DECLASSIFIED
Authority NND 969000

ACTION EA 6

INFO 1	REF	AF
ARA	EUR 5	FE
NEA	CU	INR 5
E 12	P	IO
L	FBO	AID 12
AGR 10	COM 40	FRB
INT 7	LAB 6	TAR 2
TR 4	SMB	AIR
ARMY	CIA 20	NAVY
OSD 24	USIA 10	NSA 3
STR 8	CEA 3	

DEPARTMENT OF STATE

AIRGRAM

Pol 7 Thai
XR EEC 6 Thai
FOR RM USE ONLY
XR Inco Grains Thai

A - 1543 NO. | UNCLASSIFIED | HANDLING INDICATOR

TO : Department of State

INFO: BONN, THE HAGUE, BRUSSELS, ROME, PARIS, LUXEMBOURG

RECEIVED
Nov 4 1 35 PM

Action Assigned to IB
Action Taken
Date of Action 11/6/68
Action Officer Symbol EA/IB
Name of Officer

FROM : AmEmbassy BANGKOK

DATE: November 1, 1968

SUBJECT : Thailand and the European Economic Community

REF :

BRUSSELS FOR EEC

As of possible interest to addressees there follows the full text of that part of a press conference given by Thailand's Foreign Minister, Thanat Khoman, on his return to Bangkok October 30, 1968, related to his stopover in Brussels to consult with representatives of the European Economic Community:

Q. What did you accomplish in Brussels?

A. I met with the representatives of the EEC.

Q. What is that?

A. I met with the commissioners of the European Economic Community and committees of that organization. The purpose of our meeting was that I wanted to lay the ground-work for our representative to this organization. This means that our Ambassador to The Hague will become our representative to this organization, and will be empowered to explain our positions and work towards solving problems. In this stage we want to establish the fact that we promote world market activities and we are a good customer to the Common Market; and, since we purchase Common Market products we do not want a tax that would have adverse affect to our exports to Europe. The most important product that we have to sell the Common Market countries is tapioca. Tapioca products take many forms. Those that are exported in the form of strings and whole tapioca present no problems but export of tapioca flour could become a major problem should the product be heavily taxed. We have a great deal of flour in stock and it is an important item of Thai export. Since I am the Chairman of the Export Promotion Board, I was requested to present our case to the commissioners and

UNCLASSIFIED

FOR DEPT. USE ONLY
☒ In ☐ Out

FORM 4-62 DS-323

Drafted by: POL:PJRomano/mph 10/31/68
Contents and Classification Approved by: POL: William C. Hamilton

Clearances:
ECON: WCLenahan (In substance)

NOV 4 PM 3 00

COPYFLO-PBR

DECLASSIFIED
Authority

request that the product is not taxed or that the tax was not fixed so high as to make our export of the product impossible. I talked to them and we exchanged ideas and they listened to our proposals. We explained that we have been purchasing Common Market goods and will probably increase our purchasing in the future, such as in Italy, Germany and Holland. Because of this they should consider our interest as well; since, if the tax is levied, it will effect our trade detrimentally. The trading should be a two-sided affair. We discussed the technicalities of the matter and I requested that they iron out the details with Khoon Phairoj Chayanarm (Thai Ambassador to The Hague) who is our representative to the Common Market Organization. Khoon Phairoj will handle the details of the negotiations.

Q. Have they accepted the proposal?

A. They have promised their consideration of the matter; they could not say that there would be no tax; such is not their function. This is a matter to be negotiated and the negotiations may not be completed in one or two sessions.

UNGER

DECLASSIFIED
Authority _____