50.21 COMMUNISM (U) 1961

AIRGRAM

Foreign Service of the United States of America

OUTGOING AmEmbassy, Bangkok

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Date Sent: May 21, 1959

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FROM: AmEmbassy, BANGKOK

TO: Secretary of State

NO: G-218

~~PONCH~~: AmEmbassy Kuala Lumpur G-7
AmConGen Singapore G-2

Deputy Primin and Defense Minister Gen Thanom Kittikachorn returned Bangkok May 19 (in capacity Deputy Supreme Commander Thai Armed Forces) after visit to Malaya and Singapore. According Bangkok WORLD Thanom made fol statements to press at airport:

Thailand has declined request Malayan and Singapore (sic) Gvts send troops to Malaya to join in campaign liquidate 500 Chicoms remaining that country. Thanom said he told them law forbids Thai troops operate outside Thai territory, but assured that Border Patrol Police would continue strongly active along border "checking and suppressing" Commie guerrillas attempting flee into Thailand, as agreed between Thai and Malayan Gvts.

Thanom said he informed by Singapore and Malayan Gvts that campaign against CTs "very far advanced". 500 who constitute main force remaining CTs now approaching Thai border. Two Gvts will soon launch campaign to "root out" remaining CTs, but Thanom noted "There are always obstacles to removing root". Said both Singapore and Malayan military authorities complained that when hard pressed CTs always fled into Thai territory.

Thanom said he met Lim Yew Hok "unofficially and non-politically" during trip. Did not see Malayan Primin, who busy preparing for elections. Asked for views on outcome Singapore elections, Thanom said seemed Gvt in difficult situation "because 80 per cent Singapore population Chinese". Did not elaborate.

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May 21, 1959

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Six-page "Message to Thai Brothers" signed by Central Committee of Communist Party of Thailand distributed March 21-22-23 to Cabinet Ministers, Constituent Assemblymen, other Thai Gvt officials and foreign embassies. Message dated March 10 vigorously attacked Sarit as tool of "imperialist America", claimed recent coup perpetrated at American command because Thanom Gvt showed signs of toppling, attacked exploitation and monopoly of country by Thai aristocrats. Also stated Sarit's policy would ruin country and cause it to become American colony, called on "patriotic persons and organizations of all parties and all sides" (including elements within Military Group itself) to join with Communist Party of Thailand "in fighting and redeeming situation before it is too late."

Thai Gvt countered by warning public not to become tools of Communists and threatening "immediate" and "most drastic" measures against persons responsible for Commie pamphlet, stating "no further mercy will be shown." CID Chief Krasien Sarutanon said he believed Commie statement came from Communists "who have operated here in past. We have some idea who sent the statement." General Praphat (reported to be only minister not to have received copy of statement) said Commie investigations being stepped up, orders given for strict suppression Commie activities with arrests "soon."

Translation of Commie statement plus full text official gvt communique sent separately.

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POL:JReed/mpk
March 26, 1959

350.21 Communism (Thailand)

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