NATIONAL ARCHIVES

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SECRET

EA 12:00 and 12:30

DEPARTMENT OF STATE
ASSISTANT SECRETARY

Speaks English

MEMORANDUM

1/7/67

347

TO : The Secretary

THROUGH : S/S

FROM : EA - William P. Bundy

→ EA/Thai

SUBJECT : Your Meeting with Foreign Minister Thanat Khoman of Thailand. BRIEFING MEMORANDUM

POL 7 THAI-US
RE DEF 6 THAI-US
K-3 VIET

You have agreed to meet Foreign Minister Thanat Khoman of Thailand at 12:00, Monday, January 9. You will be the host for a lunch for the Foreign Minister in the James Madison room at 12:30. A copy of the guest list is attached at Tab A.

Foreign Minister Thanat came to the United States to act as Grand Marshal of the Tournament of Roses. He came to New York on January 4, and will arrive in Washington on January 8. He will leave Washington early on January 10 Our Embassy in Bangkok has learned that he is expected to be back in Thailand by January 16.

Suggested talking points are attached at Tab B.

Biographic Data on Thanat is at Tab C.

No toast will be required.

Attachments:

Tab A - Guest List
Tab B - Suggested talking points
Tab C - Biographic Data
Tab D - Letter for Thanat Khoman from the President
Tab E - Background on Announcement of Thai Ground Force Unit for Vietnam.

EA/THAI:LGPickering:wm
1/7/67

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INCOMING TELEGRAM Department of State

Pol Thai-US

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LIMITED OFFICIAL USE BANGKOK 8538

REF: STATE 114233

1. I DELIVERED THE PRESIDENT'S LETTER TO PRIME MINISTER THANOM THIS MORNING. HE SAID HE WAS EXTREMELY GRATIFIED FOR THIS RECOGNITION OF THAI-AMERICAN INTIMACY AND THE EXTENT OF THE THAI CONTRIBUTION TO THE ACHIEVEMENT OF OUR COMMON OBJECTIVES. HE SAID THAT, WHILE THESE CONTRIBUTIONS WERE RECOGNIZED BY THE SENIOR MEMBERS OF THE AMERICAN GOVERNMENT, THE AMERICAN PUBLIC AND PRESS WERE NOT SO WELL INFORMED.

AGR

2. THANOM WAS PARTICULARLY APPRECIATIVE OF THE FORMULATION "TO REINFORCE" WHICH WOULD HELP WHEN HE PRESENTED THE PRESIDENT'S LETTER TO THE CABINET NEXT TUESDAY.

3. AS ALWAYS, THANOM WAS PARTICULARLY PLEASED TO HAVE THIS DIRECT COMMUNICATION FROM THE PRESIDENT. IT OBVIOUSLY STRENGTHENS HIS DETERMINATION AND WILL BE OF CONSIDERABLE HELP TO HIM IN BRINGING ALONG THE MORE CONSERVATIVE MEMBERS OF HIS CABINET.

4. HE DOES NOT PLAN TO RELEASE THE LETTER, AT LEAST UNTIL AFTER THERE IS A DIRECT EXCHANGE BETWEEN THE SVN GOVERNMENT AND THE RTG. SAIGON MAY WISH TO ENCOURAGE A RESPONSE FROM KY TO GET THIS IN MOTION.

MARTIN
BT

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INCOMING TELEGRAM Department of State

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1967 JAN 7 AM 3 07Z

S E C R E T BANGKOK 8539

REF: BANGKOK 8538

1. THE PRIME MINISTER'S COMMENTS IN CONNECTION WITH THE PRESIDENT'S LETTER REPORTED REFTEL, AND HIS PLAINTIVE REMARK ABOUT THE LACK OF UNDERSTANDING ON THE PART OF THE AMERICAN PUBLIC OF THE ENORMITY OF THE THAI CONTRIBUTION, LED ME TO SEIZE UPON THIS TO REOPEN THE QUESTION OF THE POLICY ON COMMENT ON USE OF THAI BASES.

2. I POINTED OUT THAT NOTHING WOULD PLEASE THE AMERICAN ADMINISTRATION MORE THAN TO BE ABLE TO MAKE MORE DIRECT PUBLIC COMMENT ON THE ENORGETY OF THE THAI CONTRIBUTION TO THE ACHIEVEMENT OF OUR COMMON OBJECTIVES. I SAID WE HAD GONE TO CONSIDERABLE LENGTHS TO METICULOUSLY ADHERE TO THE DESIRES OF THE RTG TO MAKE NO PUBLIC ACKNOWLEDGMENT OF THE

PAGE 2 RUMTBK 8539K S E C R E T
AMERICAN USE OF THAI BASES. I SAID THAT WE WERE NOW ENTERING THE MONTH OF THE BEGINNING OF THE NEW CONGRESSIONAL SESSION. VERY EARLY IN THIS SESSION THE SECRETARY OF STATE WOULD GIVE A BRIEFING TO THE HFAC AND THE SFRC ON AMERICAN FOREIGN RELATIONS. THESE WOULD BE PARTLY IN OPEN SESSION IN ORDER TO KEEP THE AMERICAN PEOPLE AS COMPLETELY INFORMED AS POSSIBLE THERE WOULD ALSO BE CLOSED EXECUTIVE SESSIONS WHERE MORE SENSITIVE RELATIONSHIPS WOULD BE REPORTED. I SAID THAT CHAIRMAN FULBRIGHT OF THE SFRC PLANNED TO HOLD OPEN HEARINGS ON THE WHOLE RANGE OF U.S. FOREIGN POLICY AND THESE WOULD BEGIN SOMETIME AFTER MID-JANUARY. I SAID IT WOULD BE INFINITELY PREFERABLE IF IN THE COURSE OF THESE OPEN SESSIONS THERE COULD BE A MATTER-OF-FACT MENTION OF THE USE OF THAI BASES. I SAID IT WAS MY OPINION THAT THIS "CONFIRMATION" OF WHAT EVERYBODY KNEW WOULD CAUSE FAR LESS PUBLIC ATTENTION THAN WOULD BE THE CASE IF THE SECRETARY WERE COMPELLED, AS

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