F

SOUTH EAST ASIA DEPARTMENT.

SIAM

FS 10381/6

1951

Mr. Pettingley
Bangkok
499
21 July
24 July

Korea - decision of Siamese cabinet to offer to send force of two thousand mixed infantry, artillery and engineers.

Refers to Bangkok tel 467. (FS 10381/4)

Last Paper

Such a force would no doubt be of value psychologically, (Minutes)
even if it is militarily ineffective.

Reference

FED
UN(SA) Pum 31/7
IPD UN 3/6

Pelliott 24/7

(Print)

This is a pleasing gesture on the part of the Siamese. If the troops ever get to Korea they will get useful combat experience. Moreover, they will get used to handling U.S. equipment, with which the Siamese army is being provided to the tune of $10 m.

JOZ 25/7

J.S.H.S. 26/7.

(How disposed of)

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(Index) IAE 31/7/51

Next Paper

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FROM BANGKOK TO FOREIGN OFFICE

Mr. Whittington
No. 499
21st July, 1950.

D: 12.42 p.m. 21st July, 1950.
R: 2.10 p.m. 21st July, 1950.

CONFIDENTIAL

Addressed to Foreign Office telegram No. 499 of 21st July
Repeated for information to Singapore
Rangoon
Saigon

INDEXED
FS 10381/6

My telegram No. 467 Korea. FS 10381/4

I am reliably informed that in secret session yesterday the Cabinet in response to the United Nations request for military aid unanimously decided to offer to send force of four thousand mixed infantry, artillery and engineers. This decision is I understand to be announced in Parliament today.

2. A vernacular newspaper report of today is to the effect that the above force will not be equipped with armaments and that the United States will be expected to provide transport to Korea. However unreliable this report, it is the view of the United States and my own Military Attaché that this force would be useless with its present equipment and that a decision to offer the contingent will be followed by a [gp Undec ? hint] if not a definite request that the United States should arm these troops.

3. Public opinion is much disappointed by the lack of success which the United Nations troops have so far achieved in Korea. Many responsible Thais believe that the conflict will not be localised and wishfully think that a major communist offensive may shortly be expected in Europe but that there will be no large conflagration in the East.

24 JUL 1950

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