.

27.10.58

THAILAND : RECOGNITION OF INTERIM GOVERNMENT.

Miss Nelson ...

Cablegram 262 from Bangkok (copy attached) raises the question of the eventual recognition of the interim Thai Government, whose formation is expected shortly.

2. After Sarit's coup d'état in September, 1957, we authorised Mr. Waller "to acknowledge in customary terms" a letter from the Thai Foreign Minister announcing the formation of Sarasin's interim Government. This coup did not involve the abrogation of the Constitution, and a material element in our decision was the fact that all formal acts since the coup (e.g., proclamation of martial law and dissolution of Parliament) were promulgated by the King. Indeed we inclined to the view that, since the constitutional position of the King as Head of State was unaffected, the question of recognition strictly did not arise. Relevant cables are attached.

...

3. In the present situation, although the King accepted Thanom's resignation, Sarit subsequently abrogated the Constitution, dissolved Parliament and declared martial law. The information at present available to us indicates that he acted on his own authority - without obtaining or even seeking the formal assent of the King. In these circumstances, it appears doubtful if there is any constitutional authority for the acts of the present regime or for the continued existence of the King as Head of State.

4. Mr. Waller considers there is no alternative to according recognition when the issue arises. Meanwhile, it might be useful to have a closer look at the constitutional position. In this connection, the views of the Foreign Office and State Department would be helpful.

(Peter J. Curtis)

S.E. Asia ~~Branch~~

PJC
JBR/ECE

CONFIDENTIAL

DEPARTMENT OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS

CONFIDENTIAL

OUTWARD CABLEGRAM.

DBB:ABK

O.11478

Sent: 10th September, 1958.
1855.

3010/10/1

TO:

Australian Embassy,
BANGKOK.

321 CONFIDENTIAL

For Ambassador.

Your memorandum 1028 - Thailand's candidature for I.A.E.A. Board of Governors.

2. For your own information Australian representative on Board of Governors was approached at last Board meeting early in July for support of Indonesia's re-election to the Board after having served a one-year term only. Our Embassy in Djakarta was also approached subsequently. As there was no other known candidature for the South-East Asia and Pacific seat, and as usual term is two years, we indicated to the Indonesians that we were favourably disposed towards their candidature.

3. Although we avoided a final commitment to Indonesia at that stage, the Acting Minister has now decided, following fresh representations made to us by Indonesia, that we should support their re-election.

4. In informing the Thai authorities of our inability to support them because of our commitment to Indonesia, please point out that the Acting Minister has approved our support of Thailand in elections to Eco Soc.

5. You may also indicate that whilst we cannot support their election to the Board of Governors of I.A.E.A. at forthcoming Conference, we will be sympathetically disposed towards Thailand's election to the Board at a future date.

(Cost £21/9/-)

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

11th September, 1958

SEC A/Ss LA UN ER@ PAC&AM AM&SP S&SEA SEA E.AF&ME E INF DL C&P.

CONFIDENTIAL

117

DEPARTMENT OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS CONFIDENTIAL

INWARD SAVINGRAM.

I.11099

Sent: 26th June, 1958

BD Rec'd: 2nd July, 1958

FROM:

External Affairs Office,
LONDON.

Sav Ex 498. CONFIDENTIAL.

Repeated Australian Embassy, Washington ..Ex 523.

Thailand.

McCormick (Assistant Head, South-East Asia Department, Foreign Office) told us on 24th June that Sarit was expected soon in this country from the United States. The Foreign Office did not know exactly when he would arrive, but expected him to make a visit of about a month, towards the end of which he would probably have political discussions with the United Kingdom authorities.

2. Commenting on internal developments in Thailand, McCormick said that at present there seemed to be political intrigue even more intense than usual. Reports from the United Kingdom Embassy at Bangkok indicated that more divisions within the ranks of the National Socialists were occurring although there were no signs that Army's control of political affairs was being challenged.

MIN. & DEPT. E.A.
MIN. & DEPT. DEFENCE 3rd July, 1958

F

SEC A/Sg LA UN ER PAC&AM EA AM&SP S&SEA SA SEA
EAF&ME E INF DL MT C&P
G.

BANGKOK

CONFIDENTIAL

RESTRICTED.

EXTERNAL AFFAIRS.

116

File No. 3010/10/1

Date 23rd June, 1958.

SUBJECT

FOR MR QUINN

Attached is the information you requested on relations between Australia and Thailand.

2. There have been no visits of significance since Mr Casey went to Thailand last November.

Robt Cavés

SOUTH EAST ASIA.

PJC:MK

(1) Mr. Quinn 23/6

At your request I 'phoned the Thai Embassy (Nai Vudhi) and passed on the attached information.

(2) File 3010/10/1

BC. 28/6/58.

NOTES ON RECENT AUSTRALIAN-THAI CO-OPERATION

1. GIFTS OF CHOLERA VACCINE

On 31st May 1958, following an ~~recent~~ outbreak of cholera in Thailand, the Australian Government sent by air to Bangkok a gift of 8,400 doses of Cholera Vaccine (valued at £800). In response to an appeal from the International Red Cross, the Australian Red Cross also sent 4,000 doses of serum to Bangkok.

2. TRADE MISSION

An Australian Trade Mission to South East Asia visited Bangkok from 3th-8th May, 1958, for discussions on ways of promoting trade between Australia and Thailand. The discussions covered a wide field of primary and secondary industries, commerce and banking.

3. SEATO AND THE COLOMBO PLAN

A note on Australian-Thai co-operation in SEATO aid under the Colombo Plan was sent to the Thai Ambassador last month. A copy of this note is attached, with the Colombo Plan figures brought up to date.

Notes for the Thai Ambassador at 5/5/58.

114

NOTES ON AUSTRALIAN-THAI CO-OPERATION,
SEATO AND THE COLOMBO PLAN

1. SEATO

a. Common Membership

Australia and Thailand are co-operating closely in the defence field through their common membership of SEATO whose headquarters are in Bangkok. Australia was host to the organization and member countries for the Council Meeting in Canberra last year. Thai-Australian co-operation in SEATO is reflected by the fact that the Secretary-General (Nai Pote Sarasin) is from Thailand, while the Deputy Secretary-General is an Australian (Mr. William Worth).

b. Aid to Thailand given under the Australian Programme of Economic Assistance for SEATO Defence

Australia has agreed to supply Thailand with equipment costing approximately £280,000. This equipment includes tents, tarpaulins, medical supplies, pharmaceuticals and horses. Deliveries are expected to take place during the coming financial year 1958/59.

c. Military Exercises

Since 1956 the armed forces of the member countries of SEATO have co-operated in eight military exercises. These exercises are part of the programme of collective defence to which Australia and Thailand are committed. Both countries have taken an active part in those exercises, a number of which have been under the direction of Australian or Thai officers. For example operation "Albatross", a naval exercise carried out during September and October, 1956, was directed by Rear Admiral D.H. Harries of the Royal Australian Navy while exercise "Airlink" was directed by Lieutenant General Surachit Charusreni, Vice Chief of Staff, Royal Thai Army, and exercise "Vayabut", (a series of training exercises held in Thailand in April, 1958) was directed by Air Chief Marshal Dawee Chulasapya, Royal Thai Air Force. Habits of co-operation and mutual understanding among the armed forces of SEATO members are being built up as a result of these exercises, and experience gained should be very valuable if it ever becomes necessary to defend South East Asia against Communist aggression.

d. SEATO Non Military Activities

Member countries of SEATO have recognized that the defence of South East Asia does not depend solely on exclusively military factors. Co-operation in the economic field is taking place through the SEATO Committee of Economic Exports; in the counter-subversion field through the Committee of Security Experts; in the cultural, labour and educational fields through the Committee on Information, Cultural, Educational and Labour Affairs. Australia and Thailand participate in all this work.

SEATO has introduced a cultural programme under which visits are arranged of professors, scholars, and other leading cultural figures. The first grant to an Australian under this programme is to a research student at the Australian National University who will study land utilization and settlement patterns in the Pattani Valley of Southern Thailand.

113

2. The Colombo Plan

There are at present six Australian experts in Thailand. Fields of assignment are as follows:-

Health	4
Forestry	1
Radio	1

Out of the ~~108~~ 113 Thai students who have come to Australia under the Colombo Plan, 52 are at present in training and 61 have completed their training. (An interesting course at present being undertaken by ~~some~~ many Thai teachers at the Sydney University is "The Teaching of English as a Foreign Language". This is the first of its kind in Australia).

3010/10/1

112

The Department of External Affairs presents its compliments to the Royal Thai Embassy and has the honour to refer to the recent request by His Excellency the Thai Ambassador, Nai Konthi Suphamongkhon, for the text of the United Kingdom Australia Social Security Agreement of 1958. A copy of this Agreement, which was published in the United Kingdom, has now been obtained and is enclosed herewith.

CANBERRA. A.C.T.

2nd June, 1958.

6R

3010/10/1

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CANBERRA. A.C.T.

2nd June, 1958.

110

[redacted]

Australian External Affairs Office,
LONDON.

1/3/8

20th May 1958

DEPARTMENT OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS
DUPLICATE
COPY

Memo no..

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

United Kingdom/Australian Social Security Agreement 1958

I refer to your memorandum No.365 of 21st April, 1958 requesting a copy of the above Agreement. Your file 3010/10/1 refers.

2. Attached is one copy of the Agreement. Purchase cost was (Stg.)2/-.

(G.V.Brady)
for Acting Senior External Affairs Representative

Miss Nelson : Should this be passed to Mr Henderson — Office Request was a personal one by Kaulbach to Mr Critchley. Suggest send under 3rd person note referring to recent request by Hon. Min. Kaulbach personally for file re request

Should this be passed to Mr Critchley or given to him by Mr Kaulbach personally for file re request

Now the request originated.

29/5

TEMPLE BAR 2435.

AUSTRALIAN EXTERNAL AFFAIRS OFFICE
AUSTRALIA HOUSE,
LONDON, W.C.2

DEPARTMENT OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS
28 MAY 1958
3010/10/1
CANBERRA

109

In reply quote No. 1/3/8

20th May 1958

Memo no. 603.

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

United Kingdom/Australian Social Security Agreement 1958

I refer to your memorandum No.365 of 21st April, 1958 requesting a copy of the above Agreement. Your file 3010/10/1 refers.

2. Attached is one copy of the Agreement. Purchase cost was (Stg.)2/-.

(G.V.Brady)
for Acting Senior External Affairs Representative

765

108

3010/10/1

21st April, 1958.

Senior External Affairs Officer,
LONDON.

United Kingdom/Australian Social Services Agreement 1958

The Thai Ambassador has asked us for a copy of the above agreement signed in Canberra on 29th January, 1958.

2. As no spare printed copies of this agreement are available in Australia, we should be glad if you would procure a copy for us from Her Majesty's Stationery Office, which published the list as Command paper No.378.

(Cynthia Nelson)
for the Secretary.

Mrs Nelson file

Mr Burkett MC 24/4/1st DRAFT
file 3010/10/1
DUC.

107

THAILAND: QUESTION AND ANSWER

QUESTION

On April 15th during the debate on foreign affairs, both the Leader of the Opposition and the Member for Labor made remarks derogatory to the present Government of Thailand, to the effect that it is a military dictatorship. Will the Minister indicate what is the view of the government in this connection.

ANSWER

This government is associated with the Government of Thailand in S.E.A.T.O. and we are in close and friendly relations with that Government which we respect as the legal authority of a friendly country. It is true that Thailand does not enjoy a fully democratic constitution, but there are quite a number of other of other countries in that condition. Before attempting to criticize we should remember that Thailand was an absolute monarchy as late as 1932 and that it has come a long way in the past 25 years towards the adoption of the forms and practices of democracy.

Until recently, half the members of the Thai Parliament were appointed by the Government.

As the result of a recent reform, two thirds of the members are now elected. General elections were held in December last and supplementary elections for 26 new seats in March of this year. These elections were freely conducted in an entirely democratic manner. ~~Young~~ MANY opposition members were returned so that there is in existence an effective parliamentary opposition - a typically democratic institution. The Government still enjoys a majority partly by virtue of the remaining appointed members. It is the declared policy of the Government of Thailand to make the Parliament fully elective, and to introduce fully democratic practices, as soon as practicable.

Under these circumstances I consider the criticisms of the leader of the Opposition and the Member for Labor entirely unjustified.

Apart from the merits of the question, I consider it particularly unfortunate that the Leader of the Opposition, who was himself Minister for External Affairs in a previous administration, should choose repeatedly to offer these unfriendly criticisms of a government with which Australia is in close and friendly relations, and which has always faithfully carried out its obligations to this country in a spirit of friendships and co-operation.

I advised the Minister against saying anything and he has accepted that view.
J. Rimell 22/4/58

CONFIDENTIAL

DRAFT

106

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EXTERNAL AFFAIRS.

MR. TANGE.

Please see my attached record of talk with Konthi in Canberra yesterday.

I think it would be justified to encourage a Question in the House on Tuesday April 22nd or Wednesday April 23rd, asking me if Dr. Evatt's (or Mr. Pollard's) references to Thailand did not represent improper criticism of another and friendly Government, to which I would make a suitable reply.

You might have such a Question (and answer) drafted for me to have a look at on Tuesday morning April 22nd.

(R.G. CASEY).

Melbourne, C.2.
18th April, 1958.

Mr Bartlett

Perhaps something this sort of arrangement with Mr Plimsoll to be.

21/4/58

CONFIDENTIAL

EXTERNAL AFFAIRS.

F 3010/10/1

CONFIDENTIAL

RECORD OF CONVERSATION WITH MR. KONTHI (THAI AMBASSADOR) IN CANBERRA, THURSDAY APRIL 17TH 1958.

The main purpose of Mr. Konthi's call was to discuss the uncomplimentary references to Thailand by Dr. Evatt and Mr. Pollard in the International Affairs debate on the evening of Tuesday April 15th. I said that I had been in the House when Dr. Evatt spoke and I greatly regretted the references to Thailand that he had made. However I did not believe that the situation would be improved by my interjecting, which Mr. Konthi appreciated. I said that I had not been able to be in the House when Mr. Pollard spoke. I said that any uncomplimentary references to the Thai Government were greatly to be regretted and I asked him to believe that this was in no way the attitude of mind of the Australian Government. I reminded Mr. Konthi that, on a previous occasion when Dr. Evatt had made uncomplimentary references to Thailand, I had taken public exception to what he said. On this occasion Dr. Evatt's references were less offensive and I had not thought it worthwhile to interject or raise a point of order. However I said that I believed that he (Konthi) had seen and heard enough of Parliamentary debates to realise that it was very difficult if not impossible to stop irresponsible and sometimes offensive comment of this sort, and that I hoped that his Government would not take it seriously.

Mr. Konthi said privately that he realised that the circumstances of the recent coup in Thailand might be interpreted as not being "democratic". However it had to be borne in mind that Thailand was an absolute monarchy until 1932 and that they were advancing by steps towards more orthodox democratic processes. He said, for example, that this last Election had been "very much better" than the one before. Democracy could only be achieved by stages, and he believed that his country was developing democratic processes as quickly as their circumstances made possible.

He asked me if I thought an exchange of Parliamentary visits between Thailand and Australia would help. I said that I would certainly consider this.

I said that I would also consider having a Question asked in the House about the improper criticism of the Government of Thailand by Dr. Evatt and Mr. Pollard last Tuesday evening. Mr. Konthi said that what had been said might be interpreted as interference in the internal affairs of another and friendly Government.

Mr. Konthi asked if Australia would support Thailand's application for membership of ECOSOC, in place of Indonesia. I said I was not up-to-date in this matter but I noted his request and that we would consider it.

Mr. Konthi said that Thailand had been a member of the Trusteeship Council in 1950 or 1951 and that they had not been members of any other United Nations body.

(R.G. CASEY).

Melbourne, C.2.
18th April, 1958.

RGC/CVH

103

RECORD OF CONVERSATION WITH MR. KONTHI (THAI AMBASSADOR) IN CANBERRA, THURSDAY APRIL 17TH 1958.

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Melbourne, C.2.
18th April, 1958.

(R.G. CASEY).

DEPARTMENT OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS.

OUTWARD CABLEGRAM.

File 301/1/1 102

O.4336

Sent: 3rd April, 1958
1110

NG/BD

TO:

Australian Embassy,
BANGKOK.

129. UNCLASSIFIED.

For Ambassador.

Memorandum 337 from Services Attache - Visit to Australia of Thai Army Officers.

2. We need urgently fuller comments on purpose of visit and extent to which we may be expected to look after visitors. Is visit to Australia solely for the purposes set out in paragraph 3 of memorandum? What connection is there between visit to Australia and their other visits to Tokyo and the United States?

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

(Cost £7.4.0)

3rd April, 1958

SEC A/Ss LA TA S&SEA SEA INF DL MT C&P

101

AUSTRALIAN EMBASSY
WASHINGTON, D. C.

DEPARTMENT OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS
27 MAR 1958
CANBERRA

3010/10/1

Memorandum No. 223/58 18th March, 1958.

Fidelity Onion Skin
MADE IN U.S.A.

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

THAILAND

Attached for your information are two copies of a self-explanatory exchange of letters between the Charge d'Affaires and Field Marshal Srisdi Dhanarajata.

(J.C. Ingram)
First Secretary

JCI/br

Copy to Mr. Cutts
HFE 28/3/58

GR

- C O P Y -

3rd March, 1958.

Dear Field Marshal Srisdi,

On behalf of the Australian Government and myself I would like to extend best wishes for an early recovery from your operation. It is indeed gratifying to learn that your health and strength are now returning. I feel sure that the Government and people of Thailand are deeply thankful.

If convenient, I should like to pay my personal respects to you. Perhaps, in due course, your Aide could let me know whether I might call.

I am,

Yours sincerely,

(Sgd)

(M.R. Booker)
Charge d'Affaires, a.i.

Field Marshal Srisdi Dhanarajata,
Supreme Commander of the Armed Forces
of Thailand,
2424 California Street, N.W.,
Washington, D.C.

- C O P Y -

Walter Reed Hospital

10 March 1958

Your Excellency:

I wish to express my sincere thanks for your kind letter of March 28th, 1958 which not only done me a great honor but also given me much moral support for quickest recovery.

My health and strength are improving day after day and am looking forward, with much pleasure, to seeing you at your convenience. My Aide will contact your secretary for specific appointment.

May I again thank the Australian Government and yourself for the kind and friendly gesture shown to me on this occasion which I will always remember.

Yours sincerely,

(Sgd) Srisdi Dhanarajata
Field Marshal, Royal Thai Army
Supreme Commander, Royal Thai Armed Forces

His Excellency the Charge d'Affaires, a.i.
Australian Embassy,
Washington, D.C.

CONFIDENTIAL

DEPARTMENT OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS.

OUTWARD CABLEGRAM.

MCD:ABK. O.15015.

Sent: 28th November, 1957.
1755.

TO:

Australian Embassy,
BANGKOK.

515. CONFIDENTIAL.

Your 461.

General attitude towards firm is unfavourable. Memorandum despatched bag today.

Australia provides liaison officers and, if necessary, A.D.C. for official guests. We would not favour arrangement mentioned your cable.

MIN. & DEPT. E.A.
MIN. & DEPT. TRADE (C-M)
P.M.'S DEPT.
P.M.'S.

(Cost £4/13/-)

29th November, 1957.

SEC A/Ss LA ER S&SEA SEA INF C&P@.

file 30/10/10/1
(received [illegible]
re Ellery's offer).

CONFIDENTIAL

97

CONFIDENTIAL

In reply quote No. 221/5/6

DEPARTMENT OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS
25 NOV 1957
3010/10/1
CANBERRA

AUSTRALIAN LEGATION,
PHNOM PENH.

Memo. No. 470

13 November 1957

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

FIELD-MARSHAL PIBUN SONGGRAM

With reference to your memorandum 371 of 22nd October, 1957, Pibun is embarking shortly on the first stage of his journey to the United States but, contrary to the earlier expectation that he would travel by way of Europe, he is going first to Japan. The Japanese Ministry of Foreign Affairs announced yesterday that Pibun is expected in Tokyo in early December, "not as a political refugee, but simply as a tourist", accompanied by his wife and daughter. The Japanese Ambassador here confirms that Pibun has been granted a Japanese visa.

2. It seems that the Marshal intends to spend sometime in Japan and go on to the United States rather later than was at first thought. The American Ambassador understands that he proposes to buy a house in Japan and to settle down there for the time being. The Ambassador is relieved at this change of plan for obvious reasons. There can, of course, be no better country for Pibun to retire to from the western point of view than another Asian country, which in addition is generally regarded as being outside the main political camps.

(F. H. STUART)
Minister

Chan
Mr Nelson
Mr. Cutts.
East Asia.

CONFIDENTIAL

ER

CONFIDENTIAL

CN:BPW 96

3010/10/1
371

22nd October, 1957.

The Australian Legation,
PHNOM PENH.

Movements of former Thai Premier.

on file 3010/2/1

Thank you for your memo No. 416 of 27th September, 1957, concerning reactions in Cambodia to the recent coup in Thailand.

2. With particular reference to paragraph 7 of your memorandum, we endorse your comments concerning our reaction to a request from Pibul to come to Australia. As you reported in telegram No. 120 of 1st October that the American Embassy had been authorised to grant Pibul a visa, we assume that now it is not likely that Pibul would wish to come to Australia. But should the possibility be again raised, you should refer the matter to us immediately by telegram.

(T.W. Cutts)
for the Acting Secretary.

CONFIDENTIAL

CONFIDENTIAL

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DEPARTMENT OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS.

VA:ABK.

O.11993.

OUTWARD CABLEGRAM.

Sent: 24th & 25th September, 1957.
1830 & 1017.
(* Transmitted via leased channel)

TO:

Australian High Commission,
LONDON...2394.

REPEATED:

3010/10/1

Australian Embassy,
WASHINGTON...SAV. 103 *

Australian Embassy,
BANGKOK...SAV. 59.

CONFIDENTIAL.

For External.

Thailand.

Your 2207.

Waller has reported general agreement among Commonwealth Heads of Mission in Bangkok that there is no practical or desirable alternative to recognition of Sarasin Government. We have authorized Waller to acknowledge the letter of the Foreign Minister announcing the new government in customary terms.

2. We have taken particular note of Ambassador's report that all formal acts since 16th September have been promulgated by the King without duress.

A/MIN. & DEPT. E.A. 25th September, 1957.
P.M.'S.

AM&SP.

SEC A/Ss EA S&SEA@ PAC&AM SEA E.AF&ME E INF DL C&P@ MT
SINGAPORE SAIGON OTTAWA UN. NEW YORK.

CONFIDENTIAL

F 3010/10/1

DEPARTMENT OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS.

→ Mr Quinn

INWARD TELETYPE MESSAGE

1957 SEP 24 PM 4:36

→ Mr Cutler

SSEA

~~SEC~~

D1215 1637 24.9.57

TO ACTING SECRETARY, DEPARTMENT OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS

FROM ACTING MINISTER FOR EXTERNAL AFFAIRS

Yes Nelson

YOUR TELEPRINTER MESSAGE NO. 1148 OF TODAY ACKNOWLEDGED. F3010/10/1

I APPROVE THE ACTION PROPOSED THEREIN.

MESSAGE ENDS 1638

Sean MacBride 24/9/57

DEPARTMENT OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS.

OUTWARD TELETYPE MESSAGE.

93

F 2010/10/1

MESSAGE NUMBER 1148 24/9/57 1537

TO: DEPT OF DEFENCE, MELBOURNE

FROM: ACTING SECRETARY, E A, CANBERRA

CONFIDENTIAL.

==========

PLEASE PASS FOLLOWING MESSAGE TO SIR PHILIP MCBRIDE.

FOR ACTING MINISTER FOR EXTERNAL AFFAIRS FROM ACTING SECRETARY.

RECOGNITION OF NEW THAI GOVERNMENT.

1957 SEP 24 PM 3:50

THE FOLLOWING IS TEXT OF TELEGRAM 391 FROM BANGKOK DATED 23RD SEPTEMBER, RECEIVED TO-DAY.

BEGINS...

''THE BRITISH AMBASSADOR HAS DISCUSSED WITH THE COMMONWEALTH HEADS OF MISSIONS THE QUESTION OF FORMAL RELATIONS WITH SARASIN'S GOVERNMENT.

2. I CONSIDER THE QUESTION OF RECOGNITION AS SUCH DOES NOT ARISE. THEORETICALLY AMBASSADORS COULD BE WITHDRAWN OR DIPLOMATIC RELATIONS BROKEN OFF BUT THESE COURSES ARE OUTSIDE THE SCOPE OF PRACTICAL POLICY SINCE:

(A) THEY WOULD SEVERELY DISRUPT S.E.A.T.O. .,

(B) SARASIN HAS STATED HIS INTENTION TO [redacted] CONTINUE POLICY OF FRIENDSHIP WITH THE WEST AND SUPPORT FOR S.E.A.T.O..,

(C) ALL FORMAL ACTS SINCE THE 16TH SEPTEMBER HAVE BEEN PROMULGATED BY THE KING WITHOUT DURESS.

3. OTHER COMMONWEALTH HEADS OF MISSIONS GENERALLY AGREE WITH THE FOREGOING VIEWS.

4. SARASIN HOPES THAT [redacted] HEADS OF MISSIONS WILL BE ABLE TO EXPRESS THEIR WILLINGNESS TO WORK WITH THE INTERIM GOVERNMENT. ASSUMING STATEMENT OF POLICY IS AS HE HAS PROMISED, I PROPOSE TO ACKNOWLEDGE THE LETTER OF THE FOREIGN MINISTER ANNOUNCING THE FORMATION OF THE NEW GOVERNMENT IN CUSTOMARY TERMS.

....WALLER.''

...ENDS.

WE HAVE CONSIDERED THE QUESTIONS INVOLVED IN THIS MATTER AND PROPOSE TO SEND A MESSAGE TO WALLER SAYING THAT WE CONCUR IN HIS PROPOSED ACTION. WE SHOULD BE GLAD TO KNOW WHETHER YOU APPROVE. FOREIGN OFFICE HAS INDICATED ITS INTENTION TO INSTRUCT U.K. AMBASSADOR '' TO PROCEED WITH ACTIONS WHICH WOULD AMOUNT TO RECOGNITION OF SARASIN GOVERNMENT''.

MESSAGE ENDS 1544 AS

CONFIDENTIAL

92

DEPARTMENT OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS.

OUTWARD CABLEGRAM.

O.11991

Sent: 24th September, 1957.
1830

DBB/DH

F3010/10/1

TO:

Australian Embassy,
BANGKOK.

412. CONFIDENTIAL.

Your 391. We concur in action proposed in your paragraph4.

(Cost £1.16.0)

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

25th September, 1957.

SEC A/Ss L/A UN ER PAC&AM AM&SP S&SEA SE/A EAF&ME E INF DEF
MT C&P
SINGAPORE UN. NEW YORK LONDON SAIGON WASHINGTON OTTAWA.

CONFIDENTIAL

CROTONATE

LONDON

CONFIDENTIAL

For External.

Your 2207.

We have authorized Waller to reply in customary terms to letter from Foreign Minister announcing formation of new Government. Acting Secretary has already advised Thai Ambassador that we welcome appointment of Sarasin and see no reason why lastest changes should affect in any way, good relations and close co-operation between Australia and Thailand.

2. Our view is that, as constitutional position of King as head of State is unaffected, question of recognition strictly does not arise.

24.9.57.

90

DEPARTMENT OF DEFENCE, MELBOURNE

ACTING SECRETARY, DEPARTMENT OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS,
CANBERRA

Please pass following message to Sir Philip McBride for Acting Minister for External Affairs from Acting Secretary.

Recognition of New Thai Government.

The following is text of telegram 391 from Bangkok dated 23rd September, received today.

Begins

Ends

We have considered the questions involved in this matter and propose to send a message to Waller saying that we concur in his proposed action. We should be glad to know whether you approve.

Foreign Office has indicated it intends to instruct UK Ambassador to proceed with action which would amount to recognition of the Saroni Govt.

J.P. Quinn 24.9.57

DEPARTMENT OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS.

INWARD CABLEGRAM.

CONFIDENTIAL

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CM:MC

I.13570.

Dated: 23rd September, 1957.
2105.
Rec'd: 24th September, 1957.
1030.

FROM:

Australian High Commission,
LONDON.

2207. CONFIDENTIAL

From External.

Thailand

Tomlinson, Foreign Office, has enquired regarding out intentions on recognition of the new Thai Government. Tomlinson said the United Kingdom Government would probably be instructing its Ambassador by telegram this evening to proceed with actions which would amount to recognition of the Sarasin Government. He considered that although Sarasin was not politically a significent figure the Government was as good as could be expected in the circumstances.

A/MIN & DEPT E.A. 24th September, 1957.
P.M's

SEC A/Ss LA UN PAC&AM AM&SP S&SEA@ SEA EAF&ME E INF DL MT C&P@

SINGAPORE SAIGON BANGKOK UN.NEW YORK WASHINGTON OTTAWA LONDON

3010/10/1

CONFIDENTIAL

DEPARTMENT OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS.

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INWARD CABLEGRAM.

DBB:VA

I. 13549

Sent: 23rd September, 1957
1328
Rec'd: 24th September, 1957
0830

FROM:

Australian Embassy,
BANGKOK.

391. CONFIDENTIAL.

The British Ambassador has discussed with the Commonwealth Heads of Missions the question of formal relations with Sarasin's Government.

2. I consider the question of recognition as such does not arise. Theoretically Ambassadors could be withdrawn or diplomatic relations broken off but these courses are outside the scope of practical policy since;

(a) they would severely disrupt S.E.A.T.O.;

(b) Sarasin has stated his intention to continue policy of friendship with the West and support for S.E.A.T.O.;

(c) all formal acts since the 16th September have been promulgated by the King without duress.

3. Other Commonwealth Heads of Missions generally agree with the foregoing views.

4. Sarasin hopes that Heads of Missions will be able to express their willingness to work with the interim Government. Assuming statement of policy is as he has promised, I propose to acknowledge the letter of the Foreign Minister announcing the formation of the new Government in customary terms.

... Waller.

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

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

24th September, 1957.

discussed c Mr. Butler & Butler agrees c para 4. - they have underscored

M Henderson

24/9

SEC A/Ss LA UN ER PAC&AM AM&SP S&SEA SEA NAF&ME E INF DL MT C&P

G

File 3010/10/1

SINGAPORE U.N. NEW YORK LONDON SAIGON WASHINGTON OTTAWA

CONFIDENTIAL

3010/10/1
87

DEPARTMENT OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS.

OUTWARD CABLEGRAM.

U N C L A S S I F I E D

DB:SS

O. 11897

Sent: 23rd September, 1957
1230

TO:

Australian Embassy,
B A N G K O K

410. UNCLASSIFIED

For Waller from Plimsoll.

Glad if you would pass my personal regards and good wishes to Pote Sarasin.

(COST £3.3.0)

EA

23rd September, 1957

SEC

→ Mr Cutt SSEA
See fs

DEPARTMENT OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS CONFIDENTIAL

OUTWARD CABLEGRAM.

86

...:SS

O. 11894

TO:

Sent: 23rd September, 1957
1200

Australian Embassy,
WASHINGTON....952 ẋ

ẋ (Transmitted via leased channel)

Repeated:

Australian Mission to the
United Nations,
NEW YORK.....606 ẋ
(for Mr. Casey)

Australian High Commission,
OTTAWA ..... 335 ẋ

Australian Embassy,
BANGKOK 409

CONFIDENTIAL

From Plimsoll.

Konthi (Thai Ambassador) today drafted in my office his telegram to Bangkok reporting Australian reaction to change in Thai Government. I finished up by virtually drafting his telegram for him as follows:

Begins:

The Australian Government was at first concerned at the reports of a military coup in Thailand, partly because this might indicate instability in a country in whose security and welfare Australia has a close interest and partly because the manner of this change of Government might be used by Communists in their propaganda in an attempt to discredit Thailand. The Australian Government is very pleased that the change has been made without any bloodshed, and has also been pleased to see the statement that Thailand's foreign policy and its support for S.E.A.T.O. will remain unchanged.

The Australian Government was very pleased to see the appointment of Pote Sarasin as Prime Minister because they respect his integrity and long experience in international affairs. His presence as Prime Minister is a guarantee of the new Government. The Australian Government points out that in the next three months Communists and other enemies of Thailand will be watching closely what goes on in that country and will be quick to point to any persecution of political opponents of the Government or to any blatent attempts to rig elections;

DEPARTMENT OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS CONFIDENTIAL

OUTWARD CABLEGRAM.

85

O. 11894

consequently the new Government will have a very delicate task ahead of it.

Australia sees no reason why the latest changes should affect in any way the good relations and close co-operation between Australia and Thailand. Ends.

A/MIN & DEPT EA
MIN & DEPT DEFENCE
P.M.'s

23rd September, 1957

V — Dr Cutler
SEA
84 3010/10/1

AUSTRALIAN EMBASSY, WASHINGTON 0 11894

REPEATED TO: AUSTRALIAN MISSION TO THE UNITED NATIONS, NEW YORK
(for Mr. Casey)
AUSTRALIAN HIGH COMMISSION, OTTAWA AUSTRALIAN EMBASSY, BANGKOK

CONFIDENTIAL

FROM PLIMSOLL.

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JP/JB

23rd September 1957.

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DEPARTMENT OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS
30 JUL 1957
2010/10/1

82

AUSTRALIAN EMBASSY,
BANGKOK.

In reply quote No. 204/6/3/1

Memorandum No. 1014/57.

22nd July, 1957.

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

PRESS STATEMENT.

In reply to a series of written questions by the Bangkok World (circulation 2,000), I issued the attached press statement.

2. Attached also is a cutting from the World showing the portion printed.

(J.K. Waller)
Ambassador.

Copies to:
Mr. Nelson
Mr. Cutts
Mr. Plimsoll
Mr. Lennery (to retain if desired)
D.L.

STATEMENT FOR BANGKOK WORLD BY AUSTRALIAN AMBASSADOR (MR. J.K. WALLER).

Before replying to your questions in detail, I should like to clear up some misconceptions about SEATO.

The Organization was set up in 1955 as a collective defence against the spread of Communism. Its job is not to interfere in the internal affairs of any member state. The fact that SEATO exists is, in itself, a deterrent to Communist aggression. It is true that the policies of open military aggression followed by Communist states in Europe and Asia have apparently been halted. Some people argue that this is due to a change of heart in Communist leadership. But it is truer to say that this change of heart has been brought about by the resolute stand of defensive organizations such as NATO and SEATO.

SEATO has also a positive task to strengthen the ability of member states to resist aggression. It also develops the economic and cultural ties between member states. This work is important and is achieving practical results.

The following are detailed answers to your questions:-

Question 1.

The Bangkok Post of the 16th July has printed news of a report, said to have been received from some authoritative sources, that a foreign organization is working to overthrow the Thai Government by using about 40-50 million baht in the "purchasing" of National Assemblymen and the establishing of a political party, of which, according to the report, leading personages in the Government such as Field Marshal P. Pibulsonggram have full knowledge. Has Your Excellency, in the capacity of President of the SEATO Council of Representatives, heard of this report and if so, what are your views.

Answer 1.

I have no official knowledge of the report referred to. I have seen various press reports, some of them apparently conflicting, and without further knowledge, I am unable to express an opinion.

/2...

80

Question 2.

After the newspapers had printed this report, Lt. Gen. Prapart Charusthien, the Deputy Minister for the Interior, expressed his opinion that this report may be correct and that the foreign organization in question consists of Chinese Nationals from Red China, because the Ministry of the Interior had already received some such reports. He believes that the Communist Chinese may start their disturbances in Thailand as they have already done in Singapore and Malaya. Lt. Gen. Prapart stressed that Thailand may be in the same condition. As Thailand is a member of SEATO and its sovereignty is being demolished by the Communist peril, has Your Excellency, in the capacity of the President of the SEATO Council of Representatives, considered taking any action about it or not. Why.

Answer 2.

Although SEATO is accused by the Communists of being an aggressive tool of the United States, its charter does not give it the power to interfere in the internal affairs of member countries. It is, however, keenly aware of the problem of Communist subversion, especially from Communist China. If the Thai Government wishes to seek the assistance of SEATO in any problem of Communist subversion, it will no doubt raise the matter officially. Member governments are not, however, obliged to refer all Communist subversion problems to SEATO.

Question 3.

As it is the direct duty of SEATO to investigate Communist activities, have you ever received any reports concerning this information.

Answer 3.

See answer to Question 2.

Question 4.

As it is the duty of SEATO to prevent and safeguard from all Communist perils, what is your opinion about visits to Red China by Thai Trade Unionists, the basket-ball team and artists. Will the unofficial opening of friendly relations between these two nations by these people endanger SEATO or not. Why.

/3...

Answer 4.

Travel by Thai citizens to Communist China is a matter for the Thai Government. SEATO could only advise on this if Thailand sought SEATO's opinion. I cannot predict what effect these visits will have but it is safe to say that the Communists hope they will serve their end of subverting the free countries of South and South East Asia.

Question 5.

We would like to know what is the present position among the member countries of SEATO. Is the danger from Communist infiltration and disturbances increasing or diminishing. Why?

Answer 5.

The threat of open military attack has apparently been halted by the alliances of the Free World, including SEATO. The threat from Communist subversion continues undiminished. It increases and decreases in intensity in different areas according to shifting Communist tactics. Our assessment in SEATO is that the overall aim of Communism remains that of bringing the countries of South and South East Asia under Communist domination.

15/Post
19/4
78

File 3010/10/1

THE BANGKOK POST

Vol. 11. No. 211. Friday April 19, 1957.

Australia and Thailand

THE visit of the Australian Prime Minister, Mr. R. G. Menzies, this weekend cements a long period of firm friendship between two countries that are allies in the Colombo Plan and under Seato.

The first post-war Australian Consul General in Thailand, Mr. A. J. Eastman, quickly established cordial relations. All Australian war damage claims, particularly with regard to tin mines, were settled by 1951.

At that time the few Australians in Thailand were mostly engaged in the tin mining industry. There are now about 150 Australians in this country, about half of them in Bangkok.

On October 22, 1951, the Australian Consulate-General in Bangkok was raised to the level of a Legation and Mr. B.C. Ballard presented his credentials as first Australian Minister on May 6, 1952.

In December of the same year, Nai Konthi Suphamongkhon was appointed the first Thai Minister in Australia. Nai Konthi, who is still in Canberra, is a career member of the Thai Foreign Office.

In January, 1955, Mr. D.O. Hay, D.S.O., M.B.E., was appointed Minister to Thailand. He arrived in Bangkok with Mrs. Hay early in 1955 and was promoted to Ambassador status in December of the same year. At the same time the Thai Minister in Canberra was raised to Ambassador status.

Mr. Hay, who is a career diplomat, has been Australia's representative on the Seato Council of Representatives which meets regularly in Bangkok.

Mr. Hay leaves Bangkok at the end of this month and will be succeeded by Mr. J.K. Waller, who will also be Australia's representative on the Seato Council of Representatives.

Australia's Minister for External Affairs, Mr. R.G. Casey, has visited Bangkok several times. In particular, he attended the first Seato meeting of Foreign Ministers in Bangkok in February, 1955.

Recently, Mr. Casey said: "Australia's contacts with Thailand have increased notably during recent years. Thailand occupies a key position in Asia and Bangkok, has become as a center for international meetings."

Mr. Casey was referring not only to Seato meetings but to Australia's representation on the U.N. Economic Commission for Asia and the Far East (ECAFE), which has its headquarters here.

Australia also sent a strong delegation to the recent Inter-Parliamentary Union conference held in Bangkok.

Australian naval ships have visited Bangkok several times from Seato exercises in the Gulf of Thailand. Australian soldiers took part in the Seato "Firm Link" exercises.

• • •

Thailand joined the Colombo Plan in 1954 and since then 75 Thai trainees have studied in Australia, most of them taking medical, nursing or engineering courses.

In addition, the Australian Colombo plan authorities have sent most of the 200 horses promised to the Thai Red Cross for the production of anti-snakebite vaccines.

Approval has been given for the supply of 150 radio sets for use by the Ministry of Interior and 500 radio sets for the Ministry of Education.

Drilling equipment for the Lignite Thermal Power Organization has already arrived and hospital equipment for the Chulalongkorn Hospital.

Last year, two eminent Australian doctors, Mr. E.E. Dunlop, a surgeon, and Dr. G.U. Stanton, a radiologist, lectured and demonstrated to Thai medical students in Bangkok.

Six post-graduate nurses who went to Australia in 1955, were joined by six others in 1956 and a further six have been nominated for study in Australia.

Library books have been approved for Chulalongkorn and Thammasat and more are likely to be approved for the Ministry of Education.

In addition to Colombo Plan trainees, about 160 Thai students are now attending Australian schools, colleges and universities.

• • •

The total value of Australian exports to Thailand last year was £1,377,090 compared with £119,000 in 1939. The chief commodities were flour, milk products, machines and machinery, drugs and medical preparations and gold and silver bullion.

In return Australia took goods from Thailand valued at £166,000, comprising rubber, timber, starch flours and

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The Australian Trade Commissioner in Singapore, Mr, H.M. LeMarchand, visited Thailand in 1955 and reported that good business, could be done here despite some import restrictions.

He was particularly struck with the new port at Klong Toi. He said the whole arrangement was impressive and the port easily handled 97 per cent of Thailand's imports and 75 per cent of its exports.

The through-flow when he was in Bangkok was about three million tons a year and he considered that adequate provision had been made for all future requirements.

In regard to general items," he said, "shippers and manufacturers should continue to encourage their agents or distributors to take quick advantage of opportunities created by any relaxation of import and exchange controls.

"As for heavier secondary industry items, business will not be easy, and can only come provided that manufacturers make an energetic and realistic approach to the problems of price and background preparation."

The most interesting and important recent development has been the importation into Thailand of the Australian-made Holden cars. New models, including station wagons, are expected in the comparatively near future.—**(Australian Information Service)**.

The Minister of Civil Aviation, Senator Shane Paltridge, said the precautionary measures taken in this case were an example of the international co-operation and efficiency in the aviation industry, which was always directed to air safety.

Viscounts have proved very popular in Australia. T.A.A. Viscounts link every capital, and in May the airline will put Viscounts on the Brisbane-Cairns route. T.A.A. had achieved an 85 per cent passenger load factor with the aircraft.

FULL D.M.E. COVERAGE FOR PERTH-DARWIN ROUTE

Pilots flying the 2,796 miles between Perth and Darwin are to have full Distance Measuring Equipment coverage along the entire route.

A D.M.E. ground beacon to be installed at Wyndham will complete the coverage. D.M.E. stations at Perth, Geraldton, Broome, Derby and Darwin already serve the route.

Australia has now more than 60 D.M.E. stations in operation. The equipment has proved a highly efficient safety aid, and the new arrival procedures it had made possible have meant considerable savings to operators.

AUSTRALIAN DELEGATION TO INDIA

The Director-General of Civil Aviation, Mr. D.G. Anderson, led an Australian delegation to India in February to review the operations of the Air Transport Agreement between the two countries.

The present agreement was negotiated in 1949. The Australian delegation was abroad for two weeks. Mr. Anderseon said on his return that discussions at New Delhi had been cordial and that both delegations would report to their Governments.

The Australian delegation comprised Mr. Anderson, the Assistant Director-General of Civil Aviation (Air Transport Policy), Dr. Harold Poulton, the External Relations Officer of the Department, Mr. R. Felgenhaeur and the International Adviser to Qantas, Captain E.C. Johnson.

BRISTOL CHAIRMAN IN AUSTRALIA

The Chairman of Bristol Aircraft Ltd. and the President of the Society of British Aircraft Constructors, Mr. C.F. Uwins,

~~RESTRICTED~~ CONFIDENTIAL

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DEPARTMENT OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS
15 APR 1957
402/1/1
CANBERRA

AUSTRALIAN EMBASSY,
BANGKOK.

In reply quote No.: 221/4

Memo No.: 475/57

10th April, 1957

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

Record of Conversation

.... Attached are copies of a record of a conversation with Nai Somchai Anuman Rajathom, South-East Asia Desk, Ministry of Foreign Affairs, on 8th April.

2. We are forwarding a copy of the attachment to Mr. Plimsoll in Tokyo as it may be useful background in anticipation of his forthcoming visit with the Prime Minister. Appropriate extracts are also being sent to Saigon, Singapore and Kuala Lumpur.

(K. A. Baxter)
Second Secretary

Copies to
Mr. Coutts
Mr. Queen
Minister?
Spare to
Mr. Teakle
M.T.
P.L

~~RESTRICTED~~ CONFIDENTIAL

→ SOUTH EAST ASIA

EXTERNAL AFFAIRS. 2010/10/1 96

MR. PLIMSOLL. Dear Plimsoll

Konthi (Thailand) brought this in to me this morning - rather politely indignant at the Labour reference to "reactionary regimes" in Thailand. I might make protest about this in my speech on Tuesday night.

(R.G. CASEY).

Parliament House,
CANBERRA. A.C.T.

28th March, 1957.

Mr. Woolcott per [illegible]

F. 402/1/1

Sunt 16/3

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SEATO A Failure, Labour Policy Says

From Our Industrial Roundsman

BRISBANE, Wednesday. — The A.L.P. Federal conference to-day declared that SEATO was an ineffective failure that was becoming an instrument for bolstering "reactionary regimes."

It declared also that Communist China should be admitted immediately to the United Nations, that Australia should seek more direct contact with all Asian countries and that Australia should withdraw its forces from Malaya.

The conference adopted an international policy declaration that becomes binding on all members of the party, including Federal and State politicians.

The declaration said:—

"The South-East Asian Treaty regional organisation must be both an instrument for the peacful settlement of South-East Asian disputes and for the mutual defence of the area in case of attack and operating strictly within and through the framework of United Nations.

"This conference is of the opinion that SEATO has failed to perform its basic functions, that it is fast becoming an instrument for bolstering reactionary regimes as in Laos, and that the Liberal-Country Party coalition Government has contributed to SEATO's ineffectiveness.

"Further, we are of the opinion that the bolstering of reactionary regimes in South-East Asia, such as that in Siam, merely assists the Communists by giving them the opportunity to take over genuinely democratic nationalist movements.

"Generous Assistance"

"The Labour Party advocates generous assistance by Australia to Asian peoples suffering from poverty, disease, and lack of educational facilities. This is only part of our task.

"Asian peoples also demand—in accordance with the United Nations Charter—the end of colonialism whenever and wherever the people are fit for self-government.

"Even more, Asia rightly demands recognition of the dignity and self-respect of Asian nations and peoples.

"Unless all these principles are fully acknowledged, Western nations will find it impossible to achieve that real co-operation with Asia which is basic to the maintenance of peace.

"The Australian Labour Party is satisfied that the use of Australian troops in Malaya is unnecessary and must gravely injure Australia's relations with its Asian neighbours.

"We therefore continue to oppose the use of all armed forces in Malaya, being convinced that the ideological and economic weapons should be employed by the Australian Government, rather than armed force, in any endeavour to help Malaya in its internal fight against Communism and Fascism.

"This conference is firmly of the opinion that there is a grossly inadequate understanding of Asian problems in Australia and of Australian problems in Asia.

"Therefore, it establishes the policy of encouraging exchanges of official and unofficial visits between our countries.

"In particular, the Australian Labour movement itself should seek direct contact with Asian countries. In this connection no Asian country should be excluded from such exchanges.

"The admission to the United Nations of continental China should no longer be delayed.

"It is in the best interests of Australian development that, in line with the policy initiated by the British Labour Party seven years ago and since supported by British Conservative parties, normal and friendly diplomatic relationships between continental China and Australia should be established and strengthened at once.

"Urgent Need For Realism"

"Criticisms of the regime in continental China by Conservative Governments such as the Menzies Government in Australia ignore:

"(1) The moral responsibility of colonial powers which have treated and still treat less-developed countries as vassals and which have suppressed and are still suppressing any attempt for democratic Government;

"(2) The admission to the United Nations of countries with Fascist regimes without objection by Conservative Governments such as the Menzies Government in Australia;

"(3) The refusal of an overwhelming majority of the world's people in less-developed countries surrounding Australia to accept the modern capitalist system as it has been accepted by a small majority of the world's people in more-developed countries;

"(4) The urgent need for Australia to meet this situation with policies of realism designed to promote security and peace in the Pacific and Asia, and prosperity in Australia.

"In view of these circumstances the immediate recognition of continental China and its admission to the United Nations is an integral part of Australian Labour's foreign policy in the Pacific."

France, Britain, Soviet Attacked

The declaration also declared that the present policies of the French Government in Algeria, the Soviet Government in Hungary, and the British Government in Cyprus were contrary to the principles to the U.N. Charter and that self-determination was the right of peoples capable of self-government.

It welcomed the creation of the new self-governing state of Ghana.

AUSTRALIAN EMBASSY.
BANGKOK.

DEPARTMENT OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS
- 6 FEB 1957
CANBERRA

402/1/1

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In reply quote No.: .....

Memo No.: 176/57.

30th January, 1957.

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

AUSTRALIA DAY - 1957.

Enclosed herewith are copies of a communication received from the Prime Minister on the occasion of Australia Day and my reply thereto.

(D.O. Hay)
Ambassador

Copy to
Mr. Furlonger
Mr. Street
C&P to advise
MC/2

Presidency of the Council of Ministers,
Bangkok.

26th January, B.E. 2500.

My dear Ambassador,

On the happy occasion of the Day of First Settlement of Australia, I wish to extend to you and, through you to the Government of Australia, my heartfelt felicitations and sincere good wishes for the increasing welfare and happiness of Australia and her people.

I wish also to express my firm belief that the bonds of friendship linking Australia and Thailand will be further strengthened for the common peace and security of the two countries and peoples.

Believe me, my dear Ambassador,

Yours sincerely,

(Sgd.) P. Pibulsonggram.

Field Marshal.

His Excellency,
Monsieur David O. Hay, D.S.O., M.B.E.,
Australian Embassy,
BANGKOK.

Australian Embassy,
BANGKOK.

30th January, 1957.

My dear Prime Minister,

I am indeed greatly honoured by the kind message of greetings and good wishes which Your Excellency extended to me and the Government of Australia on the occasion of our National Day. I will hasten to convey your message to my Government.

I would also like to thank you sincerely for your most courteous gesture in sending a magnificent basket of flowers. This is a kind thought which my wife and I most deeply appreciate.

In conclusion, may I with all sincerity reciprocate your wish that the friendship between our two countries, based as it is on common principles and aims, will continue to grow even stronger.

I am,

Yours sincerely,

Sgd. D. O. HAY

(D.O. Hay)

His Excellency,
Field Marshal P. Pibulsonggram,
Presidency of the Council of Ministers,
BANGKOK.

RESTRICTED

~~6/4/2/4/4/10~~

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FILE: 221/4/5/1.

~~Embassy.~~
AUSTRALIAN LEGATION.
BANGKOK.

MEMO NO.1247/56. 25th October, 1956.

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

EXERCISE ALBATROSS : VISIT OF SEATO NAVAL SHIPS TO BANGKOK.

Ships from the SEATO Nations taking part in Phase II of Exercise Albatross visited Bangkok from Monday, 8th October, to Friday, 12th October, 1956. I attach one copy of the programme of the visit.

2. So far as Australia is concerned, the impact of the visit to Bangkok was greater than those of the two previous visits by R.A.N. ships. This was due to a number of factors:-

(a) The successful V.I.P. visit to Sydney and Melbourne on 7th October. Amongst the Thais who made the visit, by helicopter from Palmam, were Field Marshal Sarit, Deputy Minister of Defence and Army C-in-C, Admiral Luang Yuttasart Kosol, Minister of Culture and Navy C-in-C, Admiral Luang Chamnarn, Deputy Minister of Communications, Assistant C-in-C, R.T.N., and C-in-C of The Royal Fleet, Admiral Sanoh Rakdham, Deputy Chief of Staff, R.T.N., Admiral Damri Polkavongse, Director of Operations and Plans, R.T.N., General Jira Vichitsonggram, Thai Military Adviser to SEATO, and Air Marshal Dawee Chullasapya, Chief of Staff of the Royal Thai Air Force. This is an influential group of Service officers and politicians. I have spoken to all of these officers subsequently and, without exception, they expressed their pleasure at the arrangements made for them and their regard for the standard of what they were shown during the day. The Prime Minister had at first said he would come along as well, but at the last minute declined. His absence, which was a pity, was nevertheless compensated for by the high rank of the other guests. H.M. the King indicated to Admiral Harries during his audience that he himself would have liked to see the aircraft carriers. There would have been difficulties in arranging this, but it is a point which could be borne in mind for next time.

(b) The fact that the Flag Officer Commanding the SEATO exercise was an Australian. This received good notice in the press which, for example, published photographs of FOCAF's visit to SEATO Headquarters. FOCAF also held a well attended press conference on 8th October and this too was well reported. I attach copy of the report which appeared in the Bangkok Post. FOCAF also had the honour of an audience with H.M. the King.

(c) The fact that the ships were prepared to do a little more than usual on behalf of the public in Bangkok. Although a great number of ratings had already donated blood in Singapore, some forty volunteers were found to donate blood to the Thai Red Cross, a large figure in a country where for the most part blood has to be bought. A number of crippled children were entertained on board and all were presented with a medalion, a small gesture much appreciated. Again, after the football match against the Royal Thai Navy, arrangements had been made for each member of the Australian-New Zealand team to present to his Thai opposite number a medallion. In a country where the exchange of gifts is a usual custom, I am sure that this gesture did not pass unnoticed.

RESTRICTED

(d) The favourable publicity in the Bangkok press. You will already have seen a copy of the report on publicity prepared by the Information Attache and sent with our memorandum No.1233/56. On the whole, the press gave a full coverage to the visit and on balance, the publicity was favourable. Certain opposition parties which opposed SEATO as such, made statements criticising the exercise. These statements were published but far greater space was given to favourable statements, to official publicity release during the visit and to original stories by correspondents of various newspapers.

3. The abovementioned factors also helped the visit to be a success from a SEATO viewpoint. Other contributing factors were -

(a) The visit of one R.A.N. ship to Sattaheep naval base which was a recognition of the importance of the base and made possible direct contact with the naval personnel there.

(b) The high standard of behaviour of the SEATO personnel on shore leave. I have heard no adverse and many commendatory reports on this.

(c) The fact that the visit followed a working exercise which was of practical benefit to the Thai Navy.

4. It is true that public interest (and attendance of Thais at functions) waned towards the end of the visit. This was because the Thai-American Marine demonstration took place on Thursday, 11th October, and was required attendance for all senior Thai Service Officers. It would be preferable to arrange future exercises to avoid any clash if only because of the strain such a clash imposes on Thai resources.

5. Before the visit to Bangkok of the Albatross forces had been finally decided on, several of us had misgivings because it was felt that it would impose too great a strain on the hospitality of the Thais. Both the British and the Americans in the event severely limited the number of their ships which came here (the former to two, the latter to one). As a result, the Thais were able to cope with the eleven SEATO ships satisfactorily although the scale of their hospitality, including provision of transport, was understandably less than on previous occasions.

6. Since Albatross was initiated by Australia, the main burden (a heavy one) of the arrangements for the visit to Bangkok fell on this Embassy. As seen here, the arrangements were satisfactory and the complicated programme was fulfilled smoothly. Credit for this is due to the Services Attache (Wing Commander J.R. Kimminmont) who was assisted by an officer sent up especially by the R.A.N., and to the Information Attache (Mr. Bartlett), and I should be glad if you would so advise their Departments.

7. A copy of this memorandum is being sent to the Australian Commission, Singapore.

Sgd. D. O. HAY

(D.O. Hay)
Ambassador

REPORT OF F.O.C.A.F. PRESS CONFERENCE : BANGKOK POST
TUESDAY, 9TH OCTOBER, 1956.

Reporting that SEATO Operation Albatross so far has gone on "very well", Rear Admiral A.H. Harries, CBE, Flag Officer Commanding the Australian Fleet, told a press conference aboard the Australian destroyer, Tobruk, last evening that there are still many technical problems to be solved and "a very large organization" under the SEATO Military Advisers is working on standardization of methods of communication of the various SEATO fleets and other naval activities.

Admiral Harries remarked that "it is a slow process and results are not possible except in a period of several years".

However, he said in answer to a query, if Thailand is invaded by sea, "there are naval forces nearby the whole time belonging to the British, Americans and Australians", and they may be dispatched here immediately to assist in meeting the invasion. But, he added, "this is a matter of government policy" and he said he was not competent to answer on government policy. Nevertheless, he added: "We will do our best.".

Admiral Harries said that it would take about ten to fourteen days for Australian ships to come to the Gulf of Thailand.

Stating that the submarine is going to play as big a part in future wars as in the past, he advised that it would be "prudent" for the Thai Navy to develop ships for submarine warfare.

Admiral Harries commended the Thai Navy for its part in the second phase of the exercise, which took place in the Gulf of Thailand.

He reported that two Thai frigates and four patrol boats participated in the exercise Friday Saturday and Sunday and were returning to base today.

He expressed belief that it was the first time that the Thai Navy participated in such a joint naval exercise. Considering this, he said, "the Thai did extraordinarily well". He said the Thai vessels participated in a "screen" of 22 ships and "they performed very efficiently".

Admiral Harries specially commended Thai ships in operations involving replenishing of oil and other supplies from supply vessels at sea - a technique which he said was only developed a few years ago. He said he did not know if the Thai Navy ever had any practice but "they did very well".

Admiral Harries reported that the Royal Thai Air Force participated in the operation for two days, the first day with Shooting Stars and the second with Bearcats. He said there were no casualties.

Asked for comment on an Indonesian protest against the operation, the Australian officer said that the operation had not been held in Indonesian territorial waters.

Political questions were evaded by Admiral Harries, who said that these should be answered by the diplomats.

The press conference took place in the wardroom of the Tobruk, which is temporarily carrying the flag of Admiral Harries. The flag was transferred from the Australian carrier, Melbourne, flagship of the operation, to the Tobruk for the Bangkok visit of SEATO vessels.

RTe 402/1/1

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Map of Thailand	

25.10.56

THAILAND

GENERAL BACKGROUND

Geographical

Thailand has an area of 200,000 square miles or roughly two-thirds the area of New South Wales.

Population

Approximately 20 million, of whom the majority are of Thai stock. There is a Chinese minority of 3 million, most of them in the cities; people of Malay stock in the southern provinces adjoining Malaya; and 50,000 refugees from Vietnam in the north-east provinces.

Religion

The Thais are Buddhists, although the small Malayan minority in the South are Muslims.

Economy

Almost 90% of the population are engaged in agriculture. Rice is the principal crop, the staple food, the chief export, and generally the key to Thailand's prosperity. Rubber, tin, and teak are also exported. Thailand has one of the highest standards of living in Asia (although, of course, it is still very low by Australian standards).

History

Thailand is the only territory in South East Asia which retained its independence during the period of colonial expansion in the nineteenth century. From the eighteenth century the Thais succeeded in playing off one European power against the other.

As a result of a "coup d'etat" in 1932 Thailand changed from an absolute monarchy to a constitutional monarchy. The present Government came to power following a coup d'etat in 1947 by military leaders led by Field Marshal Pibul Sónggram in association with a group of conservative civilians.

POLITICAL

The Government

In theory Thailand is a constitutional monarchy with its Cabinet (Council of Ministers) responsible to a single chamber legislative (Assembly of People's Representatives). In fact the present Government was put in office by a group of Service and Police officers, known as the 1947 "Coup Group", and its ultimate authority still rests with this Group. Parliament meets and passes legislation, but half of its members are nominated and many of its elected members are dependent on the Government financially.

The Prime Minister, Field Marshal P. Pibulsonggram is the dominating figure in the Government. The two main sections within the Coup Group from which the Government draws its support are led respectively by Field Marshal Sarit, Deputy Minister of Defence and Army Commander-in-Chief, and Police General Phao, Deputy Minister of the Interior and Chief of Police. Most of the Ministers in the Government are Service Officers.

Recent Political Developments

Under the Pibul regime Thailand has enjoyed an unusually high degree of political stability since 1948. The main recent political development has been the introduction of measures permitting greater political freedom. A general election is to be held in February, 1957, for half the legislature; and a fully elected legislature is contemplated by 1951. Political parties are now permitted to operate more freely and fourteen have now been registered. They have started to campaign and many are highly critical of the Government. The Government party, Seri Manangkasila, is the best organised and the largest of the parties and generally has the support of local officials throughout Thailand. Its Secretary-General is Police General Phao, who is regarded as one of the most forceful and energetic men in Thailand. None of the parties opposing the Government yet have any extensive organisation, and they are widely divided among themselves. Although it is difficult to gauge the strength of the non-Government parties, those at present most active are the Democrat Party (Prachatipat), Labour Party (Krenakorn), Economists Party (Stestaboon).

The Thai press has considerable freedom and exercises it. The Prime Minister gives weekly press conferences at which most of his Cabinet Ministers are present. At these conferences the actions of the Government, cases of corruption, and individual Ministers are often severely criticised. There are signs of independent trade unions developing; previously, unions were closely associated with the Government. By these means an increasing measure of public opinion is being brought to bear on the Government and to this it has shown itself responsive. In general, tolerance has been a feature of the present regime. Although it is true that Thai democratic institutions are not as well developed as those in English-speaking countries, the present defects are recognised by the Thai Prime Minister who is endeavouring gradually to liberalise the existing system.

Communism

Communism is banned in Thailand and, although it is difficult to assess the extent of Communist activities, it does not appear that they have any significant support among the Thai people. The Government has, however, been

worried from time to time about Communist influence among the substantial Chinese minority and Vietnamese refugees in North East Thailand.

FOREIGN POLICY

General

The Government is committed to the West and is a member of SEATO. The main threat to Thailand's security comes from Communist China and the Viet Minh. Thailand has a close interest in developments in Laos and Cambodia which at present provide a buffer with the Communist orbit. Thailand has close relations with the United States from whom she receives considerable economic and military aid - $U.S.34,000,000 in the last financial year.

While the Government is a firm supporter of SEATO, there have in the last year been indications in some quarters of a certain amount of support for a neutralist policy. The increased frequency of such references is in part due to the Government's liberalisation measures; those who advocate neutralism not at present being influential. It is also due to the fact that for the first time the Government's policy of commitment to the West is being subject to critical popular examination.

Communist China and the Soviet Union have adopted a conciliatory attitude to Thailand since the Asian-African conference at Bandung in April, 1955. Previously they were severely critical of Thailand and, for example, gave refuge to Pridi Panomyong, a former Prime Minister, who in 1954 broadcast over Radio Peking an appeal to his countrymen to overthrow the Government. The present Communist policy appears to be designed to woo Thailand away from the Western alliance in favour of a policy of neutralism. Thailand does not recognise Communist China, although it recently lifted an embargo on the export of rice and timber and other non-strategic materials to Communist China.

Relations with Australia

Australia's main contacts with the Thai Government result from the Colombo Plan and our membership of SEATO, the headquarters of which are located in Bangkok. Official relations between the two Governments are cordial and there is seldom much criticism in the Thai press of Australia. The Thais have, however, shown some sensitivity towards reports describing Australian plans to develop large-scale rice production in the Northern Territory. Although this production is unlikely to develop on any significant scale for several years, some sections of the Thai press has seen it as a threat to their own export markets. (The Australian Government believes, however, that with increasing standards of living in Asia and the rapid growth of population the entry of Australian rice in the rice export market should not seriously affect existing rice exporting countries in the area.)

Trade

Australian trade with Thailand is small. Exports to Thailand are approximately £2,000,000, mainly in the form of flour, milk products, and gold. Imports from Thailand are much less at approximately £90,000, and include kapok, shellac and Thai jewellery.

In Bangkok there is one major Australian enterprise, Thai Glass Manufacturers, founded by A.C.I. The investment totals £A1,000,000, and the management is Australian.

PRINCIPAL PERSONALITIES

(a) Royal Family

H.M. King Bhumibol Aduldet and H.M. Queen Sirikit

(b) Government

Prime Minister (also Minister for Defence and Minister for the Interior)	-	Field Marshal F. Pibul Songgram (addressed Your Excellency)
Deputy Prime Minister	-	Air Marshal Phra Vejjayant
Deputy Prime Minister	-	Marshal of the Air Force Fuen Ronapakorn Rhiddhagn
Deputy Prime Minister	-	Col. Nai Vorarkarn Bancha
Minister for Finance	-	Lt. Gen. Phra Boriphan Yutthakit
Minister for Foreign Affairs	-	Prince Wan Waithayakorn Krommun Naradhip Bongsprabandh (addressed Your Royal Highness)
Minister for Agriculture	-	Field Marshal Phin Chunhawan
Minister for Industry	-	Gen. Pramarn Adirekson
Minister for Communications	-	Gen. Banyat Devahastin Na Ayudhya
Minister for Culture	-	Admiral Luang Yudthastr Kosol
Minister for Justice	-	Phya Ladplee Thamprakal
Minister for Co-operatives	-	Vice Admiral Luang Sunawin Wiwat
Minister for Education	-	General Mangkorn Phrom-yothi
Minister for Public Health	-	Lt.Gen. Prayoon Pawon-monti
Deputy Minister for Defence and Army C-in-C.	-	Field Marshal Sarit Thanarat
Deputy Minister for the Interior and Chief of Police	-	Police General Phao Sriyanond
Deputy Minister for Foreign Affairs	-	Major Rak Panyarchun

(c) Australian Representatives

Australian Ambassador	-	His Excellency Mr D.O. Hay, D.S.O., M.B.E.
Counsellor	-	G.N. Upton
Service Attache	-	Wing Commander J.R. Kinninmont, D.S.O., D.F.C., R.A.A.F.
Second Secretary	-	M.L. Johnston
Second Secretary	-	K.A. Baxter
Third Secretary	-	J.R. Kelso
Public Relations Officer	-	N. Bartlett

(Address : 323 Silom Road, Bangkok
Telephone : 30978)

(d) Foreign Representatives

United Kingdom Ambassador - Sir Berkeley Gage

United States Ambassador - Mr Max Bishop

New Zealand Charge d'Affaires - Mr R.L.G. Challis

Pronunciation and Use of Thai Names

th pronounced as t (e.g. Thai - Tie)
ph pronounced as p (e.g. Phao - Pow)
ch pronounced as ch (e.g. Chao - Chow)

In common usage Thai notables are usually referred to by their first name only , e.g. Field Marshal Pibul (pronounced "pee-bull", Prince Wan (pronounced "Wonn"), Field Marshal Sarit, General Phao (pronounced "pow" as in "now"), Major Nak.

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Appendix

GENERAL INFORMATION

Bangkok (Capital of Thailand)

Population approximately three-quarters of a million. The city has many attractive public buildings although streets are narrow and traffic dense. Numerous canals (Klongs) exist at the side of roadways throughout the city. They are crowded with sampans and much of the city's transport is conducted in this fashion. The Klongs are often dirty and at certain times of the year smell strongly.

Climate

There is a hot dry season from January to June and a hot wet season from June to November. During these months the average temperature is over 80°F December and January are slightly cooler. Rainfall is between 70 to 80 inches a year.

Hotels

There are four or five European type hotels, including the Ratanakosia, Oriental, Trocadero and Plaza. Air-conditioning is available. European food is available in these hotels, but it is generally of indifferent quality.

Dress

Light summer-weight clothing is required. Light tropical suits are customarily worn. (Linen or sharkshin in white are the general rule).

Transport

Taxis are available, usually at the rate of 3 ticals (i.e. 1/3d.) a kilometre (5/8 of a mile). Some taxi drivers speak a little English. Pedicabs, or samlors, are also available but should be avoided as the accident rate is high.

Shopping

Thai handicrafts (e.g. silver-work which is attractively made) are popular with visitors, but generally speaking prices for most goods (especially imported goods) are high. There are several Western type department stores. Bargaining is the rule except in Western type stores.

Language

English is widely spoken by senior Thai politicians and public servants. Outside Western-type stores, language may present problems.

Currency

Thai currency (tical or baht) is freely convertible into U.S. dollars and Sterling. The current exchange rate is £A1 = 45.58 ticals. A tical is thus worth a little less than 5½d.

Local Customs

The Thais are not prohibited from eating any particular foods or from drinking alcoholic beverages. They are extremely courteous and protocol-conscious. The terms Siam and Siamese are still acceptable but not in official use.

Electricity

The electricity supply is of 110 volts, 50 cycles, A.C.

Tipping

Tipping for personal service is the rule. Usually tipping is about 10% of the bill. Room-boys, etc. in hotels are usually given additional tips.

Press

The most important English language newspaper is the evening daily "Bangkok Post".

Books

John Coast, Some Aspects of Siamese Politics
Sir Josiah Crosby, The Crossroads
Alexander MacDonald, Bangkok Editor
Gerald Sparrow, Land of the Moonflower

DEPARTMENT OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS.

59

OUTWARD TELETYPE MESSAGE.

Ale 402/1/1

MESSAGE NUMBER 1069 7 9 56

TO MINISTERS OFFICE MELBURNE

FROM NUTTER E A CANBERRA

DRAFT SPEECH TO BE MADE BY MR R G CASEY, MINISTER FOR EXTERNAL AFFAIRS, ON THE OCCASION OF THE INAUGURATION OF RADIO AUSTRALIA'S THAI LANGUAGE BROADCASTS.

==========

I WELCOME THIS OPPORTUNITY OF SPEAKING TO YOU ON THE OCCASION OF THE INAUGUATION BY RADIO AUSTRALIA OF ITS BROADCASTS IN THE THAI LANGUAGE.

WE IN AUSTRALIA USED TO REGARD ASIA AS A LONG WAY DISTANT FROM AUSTRALIA AND REFERRED TO IT AS THE '' FAR EAST''. THIS IS NO LONGER THE CASE. WE NOW THINK OF ASIA AS OUR '' NEAR NORTH''. MODERN TECHNOLOGICAL DEVELOPMENTS AND THE COMMON EXPERIENCE OF A WORLD WAR HAVE BROUGHT SOUTH EAST ASIA AND AUSTRALIA VERY CLOSE TO EACH OTHER AND IT IS OUR EARNEST WISH TO GET TO KNOW OUR NEIGHBOURS BETTER. RADIO CAN MAKE AN IMPORTANT CONTRIBUTION TOWARDS THIS END AND FOR THIS REASON I AM VERY PLEASED THAT RADIO AUSTRALIA HAS NOW EXTENDED ITS FOREIGN LANGUAGE BROADCASTS TO THAILAND FROM ONE HOUR A WEEK TO ONE HOUR DAILY.

MUCH IS OF COURSE ALREADY BEING DONE TO BRING THAILAND AND AUSTRALIA CLOSER TO EACH OTHER. WE ARE CO- OPERATING IN THE UNITED NATIONS AND IN ITS MANY SUBSIDIARY ORGANIZATIONS. WE WORK TOBETHER IN THE COLOMBO PLAN TO HELP OR// PROMOTE THE ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT AND WELFARE OF THE WHOLE OF SOUTH AND SOUTH EAST ASIA. UNDER THIS ENTERTAINMENT.

MESSAGE ENDS HG

PLAN WE HAVE IN THE LAST FEW YEARS WELCOMED MANY YOUR THAIMEN AND WOMEN TO AUSTRALIA AND THEY HAE BEEN EXCELLENT AMBASSADORS FOR YOUR COUNTRY. WE ARE ALSO CO- OPERATING VERY CLOSELY IN THE DEFENCE FIELD THROUGH SEATO SINCE WE RECOGNIZE THAT A THREAT TO ONE FREE COUNTRY IN THE AREA IS A THREAT TO AUSTRALIA ALSO.

WE STILL HOWEVER NEED TO GET TO KNOW EACH OTHER EVEN BETTER. IF FIRMLY BELIEVE THAT THE FREE AND UNFETTERED EXCHANGE OF IDEAS BETWEEN FRE// FRIENDS WHETHER INDIVIDUALS OR NATIONS CAN ONLY LEAD TO GOOD RESULT. KNOWLEDGE MAKES FOR UNDERSTANDING AND WHERE UNDERSTANDING EXISTS THERE IS A BASIS FOR FREINDLY RELATIONS FRUITFUL CO- OPERATION AND PEACE. AS FAR AS AUSTRALIA IS CONCERNED THE GUIDING POLICY IN OUR RELATIONS WITH SOUTH EAST ASIA IS TO BE A GOOD NEIGHBOUR WITH ALL THAT THIS ENTAILS: A DESIRE TO BE FRIENDLY AND HELPFUL WHENEVER WE CAN BUT WITHOUT INTERFERING IN OUR NEIGHBOURS' OWN PRIVATE AFFAIRS.

I HOPE YOU WILL ENJOY THESE BROADCASTS AND THAT YOU WILL FEEL FREE TO WRITE TO RADIO AUSTRALIA TO SAY WHAT YOU WOULD LIKE TO HEAR. I KNOW THAT RADIO AUSTRALIA WILL NOT ONLY WELCOME YOUR ENQUIRIES BUT WILL BE PLEASED TO DO WHAT IT CAN TO MEET YOUR REQUESTS. RADIO AUSTRALIA AIMS TO ENTERTAIN YOU AND YOU CAN HELP THEM TO DO THIS. THROUGH THIS PERSONAL CONTACT ALSO RADIO AUSTRALIA WILL HELP TO SERVE AS A FURTHER BRIDGE BETWEEN OUR COUNTRIES.

I EXTEND TO ALL LISTENERS MY OWN PERSONAL GREETINGS AND WISH RADIO AUSTRALIA EVERY SUCCESS IN THIS VENTURE. I AM CONFIDENT THAT YOU WILL FIND THAT RADIO AUSTRALIA OFFERS GOOD LISTENING AND GOOD ENTERTAINMENT.

MESSAGE ENDS HG

DEPARTMENT OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS.

58

OUTWARD CABLEGRAM.

McD:ABK. 0.11950.

Sent: 6th September, 1956.
1550.

TO:

Australian Embassy,
BANGKOK.

356. UNCLASSIFIED.

Radio Australia will broadcast messages from Minister A.B.C. Chairman and Thai Ambassador inaugurating Thai service 12th September.

MIN. & DEPT. E.A.(571/26) (Cost £2/14/-)
P.M.'S.

7th September, 1956.

SEC A/Ss S&SEA SEA INFO C&P.

402/1/1

402/1/11

DEPARTMENT OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS. CONFIDENTIAL

CABLEGRAM.

52

DBB:MK

I.3816

Dated: 17th March, 1956
1230
Rec'd: 18th March, 1956
0900

FROM:

Australian Embassy,
BANGKOK.

103 CONFIDENTIAL

I have been asked to inform you that the Thai Government desires to appoint Knothi Suphamongkhon as Thailand Ambassador in Canberra and to enquire whether proposed appointment is agreeable to the Australian Government.

Please advise at the earliest.

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

18th March, 1956

SEC A/Ss S&SEA SEA C & P @

CONFIDENTIAL

CONFIDENTIAL

DEPARTMENT OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS

CABLEGRAM.

401/1/1 56

MK:SHA

0.1903

Dated: 10th February, 1956
1015

TO:

Australian Embassy,
WASHINGTON.

83. CONFIDENTIAL.

SEATO. Exercise "Firm Link".

Minister for Defence has issued statement for publication in this morning's press announcing that "Anzac" and "Tobruk" serving as Australian naval component in strategic reserve will take part in company with other units of Far East Fleet; also that RAN and RAAF will send observers.

2. Thai invitation did not reach us until 4th February. United States Embassy had earlier notice but had been instructed to await delivery of Thai invitation before discussing exercise with us.

3. While appreciating that United States purpose was to allow Thais to have initiative you might let United States authorities know that short notice has made it difficult for us to participate to extent we would have liked. We do not intend to make any representations to the Thais.

Cost £16/12/-

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

10th February, 1956

CONFIDENTIAL

DEPARTMENT OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS

CONFIDENTIAL

CABLEGRAM.

402/1/1

MP:DBB:MB

O. 1923/4.

55

Sent: 10th February, 1956.
1455

TO:

Australian Trade Commission,
HONG KONG.....42.

REPEATED TO:

Australian Commission,
SINGAPORE.....169.

CONFIDENTIAL.

For Handmer.

Your 26. S.E.A.T.O. Exercise "Firm Link".

Minister Defence has now announced Australian naval component of strategic reserve will take part with other units of Far East Fleet; also that R.A.N. and R.A.A.F. will send observers.

2. Although late receipt of invitation was inconvenient we are anxious to damp down suggestions that we might feel slighted. We are telling United States authorities privately of difficulties caused by short notice but we do not intend to make representations to the Thais.

3. We understand New Zealand has now been asked by United States to reconsider decision not to participate.

Cost £8/16/8.

MIN. & DEPT. E.A. (2508/2)
MIN. & DEPT. DEFENCE.
P.M'S.

10th February, 1956.

CONFIDENTIAL

CONFIDENTIAL

DEPARTMENT OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS.

CABLEGRAM.

JOR/1/1/54

DLB:SHA

O.1904

Dated: 10th February, 1956
1015

TO:

Australian Embassy,
BANGKOK.

62. CONFIDENTIAL.

SEATO Exercise "Firm Link".

Minister for Defence has issued statement for publication in this morning's press announcing that 'Anzac' and 'Tobruk' will take part in company with other units of Far East Fleet; also that RAN and RAAF will be sending observers. Thai representative here has been informed.

2. While late receipt of invitation from Thai Government caused inconvenience, we are anxious to damp down suggestions that Thailand or United States showed lack of consideration. We are privately drawing attention of United States to need for proper notice but do not wish any representations to be made to the Thais.

3. RAAF wish Kinninmont to represent them. RAN observers (probably two) will be subject of separate telegram.

Cost £14/11/-

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

10th February, 1956

CONFIDENTIAL

CONFIDENTIAL

CONFIDENTIAL

EXTERNAL AFFAIRS. → 402/1/1 53

Extract from Secretary's Record of talks in Wellington
6 Feb 53

SECRET

4. **Thailand.**

Tange mentioned the United States worry regarding the trend towards neutralism and said that he discounted the United States concern which was partly explained by the increased freedom of expression in Thailand. Australia did not see much change in Thailand. They were not regarded as too reliable.

Craw referred to the Thais extension of an invitation to SEATO members to participate in joint military operation on 15th February. (Discussion revolved around this for some time.) The general opinion was that while the lack of consultation was bad and that it might have adverse effects on Indian influence, on the whole the exercise might be useful as indicating some determination on the part of SEATO and some willingness of the United States to be implicated on the mainland of Asia with ground troops. Much would depend on the nature of the publicity given. McIntosh was opposed to New Zealand participation or sending of observers which the time factor in any event would prevent. McIntosh considered that there was no need for alarm regarding Thai neutralism. He thought the United States had them "sewn up". Tange mentioned that Australia had supported improved relations between Thailand and Laos and Cambodia including the assistance to open up communications.

DEPARTMENT OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS

CONFIDENTIAL 52

CABLEGRAM.

:MB

O. 1601. 402/1/1

Sent: 4th February, 1956.
1400

TO:

(copy 328/1/7/12

Australian Embassy,
BANGKOK.

55. CONFIDENTIAL. IMMEDIATE.

For Hay.

Thai Minister called this morning to extend invitation to Australia, presumably along with other S.E.A.T.O. countries, to take part in "combined operations with air and naval support" being planned for mid February by Thai Ministry of Defence. Purpose is apparently to show some activity before Council meeting.

2. Thais would like Australian service team to proceed forthwith to Bangkok to discuss Australian participation but, failing this, would like us to send observers. Konthi's instructions did not specify number or ranks of observers desired.

3. In view of short notice we do not expect Australian forces could take part. Even provision of observers would be difficult. Information so far given is too imprecise to enable consideration of proposal and unless Kinninmont has already been able to send full details to Defence authorities we should be glad if you would cable report.

Cost £17/17/-

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

6th February, 1956.

SEC A/Ss S&SEA SEA INF DL MT

CONFIDENTIAL

CONFIDENTIAL

402/1/1
51

DEPARTMENT OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS. CONFIDENTIAL

CABLEGRAM.

JC:MFP

I. 1563

Sent: 5th February, 1956
1730
Rec'd: 6th February, 1956
0830

FROM:

Australian Embassy,
BANGKOK

56 CONFIDENTIAL IMMEDIATE

Repeated to Singapore 8.

Proposed S.E.A.T.O. exercise.

Understand Thailand originated the idea and Stump agreed. Proposal is for visit by units of the 7th Fleet to the Gulf of Siam culminating in landing specified American air patrol units at Bangkok airport for bivouac and display. Thai forces will co-operate and possibly Philippines also. Apparently details were settled by military channels and invitation to other Governments was an afterthought.

2. There has been no consultation at this end on the question of political repercussions or timing and whether the exercise is to have S.E.A.T.O. label.

4 3. Suggest we offer Kinninmont as observer.

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

6th February, 1956

(T/typed to Defence)

SEC A/Ss S&SEA SEA INF DL MT

CONFIDENTIAL

80

402/1/1

DEPARTMENT OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS.

CABLEGRAM.

UNCLASSIFIED

MMc

I.719

Dated: 18th January 1956
1600
Rec'd: 19th January 1956
0830

FROM:

Australian Embassy,
BANGKOK.

40. UNCLASSIFIED.

Please advise urgently times and frequencies of Radio Australia Australia Day programmes. Please cable precis of Casey's broadcast for Bangkok pre-news release.

E.A.
P.M.'s.

19th January, 1956.

SEC A/Ss UN S&SEA SEA INF@

402/1/1 49 402/1/1

DEPARTMENT OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS. CONFIDENTIAL

CABLEGRAM.

I. 15002.

GG:OA. Sent: 15th November, 1955. 1200

FROM: Read: 15th November, 1955. 1830

Australian Legation,
BANGKOK.

284. CONFIDENTIAL.

Addressed to Canberra 284 repeated to Singapore Savingram 50.

Your telegram No.344.

Thai Government notified as requested through Dilokrit permanent head of Foreign Ministry. He was hopeful that the Assembly debate would pass off without acrimony, but felt that this would largely depend on the attitude of the Dutch which has, according to Thai reports, been promising. The Thais themselves were committed no more than the urging of direct negotiations as recommended at Bandung.

2. Dilokrit said he would inform Prince Wan of our approach, but suggested we speak to him direct in New York.

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

16th November, 1955.

SEC A/Ss L&T(Div.4) UN PAC&AM AM&SP S&SEA SA SEA E AF&ME INF C&P

CONFIDENTIAL

48

RECEIVED
14 NOV 1955
MINISTER'S OFFICE

Presidency of the Council of Ministers,
Bangkok.

27th October, B.E. 2498 (1955).

→ 402/1/1

Your Excellency,

I have pleasure to acknowledge the receipt of your letter dated the 15th October, sending to me before your departure from Thailand, the contents of which are greatly convincing all the more of your wise policy and friendliness shown towards me and my country.

I quite agree with you the value of personal contacts between peoples of different countries as a means of cementing the links of policy and friendship. My recent tour abroad is a good testimony of your belief. I have also gained much from this tour.

Kindly accept my grateful thanks for your personal report to your Government of the great progress which Thailand is making. This will help to reflect on your business men who are interested in foreign investment, which Thailand is now encouraging.

. I am glad to hear that you would come to Thailand at fairly regular intervals. You are always welcome, for I consider that it will help to bridge Australia and Thailand closer with goodwill and understanding, and in other fields which will be beneficial to our mutual interest.

With all good wishes, as always.

Yours very sincerely,

Field-Marshal P. Pibulsonggram

(P. Pibulsonggram)

His Excellency
Monsieur R.G. Casey,
etc., etc., etc.,
Ministry of External Affairs,
Canberry,
AUSTRALIA.

→ Mr. Tange

Seen by Minister 17/11

→ SSEA 17/11

RESTRICTED

47

~~3/2/4/3~~
402 (1/1

AUSTRALIAN LEGATION,
BANGKOK.

File No: 30/2/3
Memo No: 553/55

RECEIVED
DEPARTMENT OF
26 OCT 1955
CANBERRA

21st October, 1955.

refile 402/1/1

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

Visit of Minister and Mrs. Casey to Bangkok, 12th-15th October, 1955.

I attach copy of the detailed programme for Mr. Casey's visit. I also attach a report, by subjects, of the more important matters raised in the discussions which took place during the visit.

2. Mr. Casey's discussions with the Prime Minister of Thailand and with the Acting Minister for Foreign Affairs were in general terms, and the only matter which was emphasized was the continuing need of Thailand for economic assistance from outside. During Mr. Casey's audience with His Majesty the King, the latter spoke with pleasure of the prospect of visiting Australia when his present programme of tours in Thailand is completed, but gave no indication of a definite plan. The formal dinner by the Prime Minister on 14th October was attended by the Acting Foreign Minister, the three Commanders-in-Chief (who also hold Cabinet appointments), their Chiefs of Staff, the Thai Military Adviser, the Under-Secretary for Foreign Affairs, and the Thai SEATO Council Representative. This was an unusually high-powered gathering, although its formal nature made conversation with individuals a little difficult. The press coverage of Mr. Casey's visit was full, and first reports indicate that his Press Conference was well and accurately reported.

3. A copy of this memorandum and attachments is being sent to the Australian Commission, Singapore.

D.O. Hay

(D. O. Hay)
Minister.

RESTRICTED

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Report of Visit to Bangkok of Minister and Mrs. Casey

12th to 15th October, 1955.

1. The Situation in the Area.

In discussions with the Prime Minister and the Acting Foreign Minister it clearly appeared that the Thais, while fairly happy about the position in Cambodia and South Vietnam, are worried by that in Laos. It was felt that Laos is a possible source from which subversive elements may infiltrate and that unsettled conditions there will adversely affect the already uncertain area of the north-east of Thailand.

There was little discussion of the intentions of Communist China, although the Prime Minister said he thought that their activity would continue to be underground rather than overt.

There was a brief reference to the situation in Indonesia which would result from the present elections, and Mr. Casey took the opportunity to emphasize that instability in Indonesia provided a further explanation for the stand which Australia took on Dutch New Guinea.

2. The Security Threat to Thailand.

The Prime Minister brought forward all the usual bogies. These included the existence of Thai Autonomous States which he felt were working together; the activities of "my friend Pridi" and Sanguan (former Thai Ambassador to China); the Vietnamese refugees in the north-east. On the latter question the Prime Minister claimed that 90% of the refugees were communists, and instanced the almost universal practice of having photos of Ho in their cottages, and their refusal to be moved away from the north-east and down into the south of Thailand. He said that it was not possible to move the refugees to North Vietnam "because we have no diplomatic relations with them". So far as the danger from internal communism was concerned, the Prime Minister appeared satisfied that the threat was small, and said that the police under Phao had that under control. A rather different viewpoint was given to Mr. Casey by the British Charge who felt that the Thais were perhaps too confident and that Phao would do well to devote more of his time to strictly police and anti-subversive activity.

3. SEATO

Both the Prime Minister and the Acting Foreign Minister said they were satisfied with the progress now being made. A rather different point of view was expressed to Mr. Casey by M. Offroy, the French Ambassador. The latter was rather concerned at the possibility of SEATO being unable to withstand the Chinese "peace offensive" in the next few months. He said that there were three main directions in which SEATO was at present acting - military, anti-subversive, and economic. He felt that the Military Advisers might well decide in November, or at any rate in January, when they meet in Melbourne, that the more pressing tasks had been completed. In any event, he thought that the general relaxation of tension and the fact that defence budgets in both the United Kingdom and the United States were being reduced would build up pressure for a reduced defence effort by SEATO members in the Area. He thought that the anti-subversive activities of SEATO as an organisation would prove to be limited, "because of lack of confidence on security grounds, particularly with the Asian members". This left the economic field as the main possibility which could be exploited. Indeed, he felt that if there were no spectacular announcement after the next Council Meeting on the economic side we would have lost perhaps the last opportunity of retaining the confidence of the Asian members in SEATO. In the economic field, M. Offroy felt that the most desirable course would be for the Asian countries to receive, through SEATO, demonstrable economic benefits over and above those already being received through other plans and organisations. He realized that this would involve difficulties for all concerned, and it would involve the Americans in a complete change of view to that expressed last February. As an alternative, M. Offroy raised the possibility of members putting under a SEATO label certain activities already in the planning stage but under other auspices. He said he was aware that we were anxious to retain the Colombo Plan as our major vehicle for economic aid, but he thought that the Americans might well be persuaded to put some of their ICA projects under SEATO. He mentioned that President Eisenhower had made available a sum of some 200 million dollars for aid to the area, and he thought there might be ways of using some of this for SEATO.

Mr. Casey mentioned the question of date and place for the next meeting of the SEATO Council, but the Prime Minister was not familiar with this question. (On the following day, however, the Prime Minister brought the question up at his regular press conference and said the Thais would be happy to meet in Pakistan, or failing that, in Australia or New Zealand.)

The general problem of the future of SEATO was also discussed with the U.K. and U.S. Chargés. Mr. Casey mentioned to them his concern at the general absence of initiative and ideas on the cold war side. Both Chargés were in agreement and were also conscious of the danger of SEATO running down for lack of positive and useful activities.

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4. Economic Situation

The Prime Minister and Worakan expressed themselves as satisfied. Curiously, the Prime Minister described his recent Cabinet changes to the need for improving the economic situation. This was a new angle but he did not go into details.

The other side of the picture was presented by the Acting Chief of I.C.A. in Bangkok, Mr. Sponslor. He, while admitting that the economic situation was generally sound, was alarmed by the general air of incompetence and corruption which he had found. There were no reliable statistics on which to base a judgment, the Government did not publish details of its revenue and expenditure, and there were many people, including the Prime Minister himself, who had budgets of their own from which the expenditure was not accounted. The Budget, in his opinion, was a political rather than a financial document. He had, in the last week, made quite a strong public statement about the conditions which would have to be established by the Government in Thailand in order to attract private capital. At present he would certainly not recommend American investors to put their money here.

In passing, Mr. Sponslor mentioned that the figure for direct military aid to the Armed Forces of Thailand had run to some hundreds of millions of dollars. (The Legation has tried informally to get an exact figure for this amount from the American military people in Bangkok, but so far without success.) Mr. Sponslor added that certain expenditures which had previously been under ICA control would shortly be transferred to JUSMAAG. These would mainly relate to "direct forces support allocations" which have been used for air-field construction, military budget aids and military training facilities such as camps.

Sponslor was anxious to be kept informed by the Legation of the aid offered by Australia to Thailand under the Colombo Plan.

Dr. Lokanathan, who also called on Mr. Casey (see separate memorandum) referred to the Mekong Valley project. According to Dr. Lokanathan the planning of this project, which would be of direct benefit to Thailand, Laos, Cambodia and Burma in the provision of irrigation, domestic water supply and water communications, is being done by ECAFE and will take probably another two years to complete. M. Offroy also mentioned the Mekong Valley project. His impression was that it was being planned by ICA.

5. Colombo Plan.

It had been expected that either the Prime Minister or the Acting Foreign Minister would raise with Mr. Casey the Thai request for aid for the Lignite Corporation. Although Mr. Casey mentioned Australia's experience in brown coal extraction during his discussions with the Prime Minister, the latter did not appear familiar with the Thai request, and did not discuss it. The Acting Foreign Minister, with some prompting, did mention the request. He was given no commitment on the economic aid side, but Mr. Casey did stress Australia's readiness to help on the technical assistance and training side.

This matter was also mentioned in discussion between Mr. Border and Nai Sunthorn Hongladorom, Secretary of the Thai Technical and Economic Committee. Nai Sunthorn said that in view of the size of the request for equipment for the lignite project, Thailand was reluctant to press Australia with further requests for the time being. Mr. Border pointed out that Australia's allocations for Colombo Plan expenditure were not for countries but for projects and that if Thailand has worthwhile projects which she wishes to undertake and there is a possibility that Australia can help, the Thai authorities should not hesitate to consult the Legation. Mr. Border added that the main difficulty in supplying equipment for the Lignite project might prove to be the availability of steel.

Nai Sunthorn also mentioned that the Colombo Plan is a new thing for Thailand and that the Thai authorities have had no administrative experience in dealing with the Plan. Owing to the number of offers which are being received from the United States, the United Nations, the United Kingdom, etc., they are finding it difficult to process our offers. Furthermore the number of officials who are able to take advantage of the offers is distinctly limited. He apologised for Thailand's inability to take advantage of some of our offers and also asked if he could be supplied with up-to-date information on the fields in which Australia is giving assistance to other countries as a guide for the Thai authorities when making requests. This the Legation agreed to do. Nai Sunthorn was also handed a copy of the pamphlet, "C.S.I.R.O. and South and South-East Asia". He was promised additional copies in due course.

A function was arranged at the Legation in order to enable Mrs. Casey to meet the parents and relatives of a number of the Thai students now in Australia.

Considerable interest was also shown in the Colombo Plan by Dr. Sem, who had recently visited Australia as a "special visitor" under the Colombo Plan. He met both Mr. and Mrs. Casey in Bangkok, and has expressed his intention to work for an increase in the number of nurses and doctors from this country to go to Australia for training under the Colombo Plan. Dr. Sem also has ideas on other future projects because he was impressed in Australia with the Flying Doctor Service, the scheme for assistance in payment for ambulances, and with our Blood Bank. He proposes to follow up these ideas with the Legation in due course. Finally, Dr. Sem expressed some concern with the tendency of Thai students in Australia to keep together in their own community and not move around both in the capital cities and in the country and get to know more Australians. Part of the reason for this, he thought, was absence of adequate briefing at the Bangkok end in the Australian language (instruction in English or American is not sufficient) and customs of the country, and personal problems which are liable to be met by the students in Australia (such as finance, health, etc.).

RESTRICTED

File 157/1

6. Thai Glass Manufacturers.

This matter is dealt with by a separate memorandum. Briefly, the company is an all-Australian investment which was established about six years ago with the backing of the Thai Government. It claims to have more than sufficient capacity to supply all local glass requirements, and could even move into the export field. The company understands that the Navy has now let tenders for another glass plant, and that this would provide a capacity at least 100% in excess of the demand. Moreover, it is likely that the new company, which would have been started with Government capital, would receive Government orders. The Australian parent company, through its Managing Director, Mr. W. J. Smith, asked Mr. Casey to take this matter up during his visit. Mr. Casey mentioned it in a general way in his discussions with the Prime Minister, who seemed to be aware of the problem but was rather cautious in his reply, implying that there was a sufficient market for both companies. On the occasion of the dinner on 14th October, the Prime Minister's speech, which had been prepared for him by the Foreign Affairs Ministry, started off by stressing the importance attached by Thailand to the retention of Australian capital and the attraction of more. This is an unusual subject to be introduced into a speech on such an occasion, and it may well be that the reference was made as a result of Mr. Casey's discussion with the Prime Minister.

RESTRICTED

7. Press.

The English-language, Thai and Chinese Press all gave full coverage to the visit.

Several photographers met Mrs. Casey when she arrived on the morning of 12th October and about ten were at the airport to interview Mr. Casey when his delayed plane arrived well after 11 p.m.

As they had been waiting since just after 9 p.m. Mr. Casey granted them a five-minute interview although he was tired after a gruelling day in Rangoon and a long flight to Bangkok.

Next day most of the important English-language, Thai and Chinese papers, which had all publicised the approaching visit, carried interview stories.

Press highlight of Mr. Casey's visit was his Press Conference at the Legation between 4 p.m. and 5 p.m. on Friday, 14th October. About 30 reporters, photographers and radio people turned up, representing the English-language, Thai and Chinese Press and the United States Information Service tape-recording radio team. Prince Prasobsukh Sukhsvasti, who led the Thai delegation to the ECAFE Conference at Lapstone in 1947 and is now with the British Information Service, acted as interpreter. The Conference lasted the full hour and reporters asked Mr. Casey a number of questions, mostly dealing with the international situation, the Colombo Plan and Australia's immigration policy.

Next day the leading English-language daily, the Bangkok Post, carried streamer headlines "Casey Prescribes for Peace", "Only Hope is Peaceful Coexistence", "Must Renounce Use of Force, Subversive Activities" and ran a half-column front-page and nearly a column carry-over on page 10 under double heads: "Casey: "Nations Must Coexist Peacefully". The leading Thai language morning daily "Daily News" ran a double-column picture on the front page and a half-column front page story with a column carry-over. A summary in English is attached. Clippings are attached of the Thai evening dailies; all the important ones ran front page display stories with pictures.

Mr. Henry Wong, of the British Information Service, made clippings of the Chinese Press coverage and these were handed to the Minister before he left. Mr. Wong said that Chinese pressmen agreed that Mr. Casey had the best Press of any Foreign Minister visiting Thailand.

It is encouraging that the best reports, which appeared in the Bangkok Post, came from the Thai reporter who is now the Reuter's Bangkok stringer.

402/1/1/40

19 JUL 1955
AUSTRALIAN LEGATION,
CANBERRA BANGKOK.

129/1

M.D. No.5/55.

15th July, 1955.

RESTRICTED

Sir,

I have the honour to report on the visits to Bangkok by units of the Royal Australian Navy and Royal Australian Air Force.

HMAS Arunta (Commander W.K. Tapp), Tobruk (Commander I.K. Purvis) and Warramunga (Lt. Commander G.J. Willis) accompanied by HMNZS Kaniere (Lt. Commander S.F. Mercer) were here from Tuesday, 21st June, to the morning of Friday, 24th June. The Commanding Officers of the ships paid the customary calls on the Commander-in-Chief of the Royal Thai Navy and the Heads of Commonwealth Missions in Bangkok. Together with their officers, they were entertained to a reception by myself to which senior officers of the Thai Navy and Ministry of Foreign Affairs, together with members of the Australian and British Communities and Heads of Diplomatic Missions, were invited. They were also entertained by the Royal Thai Navy at a large buffet dinner at the Naval Institute in Thonburi. The Petty Officers and Ratings also had a considerable programme of entertainment, including tours of Bangkok arranged by the Royal Thai Navy, and a visit to the War Cemetery at Kanchanaburi arranged by the Legation. Both the British and Australian communities provided generous private hospitality to parties of ratings. The British Club entertained some 120 to luncheon each day.

The naval visit achieved a gratifying measure of publicity, most of it favourable. It was reported widely in the English language papers and in some detail in both the Chinese and Thai language dailies. There were at least two English-language editorials which were most friendly in tone. The unfavourable publicity consisted of two pictures in Thai-language papers showing the activities of the shore patrol. The captions were anti-foreign rather than anti-Australian.

The visit by three Neptune aircraft of the R.A.A.F., since it took place at short notice and followed very closely a spectacular visit by B.36's of the U.S.A.F., achieved rather less publicity than that of the Navy, but most papers carried brief reports. Excellent relations were established with officers of the Royal Thai Air Force, and opportunity was given to meet members of the British and Australian Communities, prominent Thais and Heads of SEATO Missions in Bangkok. The aircraft themselves made a fine sight flying low in formation over the city of Bangkok on the day of their arrival. The Commanding Officer, Air Commodore W.H. Garing, C.B.E., D.S.O., in addition to his calls on the Royal Thai Air Force and Commonwealth Heads of Mission, was also honoured with a call on the Prime Minister.

From the wider political point of view, it is difficult to assess the impact which the visits made on the Government and people of Thailand. Too much should not be made of the generous hospitality of the Thai Navy and Air Force. They have developed a drill for visitors which the visitors are apt to think is something special reserved for them alone. However, certain members of the Cabinet (both the Commanders-in-Chief of the Navy and Air Force are Cabinet Ministers) and many senior officers have been made aware

/2...

Defence Liaison HOA
Please obtain Defence's comments on the last paragraph.
J. Rimmell 21/7/55

RESTRICTED

20/7 20/7

that the R.A.N. and R.A.A.F. have mobile forces and that Bangkok is not beyond their reach. It is also useful to have left the impression that the Americans are not the only member of SEATO which has military forces in the Treaty area. The general public will naturally tend to judge the value of the visit from what they saw of our men when on leave in the city of Bangkok. There were a few incidents, mostly of a minor nature, which would not have pleased them. Thais with whom I have discussed these tend to take an indulgent view of occasional lapses of sailors in a foreign port after some weeks of strenuous exercises at sea, but it is worth noting that visits by American ships have been singularly free of such indicents. Far the majority of people with whom I have discussed the visit, including members of the British and Australian communities who entertained parties of men in their homes, have spoken very highly of their friendliness and excellent behaviour. There is no doubt that future visits will be welcome.

Two things can be said in conclusion. The first is that much preparation is needed to gain the maximum political advantage from service visits. If liaison could be effected between the Australian service authorities and the diplomatic post concerned at an early stage, the visitors could be provided with helpful basic information and the office could, for instance, obtain publicity material in sufficient time to make a more concentrated assault on the press. Second, the receipt of such hospitality will, I hope, prompt us to invite units of the Royal Thai Navy and Air Force to make return visits to Australia. Such invitations would, I am sure, be most welcome.

I am sending a copy of this Despatch to the Australian Commissioner, Singapore.

I have the honour to be,

Sir,

Your obedient servant,

Sgd. D. O. HAY

Minister.

The Rt. Hon. R.G. Casey, C.H., D.S.O., M.C., M.P.,
Minister for External Affairs,
CANBERRA. A.C.T.

38

DEPARTMENT OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS.

SAVINGRAM. RESTRICTED.

ACTION COPY

MB

I. 8474.

Dated: 23rd June, 1955.
--
Rec'd: 5th July, 1955.
1115

FROM:

Australian Legation,
BANGKOK.

Saving 16. RESTRICTED.

Repeated saving Singapore 30.

Australian Troops for Malaya. Australian and New Zealand Naval Visit to Bangkok.

Prime Minister's statement received wide publicity in English language press. It was followed shortly by excellent advance publicity for the visit of Australian and New Zealand naval ships. "Bangkok Post" printed friendly leader saying "free nations of South-East Asia must welcome decision of the Australian Government to allow its troops to help fight the Communist terrorists in Malaya". Leader commented that Australian naval ships, like American ships which recently visited Bangkok, "want to reassure the Thai people and warn the Communists that a powerful mobile striking force lurks nearby". (Full text by memorandum).

2. Press has also printed views of leader and opposition and, this morning, the views of the Malayan Labour Party opposing the despatch of troops to Malaya.

3. Ministry of Foreign Affairs considers the Australian decision on troops will be most welcome to Government.

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

5th July, 1955.

402/1/1

(Copy on 402/1/4)

SEC A/Ss MR. HOOD. UN PAC&AM S&SEA SEA@ E.AF&ME INF DL C&P G

37

File

402/1/1

17th June, 1955.

Information for Thai Minister

MR QUINN : I rang Mr Konthi this morning and gave him the following instances of Thai-Australian co-operation in the past twelve months. He appeared satisfied.

(1) Partnership in SEATO
- (a) Bangkok Conference - our delegation led by the Minister who afterwards toured North and North East Thailand.
- (b) Subsequent meetings by experts, two of which took place in Bangkok.

(2) Joint appointment of Service Attaches.

(3) Visit to Bangkok (21-24th June) by Australian destroyers Tobruk, Arunta, and Warramunga.

(4) Colombo Plan - Total of 28 fellowships and scholarships to date, of which 15 taken up in past twelve months and 2 other students still in Australia of the earlier arrivals.

Two experts sent to Thailand - Heffer and Shaw (Blood transfusion expert).

(5) Private Students (185 as at 31st December, 1954).

(6) Visits -

(a) Three Thai officials from Ministry of Interior toured Australia for 4 months to April, 1955.

(b) Chief Engineer of Thai Electric Works

(c) Australian unofficial trade mission to South East Asia in November, 1954.

South East Asia Branch
F.B.H.:SF

Mr Plimsoll

To see, please.

24/6

Seen J. Plimsoll 25/6/55

36

EXTERNAL AFFAIRS.

File No. 402/1/1

Date 24th June, 1955.

4107.

SUBJECT Information for Thai Minister

FOR MR QUINN :

I rang Mr Konthi this morning (17/6/55) and gave him the following instances of Thai-Australian co-operation in the past twelve months. He appeared satisfied.

(1) Partnership in SEATO
- (a) Bangkok Conference - our delegation led by the Minister who afterwards toured North and North East Thailand.
- (b) Subsequent meetings by experts, two of which took place in Bangkok.

(2) Joint appointment of Service Attaches.

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(6) Visits -

(a) Three Thai officials from Ministry of Interior toured Australia for 4 months to April, 1955.

(b) Chief Engineer of Thai Electric Works

(c) Australian unofficial trade mission to South East Asia in November, 1954.

Seen 24/6

South East Asia Branch
F.B.H.:8F

DEPARTMENT OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS.

SAVINGRAM. RESTRICTED

..:VA

I. 5347

Sent: 22nd April, 1955

Rec'd: 26th April, 1955
1136

FROM:

Australian Legation,
BANGKOK.

402/1/1

SAV. 8. RESTRICTED.

Summary of Recent Events: 25th March - 21st April.

1. Role of Thai Delegation at Bandung.

Local press reports of Prince Wan's opening address indicate that he queried the principle of co-existence (though not the other four) on grounds of threat of subversion from China and ambiguous Chinese attitude to overseas Chinese. Threat of subversion had made it imperative for Thailand to join S.E.A.T.O. as means of self-defence. Prince Wan also conveyed message to conference as arranged by S.E.A.T.O. Council in February. Press has also featured apparently conciliatory references by Chou En Lai to Thailand, and fact that Wan and Chou have met privately at dinner with Nehru. Wan has been elected "rapporteur" of political committee consisting of delegation heads.

2. Thai Delegation to Seat of Planners Meeting at Baguio.

Delegation will consist of 18, led by Major-General Surachit Charuserani. Other senior officers of group are:-

Major-General Rasamee Ratjanivat, Director of Army Staff College.
Colonel Phong Phekanand, Army Signals.
Lt. Col. Prasert Phoonkasem, Intelligence Directorate.
Major Sanran Phoonphat, Commodore, Operations Directorate.
M.C. Karlavanolit Diskul, R.N., Chief of Naval Intelligence.
Air-Commodore Kamol Deja Tungka, Assistant Chief of Staff Operations.
Police Col. Phot Pekanand, Chief of C.I.D.

3. Relations with Burma.

Since well acclaimed visit of U Nu referred to in our Savingram 5, three further prospective good-will visits by Thailand to Burma have been announced. A squadron of forty interceptor planes left Bangkok on 7th April for two-day visit to Burma; King Phumiphol Aduldej has been invited to visit Burma in May and while there to open third session of Sixth Buddhist Council in Rangoon; the Prime Minister, on return from world tour towards end of June is to visit Burma with a Thai cultural mission. A Burmese mission to study housing programmes in Thailand has just returned to Burma. Mission sent here at suggestion of Mr. G. J. Mylne, the Australian Housing Officer on staff at E.C.A.F.E.

... Improved/

RESTRICTED

Improved relations were recently tested when Burmese planes in pursuit of hard-pressed K.M.T. troops bombed small village on Thai side of border. While a few commentators, mainly from northern newspapers, urged the Government to take "drastic measures" to prevent further incidents, the general tone of the Press was remarkably calm compared with the attitude a year ago when another Siamese village was bombed by Burmese planes. Discussions on the incident are reported to be continuing between the two Foreign Ministers.

4. Departure of Prime Minister.

The Prime Minister Field-Marshal Pibul Songgram and party left by air on 14th April on world goodwill tour (memorandum No. 179/55).

At press conference prior to departure he stated (inter alia) Thailand is willing to send troops to fight on foreign soil in event of war but only on instructions of S.E.A.T.O. or United Nations. (Report of press conference - see memorandum 178/55).

5. Thailand-Cambodia Railway.

Thai-Cambodian train service will open on Friday, 22nd April for first time since end of war. (Previously referred to in our memorandum No. 136/55).

6. Relations with Japan.

Japan and Thailand came to agreement to settle wartime debt ten days ago (for details see our memorandum No. 182/55).

A five year cultural agreement between the two countries was also signed on 6th April.

7. Return of General Phao.

General Phao returned to Bangkok on 5th April bearing more gifts after about 3 weeks in the United Kingdom and United States. He is said to have completed plans for shipment from United States of arms and uniforms for a Thai Civil Defence Volunteer Organization of 120,000 men. A loan of £Stg. six million at 4½ per cent offered by United Kingdom for installation of electric supply in many parts of Thailand is reported to have been accepted at meeting of Council of Ministers on 20th April.

8. Relations between Laos and Thailand.

In our savingram 5 we referred to the construction of the Udorn-Nonghai railway which would result (inter alia) in the greater flow of goods through Thailand to Laos. A note of progress on construction is given in our memorandum No. 137/55. As a footnote, it might be mentioned that member of recent Thai Trade Mission to Laos commented that because of political dissension and administrative corruption conditions were not favourable to establishing a joint Thai-Laotian business in Laos. A twenty-man mission of Laotian police

DEPARTMENT OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS.

SAVINGRAM. RESTRICTED

I. 5347

arrived in Bangkok on 20th April to study various branches of work in Thai Police Department.

9. Foreign Investment Mission.

On 16th April a five-man mission headed by Lt. General Banyat Tebhasadin, Ministry of Industries, left to visit Europe, U.S.A. and Japan to "invite foreign investment in local industry".

10. Foreign Exchange Rate.

See our memorandum 172/55.

11. Relations with Iran.

Cabinet has approved opening of diplomatic relations with Iran.

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

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

27th April, 1955.

DEPARTMENT OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS

32

SAVINGRAM.

RESTRICTED

:ABK

I. 4126.

Dated: 25th March 1955.
Nil.
Rec'd: 29th March 1955.
1040.

FROM:

Australian Legation,
BANGKOK.

402/1/1

SAV. 6. RESTRICTED.

Thailand - Summary of Events, 10th-24th March.

(a) Press Reaction to Australian Prime Minister's Washington Visit.

Though English language press has small circulation, it is of interest that visit was widely featured, including speculative reports that agreement had been reached that in event of aggression, Australian troops would be flown into Thailand in U.S. planes to resist enemy troops "already reeling from U.S. atomic blows". Later reports led to editorial in "Bangkok Post" thanking Australia for her proposed help.

(b) Foreign Minister's Reaction to Remarks on Thailand by Harriott in Special "Sydney Morning Herald" Article.

In special interview with press, Prince Wan is reported to have firmly denied Harriott's disparaging references to both the Thai Army and the defection of the Thai Government in the event of aggression.

(c) Security.

On 16th March sentence was passed on some 49 members of National Liberation Movement (including Pridi's son, Pan Panomyong), National Peace Council, Communist Party and "North-Easterners" for conspiring to overthrow Government by force and to introduce Communism into Thailand.

On 18th March arrest was reported of some 32 persons, alleged to be Vietminh agents, who have illegally crossed into North-East Thailand for the purpose of spreading Communist propaganda in North-East Thailand.

(d) Afro-Asian Conference.

Thai Delegation, led by Prince Wan, will include new Permanent Under-Secretary, Prince Dilokrit; Ambassador to Indonesia, Rattanathip; Under-Secretary of Culture, Wichien; Dr. Manu Amatayakul, Surit Watana, Isaraprakdi, all of Foreign Ministry; also representatives of Ministries of Culture and Finance.

(e) Exchange Rate.

The Tical has gradually weakened on the open market exchange from 55.6 to the £S1 on February 12th to 56.7 to the £S1 yesterday (buying rates). The tendency of the tical to harden from the end of October last year until the peak reached in February this year may be attributed to imposition of import restrictions and the ban imposed in November of the import of 94 commodities. The insistence of the Thai Government that the foreign currency proceeds of Thai products exported abroad should be converted into Baht from £Sterling or U.S. Dollars also had an effect. The subsequent tendency of the tical to weaken may be attributed to rumours of easing of import restrictions, and to action taken by the Bank of Thailand in the past few days to raise the Baht rates for foreign

RESTRICTED

exchange reserves and gold held by the Bank from the equivalent of 35 Baht to the £S1 to 56 Baht to the £S1 (in other words a transfer from calculating official reserves at the Bank's "official" exchange rate to a rate approximating to the actual market rate). Rumours that the Government would issue more currency against the gold and exchange reserves have been scotched in official statements. Even so, an element of uncertainty has affected the weakening exchange rate.

(f) Import Controls.

There are signs that pressure is being brought to bear on the Government to ease import restrictions: two gestures in this direction may be noted - (1) the Deputy Prime Minister, Field Marshal Phin, and members of the various Chambers of Commerce to air some of their grievances at a meeting on 15th February; (2) the Government has in fact lifted the ban on 10 items, none of which are significant imports.

(g) Rice and the Balance of Trade.

While it seems likely that the balance of payments on current account is running at a deficit, contrary to previous expectations, Thailand has exported 158, 141 metric tons of rice for January and February of this year as compared with 123,863 metric tons for the corresponding period last year. The improvement may be attributed both to Japanese purchases and to a certain amount of stockpiling as a result of the Formosa crisis.

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

29th March 1955.

SEC AS(DIV1) AS(DIV2) L&T (DIV4) AS(DIV3) MR.HOOD
UN ER PAC&AM EA AM&SP S&SEA SA SEA E.AF&ME
E AF&ME INF DI C&P FIN
G.

RESTRICTED

RESTRICTED

South East Asia

File No. 30

CONFIDENTIAL

EXTERNAL AFFAIRS.

402/1/1

Record of Conversation with the FRENCH AMBASSADOR (M. ROCHÉ)

on 17th January, 1955

Officers Present THE ACTING SECRETARY (MR. PLIMSOLL)

MAIN SUBJECT(S):

1. AUSTRALIAN FORCES FOR MALAYA
2. IMPERIAL PREFERENCE DISCUSSION AT P.Ms' CONFERENCE

1. M. Roché said he wanted to report to his Government on two points which had appeared in the Press. The first was the statement quoting the "Straits Times" that Australia was going to send forces to Malaya. The second was the suggestion that Imperial Preference would be discussed at the Prime Ministers' Conference in London. M. Roché said he had mentioned the second matter earlier to Mr. Tange, who had told him that only half a day would be set aside for economic matters in London and that he did not envisage discussion of Imperial Preference.

2. I told M. Roché, on the first point, that Mr. Menzies had already said in Parliament that Australia was prepared to enter into military commitments. Our acceptance of the Manila Pact indicated that the region in which we saw our chief defence interests and contribution would be South-East Asia. The visits to Australia of two Commanders-in-Chief from Malaya reflected the fact that discussions were going on about the possible contribution Australia could make in that region, but it was not true to say that Australia would necessarily send forces to Malaya. It was not even certain that any military contribution we made in South-East Asia would be in Malaya rather than somewhere else.

3. Roché asked me whether Australia would contemplate putting forces into Thailand in peace time. On this I merely replied that there had been no invitation from the Thai Government to do so. Roché said that he did not see any reason to expect that there would be such an invitation.

4. Roché made some enquiries about the use of our forces in South-East Asia in peace time as distinct from war, and I replied that we had entered into no commitment on the use of our forces in South-East Asia in peace time. I said that what happened would naturally depend partly on the Prime Ministers' talks in London and Washington and partly on indications that we get at Bangkok and elsewhere of what other Governments who were parties to the Manila Pact were willing to do.

5. On the economic discussions at the Prime Ministers' meeting, I replied that the position was still

CONFIDENTIAL

File No.

EXTERNAL AFFAIRS.

SHEET 2 29

Record of Conversation with the FRENCH AMBASSADOR (M. ROCHÉ)

on 17th January, 1955

Officers Present THE ACTING SECRETARY (MR. PLIMSOLL)

MAIN SUBJECT(S): 1. AUSTRALIAN FORCES FOR MALAYA
2. IMPERIAL PREFERENCE DISCUSSION AT P.Ms' CONFERENCE

the same as Mr. Tange had said. I did not pursue any detailed discussion of specific economic problems or proposals. I remarked that the Prime Minister was not taking any senior economic official from Australia to London, though, of course, there were some officials connected with the GATT talks who could no doubt be called upon if needed.

DISTRIBUTION: * S.E.Asia

Minister.	A/S G.R.	Central Br.	* D.L. ~~XXXX~~	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.

Defence Dept.; P.M's Dept.

FOLLOWING POST(S):

Singapore, Paris.

Report prepared by J. Plimsoll
(J. Plimsoll)

ACTION:

4106.

EXTERNAL AFFAIRS.

SEA 28

CONFIDENTIAL

FOR THE SECRETARY:

Mr. Konthi on Thursday referred to a radio broadcast by a member of the National University staff criticising Thailand. Professor Sawer said over the ABC ("Voice", April 1954, p.6)

"It (that is Communist triumph in Indo-China) would increase the danger of such corrupt dictatorships as Thailand going over to the Communists with the same readiness as they sold out to the Japanese."

RAP:nm
24th May, 1954.

Treasury Gardens,
MELBOURNE. C.2.

16th December 1953

Many thanks for your letter of 14th November which recently reached me and which I was glad to get.

I have looked into the question, on which you had a Washington report, about the Australian Delegation at United Nations supporting an attack on Thailand over the K.M.T. troops item. You may be interested in having the details as I have ascertained them.

It appears that the leader of our Delegation, Spender, spoke on the 4th November, and said inter alia, that the irregular Chinese forces must be cut off by every means from any assistance, whether of ammunition or supplies, at government or private level. Part of his speech also read:-

> "We are all aware that action of this kind cannot be one hundred per cent effective but if an effective policy of denial were genuinely followed by each nation the supplies without which these Chinese irregular forces would progressively become ineffective would be reduced to a comparative trickle .... It seems equally clear that these forces are inter alia drawing supplies from sources external to Burma. It would be interesting to know from where - perhaps the representative of China may be able to give us further information as to their extent etc., and the answers to these questions are in my view the gist of the problem."

Spender here referred specifically to the Chinese representative and it may be that the Thais, in their over-sensitiveness, thought the remark was aimed at them - this, however, was not the case. The Australian delegation in fact did what it could to give the Thais moral support. At the Assembly on 6th November Spender said that the Australian delegation hoped that the Government of Thailand, which had given so much assistance, would continue its good offices.

There is the final point - you will recall that Australia was one of the co-sponsors of the Assembly Resolution which expressed appreciation of the efforts of Thailand and the U.S. in striving to bring about the evacuation of the K.M.T. forces.

402/1/1

His Excellency Mr. William J. Donovan,
American Ambassador to Thailand,
American Embassy,
BANGKOK.

Seen J. Plumb 17/12/53

26

I hope the above will help to clear this matter up for you.

Time and not navigation is the obstacle in my getting to Bangkok. I hope I manage it some time - I would like to see you. In the meantime all best wishes and Christmas and New Year greetings.

I am,

Yours sincerely,

R. G. CASEY

(R. G. CASEY)

→ MR PLIMSOLL

Secretary
Department of External Affairs

Forwarded for:
~~Draft reply.~~
~~Reply direct.~~
~~Attention.~~
Information.

Our C/P messages refer.

H. Marshall

(H. Marshall),
Private Secretary
/ /195 .

25

DEPARTMENT OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS.

CABLEGRAM. **SECRET.**

:GG

I.15464.

Dated: 6th November, 1953.
NIL.
Rec'd: 18th November, 1953.
0830.

FROM:

Australian High Commissioner's Office,
L O N D O N.

E.A.432. SECRET.

Repeated Australian Embassy Washington Saving 136. Australian Embassy Paris Saving 77.

Siam.

Our 3951.

Denis Allen told us on 5th November nothing further had been heard from Wallinger in Bangkok. He asked if I knew what Australia thought of idea of informal committee of Ambassadors in Bangkok and I said I had not heard anything further.

We asked Allen about Foreign Office print FS 1192/ incorporating despatch dated 5th October from Wallinger on American policy regarding defence of Siam and South East Asia. Allen said he did not think one should build up too much significance over appointment of Donovan as Ambassador so as to conclude a new American policy was in being. Donovan himself had not given any clear picture of what he was after and one could never be sure his remarks would necessarily reflect State Department policy.

Allen added that during recent visit to London of Landon, Officer in Charge of Siamese Affairs in State Department, Allen had not received impression of some new dynamic American policy. He had taken opportunity of mentioning Ambassadorial Committee idea to Landon and latter had seemed interested and said he would see what could be done.

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

18th November, 1953.

SEC A/Ss UN EA SEA@ NZ WEST A E CEN PI

G

402/1/1

402/1/1

24

Papers on Thai request for Australian support for Prince Naradhip as President of the General Assembly filed on 401/1/14.

5. VIII. 53.

DEPARTMENT OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS.

CABLEGRAM.

JP - MC

O.7118.

Dated 16th June, 1953.
1240.

TO:

Field Marshal P. Pibul Songgram,
President,
Council of Ministers of Thailand,
BANGKOK.

EM.158. UNCLASSIFIED.

From Fadden, Acting Prime Minister.

The Australian Government expresses its sincere thanks for your congratulatory message on the occasion of Her Majesty's Coronation. We are most grateful to the Government and to you personally for your thoughtful action and for the good wishes conveyed in your telegram.

A/S. P.M. & DEPT. (82/1/27)
MIN. & DEPT. E.A.
P.M.'S.

16th June, 1953.

SEC A/S(GR.) A/S(ADMIN) UN PAC SEA PT.

Aust. Legation, Bangkok, Thailand.
Annual Report, 1951.

22

CONFIDENTIAL.

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 co-operative 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 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 co-operation. 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 co-operate 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.

EXTERNAL AFFAIRS. file 402/1/1

21

M. McIntyre

The attached letters from Davey were received in the Dept. on Dec. 11th & 14th respectively. Unfortunately the office machinery broke down & they were not brought to my notice until Jan 2nd.

As matters have developed, the points raised are no longer of great urgency, but a reply still appears to be called for. Drafts are attached for your approval.

I have been in touch with Davey personally, to express regret at delay in replying & to inform him of action taken by Loomis.

4/1/52

M/Knight confirms that PM's expect no further reply

Mr. Cutts

Draft approved

L.B.P.

FILE COPY

LRMcI/CG

20

4th January, 1952.

MEMORANDUM:

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

on file 399/1/1

I refer to letters dated 10th and 12th December, 1951, addressed to you by the Official Secretary, Office of the High Commissioner for the United Kingdom, copies of which were forwarded to this Department.

I would suggest that a reply along the following lines might be forwarded to the Official Secretary:-

"Thank you for your letters of 10th and 12th December, 1951, conveying the views of the United Kingdom Government in relation to the recent coup d'etat in Thailand and particularly to the question of recognition of the new government of that country.

As the views of the Australian Government were substantially in agreement with those expressed in your letters, the Australian Charge d'Affaires in Bangkok was instructed to consult with his United Kingdom and United States colleagues on the question of recognition, and to take parallel action with them in this regard. In pursuance of these instructions the Charge d'Affaires on 20th December delivered to the Thai Minister of Foreign Affairs a formal acknowledgement of the latter's note of 15th December, 1951, regarding the establishment of the new government. I enclose copies of the Thai Minister's note of 15th December and the Charge d'Affaires acknowledgement."

L. R. McINTYRE
(L.R. McIntyre)

Enc.

DUPLICATE.

402/1/1
19

Australian Legation,
Bangkok, Thailand.

File No. 100/5/1.

Memo. No. 519/51.

21st December, 1951.

MEMORANDUM for:

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

RECOGNITION OF THAI GOVERNMENT.

I refer to my cable No. 141 of 10th December on this subject and your cable No. 197, and now enclose a copy of the Note of 15th December, 1951, from the Minister of Foreign Affairs. I am also enclosing copy of my Note of 20th December by which recognition of the new Thai Government was by implication accorded.

2. The delivery of my Note was made on the same day as the Notes of the United Kingdom and United States Embassies. Practically all other countries represented here have also accorded recognition.

(Sgd.) A. H. Loomes

Charge d'Affaires.

Original to Dept of Europe

3/1/52

file this in 402/1/1 when original returned.
(with attachments.
(original: 401/1/1).
AD: 3/1

402/1/1 '8

DEPARTMENT OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS.

CABLEGRAM.

I.21386

PK:ER

Dated: 20th December, 1951
1300

Rec'd: 21st December, 1951
0830

FROM:

Australian Consul-General,
BANGKOK.

147. UNCLASSIFIED. PRIORITY.

Your telegram 197. Recognition of the Thai Government.

I have today Thursday forwarded my reply to the Foreign Minister's note of Thursday according recognition. The United Kingdom, United States and France are also sending notes today.

2. Copies of the Foreign Minister's note and my reply follows by air mail.

Min. & Dept. E.A.
P.M's Defence

21st December, 1951

A.S. BROWN, SECRETARY, PRIME MINISTER'S DEPARTMENT, MELBOURNE

L.R. McINTYRE, DEPARTMENT OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS, CANBERRA.

Question of Australian recognition of new government of Thailand may become urgent.

2. You may have seen telegrams on the subject from Charge d'Affaires, Bangkok, culminating with No. 141 received yesterday which recommends that since the new regime is in fact (though not in form) virtually the same as before, and no change in foreign policy is likely, we should not withhold recognition. U.K. and U.S. Ambassadors and majority of their colleagues are recommending recognition to their Governments, and London is reported to have approved.

3. Subject to Prime Minister's approval, we would like to telegraph Loomes that we do not wish to refuse or delay recognition, and that if it appears likely that U.K. and U.S. Ambassadors will be receiving instructions within next few days to proceed with recognition he should act in concert with them. If there is uncertainty or delay on their part he should keep us advised.

4. Grateful if you could obtain Prime Minister's approval.

H.B.P.D.
per Mrs Lee.
11/12/51

G.R. 11.12.1951

TWC.MS

SECRET

File No. 402/1/1

Memo No.

CANBERRA, A.C.T.

22nd November, 1951.

MEMORANDUM for :-

The Australian Legation,
BANGKOK

I refer to your memorandum No. 477/51 of 1st November suggesting that consideration be given to the conclusion of a Commercial Treaty with the Government of Thailand.

2. We have given your proposal careful consideration but do not feel that the time is opportune for us to take any initiative in this direction. Experience has shown that the negotiation of a treaty of this nature can involve, for Australia, a long and laborious process because of the division of authority between Commonwealth and State Governments and the number of Commonwealth Departments involved. For example, we have been trying for some years to conclude a treaty of this nature with the United States of America, but final agreement has still not been reached on a number of points. In addition there is the possibility that conclusion of such a treaty with Thailand might lead to requests from other Asian countries for similar treaties, a development which could lead to unnecessary complications in our relations with such countries.

3. For these reasons we would not wish to commence negotiations with the Thai Government for a Commercial Treaty unless such a treaty offered immediate and substantial advantages. However, so far as we know, few Australian companies are seeking to invest capital in Thailand, while A.C.I. Ltd. is the only one known to have been adversely affected by the lack of the right to acquire land there. Australian tin mining companies in Thailand appear to be operating without difficulty. Our trade with Thailand is at present quite small and a substantial increase in the volume of this trade does not appear to be a likelihood in the immediate future.

4. In these circumstances, we do not feel that the need for a Commercial Treaty with Thailand is at this stage at all urgent. So far, apart from the incidental reference by Prince Wongsa mentioned in your memorandum No. 137 of 3rd April, no suggestion for the conclusion of such a treaty has emerged from the Thai side. We would therefore prefer that the matter be allowed to rest for the time being, and you should take no initiative to promote discussions of it, even informally, with any Thai officials. If the present circumstances should change significantly, the whole question could, of course, be resubmitted for further consideration.

L. R. McINTYRE

(L. R. McIntyre)
for Secretary

15

DEPARTMENT OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS.

CABLEGRAM.

JC/PM.

I. 19678.

Dated: 17th November, 1951.
1330.
Recd.: 19th November, 1951.
0830.

FROM:

Australian Legation,
BANGKOK.

127. UNCLASSIFIED. IMMEDIATE.

External Canberra, repeated to Australian Legation Rome. 2.

F.A.O. Sixth Session.

The Foreign Office advises that the Siamese Delegation was instructed to "give due consideration " to the Australian candidate for the Council and suggests that the Australian Delegation should keep in touch with the Siamese Delegation in Rome. The Foreign Office also advises that Thailand is seeking election election of its candidate to the same Council and asks for Australian support.

- - - - - -

E.A.
C.& A.(C-M)
D/G of Agriculture.
P.M.'S.

402/1/1

19th November, 1951.

EXTERNAL AFFAIRS

Rpy Mr Critchley. See my note

FOR MR. McINTYRE

Please see memorandum of 1st November from Australian Charge d'Affaires, Bangkok, suggesting that early consideration be given to the question of negotiating with the Government of Thailand a general treaty of friendship, commerce and navigation.

2. The Australian-Thai peace agreement of 1945 specifically looks forward to the conclusion of such a treaty between the two countries. Article X reads as follows :

"(1) The Government of Siam undertake to negotiate with the Government of Australia if requested to do so a Treaty of Establishment, Commerce and Navigation and a Consular Agreement upon a basis of reciprocity. In such treaty and agreement Australians will be given rights and treatment not less favourable than those given to subject and citizens of any other country.

(2) Pending completion of such Treaty of Establishment, Commerce and Navigation and such Consular Agreement, the Government of Siam will -

(a) accord to Australian commercial, industrial and maritime interests treatment not less favourable than that accorded to similar interests of any other country; and
(b) accord to any Australian Consular representatives who may be appointed to reside in Siam rights, privileges and immunities no less favourable than those accorded to similar representatives of any other country".

3. The recent experience of A.C.I. Ltd., in attempting to acquire land in Bangkok for the construction of a glass factory, gave rise to consideration within the Department of the possibility of negotiating the treaties envisaged in Article X of the Peace Agreement. Having arranged to purchase a factory site the Company discovered, upon seeking registration of the transfer, that the purchase was invalid. The Thai "Aliens Land Acquisition Act" prohibits the acquisition of land in Thailand by aliens other than the nationals of countries whose governments have treaties with the Thai government specifically authorizing such acquisition on a basis of reciprocity. The terms of the Act are mandatory on this point and do not allow the Thai Government any discretion. The Australian Consul-General argued at the time that the position was covered, as far as Australian nationals were concerned, by the provisions of Article 10 (2)(a) of the Peace Agreement. This argument, however, was not accepted, the Thai view being that these general words could not be interpreted as conferring any specific rights on Australian companies except the right to trade, and that the right to acquire land, which is of particular importance, could only be conferred by specific provision.

4. A.C.I. Ltd. overcame the difficulty by having the factory site purchased by its subsidiary Singapore company whose rights to acquire land are covered by the Anglo-Thai treaty. This incident, however, has made it quite clear that Australian nationals and companies cannot in the absence of a specific treaty provision, acquire land in Thailand. Australian tin mining companies, on the other hand, have experienced no difficulty in obtaining the necessary rights (by lease or otherwise) to carry on their operations in Thailand.

5. Experience has shown that negotiation of a treaty of the kind suggested can involve, for Australia, a long and laborious process in obtaining agreement of all interested departments, and of the State administrations where their jurisdiction is involved. After trying for years to conclude an agreement of this nature with the U.S.A., we are still unable to obtain the agreement of Treasury on a number of points. It is therefore for consideration whether the conclusion of a similar treaty with Thailand would offer sufficient advantages to warrant our embarking on such a difficult and tortuous enterprise.

6. So far as is known, few Australian companies are seeking to invest capital in Thailand, while A.C.I. Ltd. is the only one which is known to have been adversely affected by the absence of the right to acquire land. Australian tin mining companies (as pointed out above) are operating without difficulty in Thailand while no discrimination against Australian commercial operations in that country has been reported. In any case, our trade with Siam is small, exports to Siam representing .2% and imports therefrom .02% of total Australian trade. In the light of these considerations, the need for a treaty can hardly be regarded as compelling.

7. A possible alternative to the negotiation of a separate Australian-Thai treaty might be accession by Australia to the Anglo-Thai treaty of 1938, which would be very simple, procedurally. Article 24 of this treaty provides :

> "(1) The High Contracting Parties agree that His Majesty the King and Emperor may by notification given through diplomatic channels accede to the present Treaty in respect of any Member of the British Commonwealth of Nations whose Government may desire that such accession should be affected. Any such accession shall take effect as from the date of notification thereof".

8. In general, the terms of the Anglo-Thai treaty would satisfactorily cover our requirements. However, Article 1 (1) (a) would probably not be regarded as acceptable. It reads as follows :

> "(1) The subjects of each High Contracting Party shall be entitled -
>
> (a) to enter, travel and <u>reside in</u>, and to leave the territories of the other High Contracting Party so long as they satisfy and observe the conditions and regulations applicable in such territories to the entry, travel, residence and departure of <u>all foreigners</u>".

(It is unlikely that we would be able to avoid this issue even in negotiation of a separate treaty).

9. My own feeling is that, on balance, the advantages offered by a treaty with Thailand of the kind suggested would not be sufficient to outweigh the difficulties which would be certain to arise in the course of negotiations. Accession to the Anglo-Thai Treaty of 1938 would avoid many of these difficulties but the terms of Article I (1)(a) could lead to trouble. There is the further point that conclusion of a treaty of this kind with Thailand might put us under pressure to enter into similar treaties with other Asian countries - a development which would add further complications to our relations with Asia.

10. So far the Thai Government has not suggested the conclusion of a treaty. If and when they raise the question, we will have to give it most serious consideration, but we can at least leave matters rest till then.

11. I would be glad of your views as to the nature of a reply to be made to the memorandum of 1st November from the Charge d'Affaires.

J.K. Critchley

South-East Asia Sub-section.
TWC.MS
9th November, 1951.

Mr. Critchley

I don't think any action need be taken for the present at least. Your arguments all seem to be valid, & since there is no urgent need for a treaty I think we might reply briefly to Lormes setting out your arguments in general terms, noting that there seems no particular pressure for a treaty, but mentioning that it can be left open for future consideration if circumstances warrant.

L.H.L.P.

RESTRICTED.

11

DEPARTMENT OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS
5 NOV 1951
CANBERRA

File No. 90/1/25.

Memo. No. 477/51.

402/1/1

LEGATION
AUSTRALIAN CONSULATE-GENERAL
BANGKOK, THAILAND.

1st November, 1951.

MEMORANDUM for:

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

COMMERCIAL TREATY WITH THAILAND.

see file 402/3/2

I refer to my memorandum No. 211/51 of 10th May, 1951, which related to the acquisition of land in Thailand by Australian Consolidated Industries, and to previous correspondence on that subject.

2. The recent agreement for the exchange of diplomatic missions would seem now to pave the way for more satisfactory relations in the commercial sphere. I would strongly recommend therefore that early consideration should be given to the question of negotiating a general treaty of friendship, commerce and navigation between the two countries.

3. As I pointed out in earlier communications, the Peace Agreement between Australia and Thailand (Article X) looked forward to the negotiation of a general commercial treaty, and the present time would seem an appropriate one to commence the negotiations. If an agreement were concluded it would appear that the Peace Agreement could be, at least to a large extent, terminated, and, from the political point of view, this would be a desirable move.

4. I should be grateful for your early consideration of this matter.

Charge d'Affaires.

copy for file 402/3/2

P/S with papers for x

5/11

10

DEPARTMENT OF E
CANBERR EXTERNAL AFFAIRS.
24t A.
on October, 1951.

In reply quote No. 402/1/1.

Administrative Circular No. 121/51.

MEMORANDUM for:

Heads of all Australian Diplomatic Missions and Consular Posts Abroad and Heads of Divisions and Sections, Canberra.

DIPLOMATIC RELATIONS WITH THAILAND.

Following the announcement, on October 22nd, 1951, by the Minister for External Affairs, of the commencement of diplomatic relations between Thailand and Australia, the Australian Consulate-General at Bangkok will be described as the Australian Legation, Bangkok. Mr. A.H. Loomes will be Charge d'Affaires, ad interim.

A.S. Watt

(A.S. Watt)
Secretary.

402/1/1

MTEM 402/1/6

South East Asia

DEPARTMENT OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS.

CABLEGRAM.

O. 16895.

RR.PM.

Dated: 21st October, 1951.
2045.

TO:

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.

WBP
Tree Plan
file
402/1/1

Dis...
SECRETA...
A.S. (U.N...
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...Secretary

DEPARTMENT OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS.

8

CABLEGRAM.

RR/PM.

O. 16894.

TO:

Dated: 21st October, 1951.
2045.

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.



402/1/1

DEPARTMENT OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS.

CABLEGRAM.

RESTRICTED.

FYI: MPS

I.18210

Dated: 20th October, 1951.
1330
Rec'd: 21st October, 1951.
0900

FROM:

Australian Consul-General,
BANGKOK.

118. IMMEDIATE. RESTRICTED.

For Watt from Loomes.

Exchange of Legations.

Agreement will now definitely be concluded and announcement made here on Monday. I assume you will make simultaneous announcment in Australia. I am also arranging to establish Legation with myself as Charge d' Affaires as from 22nd October. Thai Government require cable appointing me Charge d' Affaires direct from Minister to Thailand Minister for External Affairs. "Could you please arrange this to arrive here on or before 22nd October?"

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

21st October, 1951.

402/1/1

DISTRIBU
SECRETARY
A.S. (U.N.)
A.S. (G.R.)
A.S. (Admin.)
A.S. (L. & T.)
U.N.
Pac. Aus.
U.K.
U.S.A.
Asst.
Central
P.I.
Econ. & Pro.
Int.
Admin.
Finance
W. Comm.

DEPARTMENT OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS, CANBERRA.

6

Name of Paper Summary of Items File No. 402/1/1

Published at Bangkok Date 27/9/51 - 3/10/51

Recent statements by the Rt.Hon. R.G. Casey on the results of his visit to South East and East Asia, as well as on the gifts to India, Pakistan and Ceylon made under the Colombo Plan have been prominently featured in the local press. Some newspapers paid tribute in their editorials to Australia's position in world affairs.

Mr McIntyre to see

EXTERNAL AFFAIRS.

For Mr. Harry :

Reference Telegram No. 61 from Bangkok.

If proposal for establishment of a Legation at Bangkok is approved, the next step in improving our relations with Thailand might be the conclusion of a treaty of Commerce and Navigation.

2. The following clauses of the Anglo-Thai Treaty (of 1938) are of interest :

Article 1 -

.....

(2)-

(a) The subjects of each High Contracting party shall be permitted in the territories of the other to acquire, inherit, possess, lease and occupy property, movable or immovable, subject, however, to the right of the latter High Contracting Party -

(i) to make the acquisition or leasing of immovable property in his territory by foreigners subject to such conditions as are or may be established for reasons of national security or otherreasons of public policy;

(ii) to impose such restrictions as he may think fit in regard to the acquisition of vessels flying his national flag or aircraft on his national register and shares in such ships and aircraft.

In all the matters referred to in this sub-paragraph, the subjects of each High Contracting Party shall receive, in the territories of the other, treatment not less favourable than that accorded to the subjects or citizens of any other foreign country.

.....

W.B.P./Pls. speak 15/5/41

Article 24. -

(1) The High Contracting Parties agree that His Majesty the King and Emperor may by notification given through the diplomatic channel accede to the present Treaty in respect of any Member of the British Commonwealth of Nations whose Government may desire that such accession should be affected. Any such accession shall take effect as from the date of notification thereof.

3. Article X of the Australian Thai Peace Treaty reads :

(1) The Government of Siam undertake to negotiate with the Government of Australia if requested to do so a Treaty of Establishment, Commerce and Navigation and a Consular Agreement upon a basis of reciprocity. In such treaty and agreement Australians will be given rights and treatment not less favourable than those

Mr. Cutts:
These Treaties of Commerce & Navigation are the very divil to negotiate (cf. proposed Treaty with U.S.) because many matters usually included are the concern of the States or at least of other Depts. Please bring in text of Anglo-Thai Treaty & discuss R.H. 11/5

given to subjects and citizens of any other country.

(2) Pending completion of such Treaty of Establishment, Commerce and Navigation and such Consular Agreement, the Government of Siam will -

(a) accord to Australian commercial, industrial and maritime interests treatment not less favourable than that accorded to similar interests of any other country; and

(b) accord to any Australian Consular representatives who may be appointed to reside in Siam rights, privileges and immunities not less favourable than those accorded to similar representatives of any other country.

4. Accession to the Anglo-Thai treaty would appear to be procedurally simple, and would secure for us all the advantages we could hope for from a separately negotiated treaty. However, Article 1. (1) (a) may not be considered acceptable by us. It is as follows :

X (1) The subjects of each High Contracting Party shall be entitled -

(a) to enter, travel and reside in, and to leave the territories of the other High Contracting Party so long as they satisfy and observe the conditions and regulations applicable in such territories to the entry, travel, residence and departure of all foreigners; X

5. The difficulties experienced by A.C.I. Ltd. in acquiring a factory site underline the desirability of concluding a suitable treaty with the Thai Government to secure for Australian nationals adequate commercial rights in Thailand. No initiative can be taken until we decide to establish a Legation there but, once that decision is taken, Loomes should be instructed to discuss the question informally with the Thai Government and report on their attitude.

South East Asia Sub-Section.
(TWC:UD)
11/5/51.

402/1/1

DEPARTMENT OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS

f3

Sec. 3.

THE SCHEDULE.

FINAL PEACE AGREEMENT BETWEEN THE GOVERNMENT OF AUSTRALIA AND THE GOVERNMENT OF SIAM

WHEREAS, by a proclamation made in Bangkok on 16th August, 1945, the Regent of Siam did, in the name of His Majesty the King of Siam, proclaim the declaration of war made by Siam on 25th January, 1942, against the United Kingdom to be null and void in that it was made contrary to the will of the Siamese people and in violation of the constitution and laws of Siam, and

WHEREAS the proclamation of 16th August, 1945, aforesaid was the same day unanimously approved by the National Assembly of Siam, and

WHEREAS the Government of Siam have repudiated the alliance entered into by Siam with Japan on 21st December, 1941, together with all other Treaties, Pacts or Agreements concluded between Siam and Japan, and

WHEREAS, in pursuance of the formal agreement of 1st January, 1946, between the Government of the United Kingdom and the Government of India on the one hand and the Government of Siam on the other, the state of war existing between the United Kingdom and Siam and between India and Siam has been terminated, and

WHEREAS a state of war between Australia and Siam exists in pursuance of a proclamation by the Governor-General of Australia of 2nd March, 1942, and

WHEREAS the Government of Australia, taking into account the acts of repudiation already effected by the Government of Siam and the services rendered by the resistance movement in Siam during the war with Japan, and in pursuance of the assurances contained in letters of agreement exchanged at Singapore on 1st January, 1946, by the plenipotentiaries of Australia and Siam, desire to bring to an immediate end the state of war between Australia and Siam,

NOW, THEREFORE, the Government of Australia on the one hand and the Government of Siam on the other, being desirous of re-establishing on a just and equitable basis peace between their respective countries, have resolved to conclude an agreement for these purposes and have accordingly appointed as their plenipotentiaries :

Government of Australia :

Mr. Frank Keith Officer, O.B.E., M.C., an Envoy Extraordinary and Minister Plenipotentiary ;

Government of Siam :

Nai Direck Jayanâma, G.C.W.E., G.C.C.S., Minister of Foreign Affairs ;

WHO, having communicated their full powers, found in good and due form, have agreed as follows :—

ARTICLE I.

The Government of Siam agree to repudiate all measures pursuant to the above-mentioned declaration of war operating to the detriment of Australia and her allies and to take all necessary legislative and administrative measures to give effect to such repudiation.

ARTICLE II.

The Government of Siam undertake to enter into arrangements acceptable to the Government of Australia for the up-keep of Australian war graves and for the establishment and future care of Australian war cemeteries in Siam.

ARTICLE III.

The Government of Siam undertake to render every assistance in the apprehension of persons in their jurisdiction reasonably suspected of having committed war crimes against Australians.

ARTICLE IV.

(*a*) The Government of Siam agree to assume responsibility for safe-guarding, maintaining and restoring unimpaired the property rights and interests of all kinds in Siam of the Government of Australia and of Australians whether held by them individually or as members of firms, partnerships or companies whether incorporated

THE SCHEDULE—*continued.*

or unincorporated and for the payment to the Government of Australia of such compensation for loss or damage suffered in respect thereof as appears reasonable and adequate to the Government of Australia or to a Board, Committee or Commission approved by the Government of Australia;

(*b*) The term " property rights and interests " shall include inter alia the official property of the Government of Australia, property whose ownership has been transferred since 8th December, 1941, all stocks of tin and other commodities and all leases and concessions granted to Australian firms or individuals prior to 8th December, 1941, and still valid at that date.

ARTICLE V.

The Government of Siam—

(*a*) declare as null and void all titles, rights and interests acquired since 8th December, 1941, in territories outside Siam by the Government of Siam or by their subjects in and to property, including currency, of the Government of Australia or of Australians whether held by them individually or as members of firms, partnerships or companies whether incorporated or unincorporated, except to the extent to which it can be established that fair value has been given in exchange;

(*b*) shall restore all such property removed from these territories; and

(*c*) shall pay to the Government of Australia for loss or damage occasioned by Siamese activity to Australian property rights and interests in these territories such compensation as appears reasonable and adequate to the Government of Australia or to a Board, Committee or Commission approved by the Government of Australia.

ARTICLE VI.

The Government of Siam agree to desequestrate Australian commercial, mining and other concerns and to permit them to resume business.

ARTICLE VII.

The Government of Siam undertake to accept responsibility for the payment in full of all pensions due by them to Australians, payment to include interest at an appropriate rate on all arrears.

ARTICLE VIII.

The Government of Siam undertake to pay to Australians detained or interned by the Government of Siam or their agents or subjects, compensation which appears reasonable and adequate to the Government of Australia or to a Board, Committee or Commission approved by the Government of Australia, for any loss or injury sustained by them as a result of their detention or internment, and to the dependents of any such Australians whose death was occasioned by the Acts of the Government of Siam or their agents or subjects.

ARTICLE IX.

The Government of Siam, recognizing the importance of Siam to the defence, security and well-being of South-East Asia, the Indian Ocean area, and Australia, New Zealand and the South-West Pacific area generally, agree to participate, if requested to do so, in measures of regional political and economic co-operation consistent with the principles of the United Nations Charter and relating to the countries or areas specified.

ARTICLE X.

(1) The Government of Siam undertake to negotiate with the Government of Australia if requested to do so a Treaty of Establishment, Commerce and Navigation and a Consular Agreement upon a basis of reciprocity. In such treaty and agreement Australians will be given rights and treatment not less favourable than those given to subjects and citizens of any other country.

THE

THE SCHEDULE—*continued.*

(2) Pending completion of such Treaty of Establishment, Commerce and Navigation and such Consular Agreement, the Government of Siam will—

(*a*) accord to Australian commercial, industrial and maritime interests treatment not less favourable than that accorded to similar interests of any other country; and

(*b*) accord to any Australian Consular Representatives who may be appointed to reside in Siam rights, privileges and immunities not less favourable than those accorded to similar representatives of any other country.

ARTICLE XI.

With a view to the more effective promotion of the interests of Australia and Siam the Government of Siam undertake, pending the negotiation of the Treaty referred to in Article X (1), to inform and when so requested to confer with the Government of Australia regarding any proposed international arrangements relating to tin, rubber, oil or other commodities and undertake not to complete such arrangements unless the Government of Australia has been given an opportunity to become a party thereto.

ARTICLE XII.

The Government of Siam shall accord to the civil air services of Australia treatment in regard to the establishment, maintenance and operation of regular air services not less favourable than that accorded to Imperial Airways by the Notes exchanged at Bangkok on 3rd December, 1937.

ARTICLE XIII.

The Government of Siam and the Government of Australia acknowledge that the rights conferred and the duties imposed upon them or their subjects under treaties, agreements and conventions by which the two Governments were bound immediately prior to 8th December, 1941, shall continue with the same force and effect as obtained immediately prior to that date, and the rights so conferred and the duties so imposed shall be observed and maintained until new treaties, agreements and conventions are negotiated and agreed upon by the two Governments.

ARTICLE XIV.

In consideration of the above undertakings made by the Government of Siam the Government of Australia agree to take immediately such steps as may be necessary to terminate the state of war existing between Australia and Siam and to proceed at once to the resumption of friendly relations with Siam.

ARTICLE XV.

This agreement shall enter into force as from today's date.

IN WITNESS thereto the undersigned have signed the present agreement and have affixed thereto their seals.

DONE in duplicate in the English and Siamese languages at Bangkok this third day of April in the one thousand nine hundred and forty-sixth year of the Christian era, corresponding to the two thousand four hundred and eighty-ninth year of the Buddhist era.

KEITH OFFICER. (L.S.)
NAI D. JAYANAMA. (L.S.)

By Authority: L. F. JOHNSTON, Commonwealth Government Printer, Canberra.

FILE No. 3010/19/1.

COMMONWEALTH OF AUSTRALIA.

DEPARTMENT OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS.

Pol 1.

Blend 4562

Office Diary

S.E.A. Sub-Section

SECRET

CLOSED

SUBJECT.
Thailand. Australian Relations with and Policy towards Thailand

→ P/A P.M. Smith 9/9/71
10/9/71.

CLOSED

PREVIOUS FILE:	451/1/2: Report, Despatches etc. from Australian Representatives 451/3/1/1: Australian General Policy towards 451/3/1/2: Australian Political Relations with
NEXT FILE:	

RELATED PAPERS.	
FILE No.	SUBJECT.
3010/10/20	Purchase of Land in Thailand - [redacted] Ltd.

CLOSED

336. By Authority: L. F. JOHNSTON, Commonwealth Government Printer, Canberra.

A1838/1784

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