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Korean war - Thailand - Policy

3123/7/17

FILE No. ~~505/11/1~~ Pt I

COMMONWEALTH OF AUSTRALIA.

DEPARTMENT OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS.

CONFIDENTIAL
STRONGROOM R.P.

SUBJECT.
Korean War Thailand's Policy.

PREVIOUS FILE:	
NEXT FILE:	

RELATED PAPERS.	
FILE No.	SUBJECT.
T.S. 58.	Korea [redacted] War (Top Secret)
505/11	" " "
505/11/1	" " " (Press)
505/11/2	" " " (Radio)
505/12	" " " Security Council Discussions.

STRONGROOM

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7/10/98.

FILE No.: ~~3123/7/17~~ 6 D.I.
Korean War
Ukraine Policy

3123/7/17

PLEASE KEEP
THIS TAG
ON TOP OF FILE

505/13/16

SECRET

Mr McNicol

WE 13/7

RECORD OF CONVERSATION WITH THAI MINISTER - 7/7/53

The Thai Minister saw me on the 7th July at his request.

(a) Visits to Australia by Thai nationals:

The Minister asked whether Australia would approve visits to Australia by Thai nationals for purposes beyond visits by students for "theoretical" studies. He said that there would be considerable advantage in some Thai nationals visiting Australia to get practical technical experience - for instance, in industry or business. Such nationals might be officials from Thai ministries or private individuals from Thai firms. He mentioned periods of up to one year. He said that one of the questions involved might be whether such individuals could work for remuneration while in Australia.

I said that I understood the desirability of Thai nationals acquiring technical experience but that I would have to consult with our departmental experts on technical assistance questions and also to consult with the Department of Immigration. I said there might be a considerable distinction between officials and private individuals. I said we would get in touch with the Minister in due course on the matters he had raised.

(b) Recognition of Communist China:

The Minister referred to the London talks between the Commonwealth Prime Ministers, touched upon the question of recognition of Communist China, and referred to statements in the Australian press that Australia had been about to recognize Communist China but had been dissuaded from doing so by Mr. Dulles when the latter was negotiating the ANZUS Treaty. I said that I assumed he must be referring to a recent statement issued by Dr. Burton in the "Canberra Times". I said that he would understand that it was somewhat embarrassing for me to comment upon a statement issued by my predecessor. This statement was, however, so important that I felt I should do so. I pointed out that Dr. Burton was not an officer of the Department of External Affairs, with any inside information, at the time that Dulles visited Australia. I said that any suggestion that Mr. Menzies in London had favoured recognition of Communist China and that the Australian Government had been dissuaded from such action by Mr. Dulles was completely inaccurate. The Thai Minister said that he had certainly assumed from Dr. Burton's statement that he was Secretary of the Department at the time that these things had happened.

(c) Korea:

The Thai Minister discussed at some length with me the present situation in Korea. He did not express any special view, but nevertheless appeared to be sympathetic towards Syngman Rhee's (a) desire to unify Korea; and (b) fears lest an armistice might result in Communist domination of South Korea.

I said that Rhee's desires to unify Korea and to avoid Communist domination were, of course, understandable. At the same time, it seemed to me extraordinary that he should appear to believe that he could determine the policy of the United Nations as a whole - perhaps even involving the United Nations in a third world war. I said that no doubt every

SECRET

country, large or small, wished to follow what it regarded as its own immediate interests, but that every country had to learn that other countries might have different interests and that it was desirable to maintain friendship with countries who, in emergency, would demonstrate their friendship in a practical way. I reminded the Thai Minister that the Australian press had commented very favourably upon Mr. Casey's letter to Syngman Rhee. I said that we all hoped that Robertson's mission to Korea would be successful, but I reiterated that it seemed to me impossible for the United Nations to surrender its power of decision to the representative of one country of comparatively small resources.

9/7/53
ASW/SCB

EXTRACT FROM:- D.M.R.

DATE:- 27/6/51 - 7.15 p.m. FILE NO:- 505/13/16

NEW YORK. 27/6/51 - 7.15 p.m.

THAI CONTRIBUTION TO U.N. KOREAN FORCES. U.N. air strength has been bolstered with the arrival in Tokio of a small contingent of the Thai air force transports. Thailand, with 1,500 troops in Korea, has offered to double the size of its forces.

505/13/16

Daily Monitoring Report
18/6/51 – 11.30 p.m.

18/6/51 - 11.30 p.m.

THAI AIRCRAFT FOR KOREA. A flight of transport aircraft of the Royal Thailand Air Force has taken off from Tokio on its way to Korea to join the U.N. air force. Before the planes left Bangkok, the Prime Minister, Marshal Phibun Songgram, addressed the officers and men.

505/13/16

A.C.B.
18-19/6/57.

FEB 26 -- THAILAND SENDING TRANSPORT PLANES, CREWS TO KOREA.

Bangkok, June 18 -- The contribution already made by Thailand to the United Nations forces in Korea is being augmented by a flight of transport aircraft of the Royal Thai Air Force, it was announced here.

The flight, consisting of three C-47 type transport aircraft and 19 members of the Royal Thai Air Force, will be attached to the U.N. Air Transport Wing in the vicinity of Tokyo and will be added to the U.N. Airlift, which flies back and forth between Japan and Korea carrying troops and supplies and evacuating the wounded.

Commanding the Flight is Squadron Leader Pramotaya Bhutiphad, who has supervised the special training in navigation, instrument flying, radio and special landing procedures which the crews have received in preparing for their mission.

Arrangements for seeing the flight off included early morning Buddhist ceremonies at Don Muang Air Port and a farewell address by Field Marshall Phibul, Thailand Prime Minister and Minister of Defense.

505/13/16

A.C.B.
28/5/51.

FEB 3. THAI TROOPS AID U.N. COUNTER-OFFENSIVE.

On the Western Front in Korea, May 28. Thailand's 21st Regimental Combat Team is adding its weight again to the United Nations counter-offensive on the Korean Western Front, a frontline correspondent reports.

For three days the Thailanders had been pushing forward through stubborn but weakening resistance, seizing high ground and cleaning out pockets of enemy resistance in their area, the observer reported.

The reported said he found a Thailand battalion command post north of Seoul where the acting battalion executive officer, Major Prasert Pungasem of Bangkok, was charting the Battalion's progress on his situation map.

The Major explained to the reporter that the battalion was advancing two companies abreast, to take high ground north of a blasted town that has changed hands five times the last month.

Several miles out beyond the front the reporter found the command post of the Thai's "A" Company where the Company Commander, Captain Yian Introkumhang of Lopburi was watching his Company and the adjacent Company "B" - capture a hill a mile in front of the command poast.

The Thailanders were moving steadily up the hill against occasional fire the reported states, carefully cleaning out foxholes as they went.

The individual soldiers could not be made out on the wooded slopes, the correspondent said, but plumes of gray smoke showed where the attacking forces mortar projectiles were landing.

A platoon of tanks worked its way forward to the other side of the hill and began firing, he added, the Thailanders kept on advancing up the steep slope and secured their objective. Nine Thai troops were wounded in the action, the correspondent said.

505/13/16

A.C.B.
12/5/51

81. VAN FLEET EXPRESSES PRIDE IN THAILAND TROOPS IN KOREA

Somewhere in Korea, May 11. Lieut.Gen.James A.Van Fleet, Commander of United Nations Ground Forces in Korea, says he is proud of the performance of Thailand's 21st Regimental Combat Team.

On a recent visit to the frontline position of the Thai troops, who are fighting alongside soldiers from other U.N. members against the Communist invaders, Van Fleet said:

"I am proud as Commander of the Eighth Army, to be associated with the brave Thailand troops.

"I am sorry I have not had an opportunity to visit you earlier."

Major Chum Yien, a Battalion Commander of the Thai troops responded that "we are very happy that we can be of service and we are very proud to be serving in the U.N.forces in Korea."

The Thai troops not only have been in combat several times, but Thai patrols have ventured far ahead of the front lines and three Thai soldiers have been awarded the U.S.Bronze Medal for gallantry in action.

The U.S. Defense Department recently announced that Thailand's troops in Korea had suffered 108 casualties through the month of April. Nine of these killed in action.

505/[illegible]/13/16.

EXTERNAL AFFAIRS.

Extract from Weekly Summary of Aust. Consulate General, Bangkok 9/5/51

"The Deputy Minister for Defence stated on 5th May that the Thai Govt. is to recall one battalion of the Thai Expeditionary Force in Korea to bolster the defence of this country. Only one other battalion will remain in Korea."

referred for your retention
by direction
Mr. Harry

16/5

D.M.R.
25/4/51 - 9.15 a.m.

505/13/16

" THAILAND ENDORSES U.N. ACTION IN KOREA. From Bangkok comes word that the Premier of Thaidland has endorsed the U.N. action in Korea as having stopped further Communist aggression in Asia. Premier Pibul Songgram told reporters that the defeat of the Chinese Communists in Korea will stop them from further aggression for a while. 25/4/51 - 8.15 am

South China Morning Post

9.3.51

THAIS FOR KOREA

Bangkok, Mar. 7.

A contingent of an estimated 100 Thai troops sailed this morning for Japan to replace Thai casualties in the Korean war.

Some 30 war casualties, mostly victims of frostbite, are under treatment in the Army hospital here. A hospital annex is under construction in anticipation of new arrivals from Korea.—United Press.

D.M.R
9.3.51.

NEW YORK. 9/3/51 - 7.00 p.m.

MORE TROOPS FOR KOREA. More troops are on their way to Korea today to join the U.N. forces. A contingent of about 100 Thai troops sailed from Bangkok on Thursday to replace Thai casualties in the Korean fighting.

USCGWB
28.2.51.

* * *

508/13/16

38. THAI TROOPS ROUT ENEMY IN FIRST KOREAN BATTLE ACTION.

Central Korea, Feb. 28. How Thailand troops defeated a contingent of North Korean Communists in a two-hour battle on the central front is described in a dispatch by Voice of America Correspondent Robert Lasher who accompanied the Thai forces.

In the first Thai battle action in Korea, Lasher told how the victorious Thailanders routed a North Korean unit in a fight that took place some miles off the main United Nations supply route to the central sector of the front. The Thailanders have been assigned in this rugged mountain area to keep the road open to vital military traffic.

Lasher reported that in the battle engagement the Thai unit killed 50 Communists, wounded an undetermined number and suffered only one very slight casualty of its own. The Thailanders pursued the Communists until ordered to withdraw to their positions along the supply route, Lasher said.

The Correspondent recalled that only last week Lieutenant General Ridgway, Commander of the U.N. ground forces in Korea, praised the Thai contribution to the United Nations cause in Korea and commented that "through no fault of their own" they had not been committed to action up until that time.

In describing events that figured in the Thailanders' contact with the enemy, Lasher said the Communist concentration threatening the supply route was first discovered 16 miles from the Thai command post and the same distance from a Korean Republican detachment across the mountains.

Colonel Boriboon Chulacharitta, Thai Commander, and the Commander of the ROK Contingent, then planned a successful two-prong attack on the Communists, Lasher wrote.

Attacking at night, the ROK forces drove the Communists back toward Thai forward positions. The Thailanders went into action on the following morning. They attacked the North Korean troops in three adjoining villages in which the Communists had taken refuge, putting to route those who were not killed or injured. The Thai troops in this phase of the action were under command of Captain Prasith Seemontara of Bangkok.

* * *

505/13/16

South China Morning Post
20.2.57.

Reinforcements For Thai Force

A group of 41 Thailand troops passed through from Bangkok en route to Korea via Tokyo by a chartered POAS aircraft yesterday afternoon.

The group was led by two Thai Army officers, Dr M. L. Kashetra and Captain Chekehai Chainun. Other members of the group were all privates.

The chartered aircraft landed at Kai Tak at about 2.30 p.m. It made a brief stop of about two and a half hours here before proceeding to Tokyo.

SEATO
20.2.57

HP

I.20806

DEPARTMENT OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS

SAVING FROM:

Dated 28th December, 1950.

CABLEGRAM. SECRET.

Australian High Commissioner,
NEW DELHI.

Rec'd: 28th December, 1950.
9 a.m.

505/16

Saving No.6. SECRET.

I called on Bajpai this morning for a general talk.

2. We began by discussing Korea. Bajpai said that the thirteen Asian-Nation initiative, and the passage of the two resolutions, had in the circumstances unavoidably been arranged without the Government of India being able to express its opinion. In fact feeling in Delhi was that these served little practical purpose, for it was well known from the Indian Government's sources of information in Peking that they had no chance of being successful. The Government would have preferred in fact not to have been associated with them. However, Rau had done his best, and there was no thought of crying over spilt milk.

3. Developing the conversation on more general lines, Bajpai said that feeling in Peking was, according to Panikkar, all in favour of pressing on with military action. The success of the Chinese forces had encouraged a truculent attitude in the Peking Government, and although the Soviet Government had been exercising an almost moderate influence, this no longer counted. It was very regrettable that this should be so, for it appeared a short time ago that in return for United States willingness to discuss the future of Formosa, on the basis of the Cairo and Potsdam declarations, the Chinese would have agreed not only to a cease-fire, but even United Nations control over Korea, during the period of formation of a unified independent republic there, and even to the continued presence of the United States 7th Fleet in Formosan waters. The American refusal however to discuss Formosa had rendered these ideas nugatory.

4. Bajpai said that it had to be realised the Korean campaign was regarded in Asia not as a United Nations but as a United States affair. The recent defeat had been regarded as an American defeat, and United States prestige had suffered throughout the continent. The personality of General MacArthur had contributed to this.

5. In Indo-China a similar performance to the Chinese entry into Korea might now be expected. The Indian Consul-General at Saigon had reported that Chinese intervention had been limited to date to the provision of arms and equipment, but that there were as many as one million troops concentrated in South China, and these could at any time be used as "volunteers" on the Korean model. His information was that the arrival of an American Military Mission in Indo-China had greatly alarmed the Chinese, and if American ground forces were by any chance to follow this mission, it would be sufficient excuse for open Chinese intervention.

6. Bajpai said that the recent suggestion for mediation in Indo-China made by the Burmese Foreign Minister (Canberra memorandum 472) had originated with the Indonesian Ambassador here. Dr. Soedarsono has apparently been canvassing this idea for some time, despite discouragement by the Government of India, which has pointed out the unproductiveness of mediation in the absence of any evidence that the parties concerned are prepared to accept it. Soedarsono had alleged that Ho Chi Minh had been affected by recent bombing...

/and.....

I.20806

DEPARTMENT OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS

CABLEGRAM. SECRET.

and might be prepared to consider opposition. When asked to produce evidence of this, however, he had failed to do so. Generally, Bajpai himself thought the issue was dead.

7. At this point Bajpai embarked upon one of his characteristic tours d'horizon. He said that it was so obviously Soviet strategy to bring about a dispersal of western forces on the periphery in such places as Korea Indo-China and the Middle East, that the question had now to be asked "just what were we trying to do". If, as he believed, there was no hope of salvaging the French position in Indo-China, and no hope of building up a position of strength in Siam, with its dictatorial Government and its large Chinese minority, the wise course, however unpalatable, was to write these countries off. In Burma and Malaya, however, there were elements with which one might build some sort of containment. The Burmese Government had retrieved its internal situation, and one could count upon the loyalty of the Malays. In South East Asia, he thought it best to concentrate on preserving these two territories. (He did not mention Indonesia where one can assume he naturally includes).

8. Turning to Tibet, he said that there had been no recent internal political or military change of any note. Asking that the information should not be passed on, he said that negotiations had now been opened by the Chinese, using certain captured and dissident Tibetans as a channel for negotiation with Lhasa. Now that the Chinese were fishing in troubled waters of much greater depth than the Tibetan ones, he did not think there would be a very forward Tibetan policy for some time. He was not clear on what basis the negotiations were proceeding, but felt that the situation in Tibet was much more hopeful than had recently been the case. He did not take too seriously Sir E. Dening's claim that the Chinese had been genuinely apprehensive of Indian designs on Tibet. "Any excuse", he said "apparently serves the Chinese just now".

Min. & Dept. of External Affairs.
P.M.'s Dept.

28th December, 1950.

505/13/16

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DEPARTMENT OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS.

CABLEGRAM.

SECRET.

RG/MI

I. 18406

Dated 18th November, 1950
1600
Rec'dd21st November, 1950
0830

DECYPHERED FROM:

Secretary of State for
Commonwealth Relations,
LONDON.

PRIORITY. SECRET.

Addressed Canada 65, Australia 216, New Zealand 144 India 107, Pakistan 102, Ceylon 155.

Colombo Plan.

My telegram 59 and 61 to Government of Canada.

U.K. Charge d'Affaires in Bangkok has now expressed to Siamese Deputy Prime Minister our disappointment at report in question. Minister replied that while he regretted to hear of this disappointment it should be remebered that Siamese Delegation had attended London Meeting without commitment. Press reports, which stated baldly that Siam would not take part in the plan, were not strictly accurate. The Siamese Government had clear understanding of the plan, and were in full sympathy with it but for the present the Governments other commitments were such that immediate participation was not practicable.

2. Deputy Prime Minister then made the point described in paragraph 2 of my telegram 59 which referred to obligations which Siam had undertaken in sending troops and supplies to Korea. He thought that in time it might be possible for Siam to co-operate in the Colombo plan, but such co-operation would have to be taken "step by step". He mentioned that Siam was very interested in activities arising out of the plan.

3. United Kingdom Charge d'Affaires then spoke as in paragraph 3 of my telegram 59 and Deputy Prime Minister replied that while immediate active participation on technical co-operation side was not practicable, he himself would warmly support acceptance of invitation from the Government of Ceylon if one were received, provided it were clear that such acceptance involved no commitments.

4. United Kingdom Charge Affaires feels that the present Siamese attitude is based on

(a) Refusal of Siamese tecanical department to undertake any more work in the face of strain while existing United Nations, United States, and International Bank commitments are imposing on their energies, budget and personnel and

(b) Reluctance to become involved in a fresh foreign commitment

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DEPARTMENT OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS.

CABLEGRAM.

SECRET.

I. 18406

(C.P. remark about Korea in paragraph 2 above) not only in view of cost but because of growing sensitiveness to internal criticism that Marshal Pibul is "selling out" to foreigners.

5. In conclusion Charge d'Affaires asked whether an official statment of Siam's position in writing could be expected. Deputy Prime Minister replied that a written statement would be prepared andaddressed to Australian Consul General in Bangkok who had orignally approached the Siamese Governments on this matter. United Kingdom Charged'Affaires has informed his Australian colleague of the above and is of opinion that Government's written statement should now be awaited.

- - - - - -

MIN & DEPT. E.A.
MIN & DEPT. T. & C. (CANB.SYD.)
MIN & DEPT C. & I. (CANB.)
MIN &.DEPT. NATIONAL DEVELOPMENT.
TREASURER & TREASURY.
P.M.'S. (E.P.D.)
P.M.'S.

20th November, 1950

DEPARTMENT OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS.

CABLEGRAM.

RESTRICTED.

I. 17217
Dated: 31st October, 1950
1055p
Recd: 1st November, 1950
900 p

KC/MCG

DECYPHERED FROM:

Australian Mission to the United Nations,
NEW YORK.

505/13/16

837. RESTRICTED. PRIORITY.

Korea.

1. All representatives of the Korean Commission now named. Truco (Chile, Africa, Philippine), Taray (Turkey), Ziauddin(Pakistan) as in our memo 1319. Thailand has appointed Sarasin (formely Foreign Minister) and Netherlands Mouw (present Ambassador Tokyo).

2. We are accordingly trying to expedite arrival of the Commission in Korea. We proposed today in the Interim Committee that the Commission meet in Tokyo next Tuesday, but this had to be withdrawn because of opposition from Chile, Pakistan and Thailand. But we can probably get the Commission to Tokyo within the next fortnight.

3. Reference your 592 Paragraph 3 on small role for Commission envisaged by Unified Command. Minister has strongly argued for strong role for Commission and accordingly believes it should remain there until the next General Assembly (see our 736). We shall see Muccio to-morrow and can give you fuller information then.

4. India is prepared to make available a chief observer. India's participation in this would have big political advantage if it is decided to retain observers. We assume you would not object to such an appointment.

A/Min & Dept EA
P.M's.
MIN. & DEPT. DEFENCE.

2nd November, 1950.

DMR
7/10/50

7/10/50 - 7.30 a.m.

New upto
505/13/16

U.N. FORCES IN KOREA. An advance party of Thai officers arrived in Pusan today to prepare for the arrival of some 4000 troops from Thailand who will serve with the U.N. forces.

Turkish troops are also expected soon.

Philippine troops already on hand are now engaged in security and training missions.

BBC

6/10/50

First Group of Thai Troops Arrive

The advance body of troops from Thailand arrived in Pusan on the 6th and was greeted by the Trygve Lie's personal representative in Korea. (Voice of America, Manila in English 09.00, 6.10.50)

SOS/13/6

DMR
24/9/50

SDS 7/13/16
UN 24/9/50

Meanwhile Thailand has offered 40,000 tons of rice to the U.N. for its emergency relief programme in Korea. The offer was made Saturday at Flushing Meadow by Thailand's Ambassador, Prince Wan Waithayakon, responding to a request from the/ UN Unified Command in Korea for rice and other urgent foods.

Radio News, 28/8/50

505/13/16

The Thai force which will be sent to Korea will consist of infantry, artillery, engineers, signalmen and medical corps men, totalling about 5,000 altogether. The Officer-in-Charge of recruiting volunteers in Bangkok said that the troops will be given special training in Thailand before their departure. (B.B.C. and New York Radio).

E.A. Listening Post.

NEW YORK. 27/8/50 - 9.00 a.m.

STS/13/16

THAI FORCE FOR KOREA. The composition of Thailand's expeditionary force for Korea was described today in Bangkok by the officer in charge of recruiting volunteers. The force will be made up of infantry, artillery, engineers, signalmen and medical corps men, totalling about 5,000 men. The troops will be given special training in Thailand.

United States News Service
22/8/50.

29. THAILAND'S TROOP OFFER FOR KOREAN ACTION ACCEPTED

Washington August 16. Thailand's offer of 4,000 combat troops to help repel the Communist aggression against the Republic of Korea has been accepted, and arrangements will be made for the troops to go into action as soon as possible under the unified command set up by the United Nations.

This was announced today by U.S. Defense Secretary Louis Johnson and Prince Wan Waithayakon Thailand's Ambassador to the United States after a conference on Thailand's troop offer.

Johnson said the Thailand forces may be the first combat troops to join the U.S. and Republic of Korea ground units now fighting the North Korean aggressors. A total of 12 nations have so far sent or announced various types of combat assistance for the United Nations action against the North Korean invasion a U.N. summary shows.

Prince Wan said that his country's troops "will be proud to fight under the U.N. flag, side by side with American troops in order to defend the cause of peace freedom and justice. This is a righteous cause and I am sure it will prevail." He added:

"Aggression whether in Korea or anywhere else must be stopped otherwise every small nation will fall one after another and that is why my country made ready a prompt response to the United Nations appeal for economic and world peace."

The Ambassador said that he hoped the troops of Thailand would be in Korea" in the near future."

Johnson said he was happy that discussions between Thailand officials and the U.S. Defense Department had progressed so well during the past few days. With regard to the Thailand troops, the U.S. official said they are a contribution which is welcomed, and that the American forces fighting the aggressors will be proud to have the men of Thailand fighting at their side.

Johnson announced that the Ambassador's representative will confer with General Douglas Macarthur, U.N. commander for the Korean action and meanwhile arrangements will be made by the Defense Department here so that the Thailand troops can join the U.N. forces in Korea as soon as possible.

In addressing Prince Wan, Johnson said:

"I hope sir, that with the speed you have shown that your troops will be there in the immediate future as you are planning and as you planned it.... it's the type of contribution to the causes to which you referred that the American soldier and sailor and airman already engaged in fighting on the front under the flag of the UN will welcome.

They will be proud to have the men of Thailand fighting side by side with the fighting men of the United States. It's a happy moment in our experience."

Delhi
505/13/16
13/8

THAI VOLUNTEERS FOR KOREA. In Thailand nearly 11,000 men have volunteered for the expeditionary force which is to be sent for help in South Korea. As the Thailand force for Korea is limited to 4000 recruiting has now been stopped.

Bangkok ~~MIN~~ DEP Despatch No. 9 / 50

Mr Gilman

Distribution

1 copy to Department of defence. 25/1/50

1 further copy for SEA Section attached

AJG

Distributed ...../...../19.....

Divisional File Number 505/13/16

① Records

② Pacific Sec. (copy to U.K. Sec)

505/13/16.

9/8/50.

New York

York.
505/13/16
9/8.

THAI VOLUNTEERS FOR KOREA. The Thailand Ministry of Defence announced that about 8000 volunteers had applied at recruiting stations for service with the U.N. forces in Korea.

505/13/16.

Washington. 1/8/50.

U. S. Newspaper Hails Thailand Korea Aid Offer.

The recent offer by the Government of Thailand to send 4,000 officers & enlisted men to aid the United Nations forces in repelling communist aggression in Korea has been hailed by the Fort Worth Star Telegram one of the leading publications in the southeastern state of Texas. Text of editorial follows:

"Nothing but trouble has come recently from Asia for the United States.--
until young King Phumiphon Adulet of Siam made the first offer of ground reinforcements for the beleaguered American divisions in Korea. This young monarch---
a democratic individual highly educated in law & languages & able to write songs for a broadway show--- quickly grasped the import of U.N. intervention in Korea.
The proffer of 4,000 officers and men while small was a boost to American morale on fighting & home fronts. It remined that the immense reservoir of good will hard won by our nation in the war years had not been swept entirely away by the tide of communism in Asia.

After all the United States long has stood for independence and the right of free election in the far East including Korea. As for Siam its enlightened King gratifyingly has initiated a vast program of social betterment for a long oppressed people.

P.T.O.

In backing the United Nations King Phumiphon Aduldet has set a striking example in democracy. His offer of military aid in Korea is profoundly appreciated by the United States.

1/8/50.

505/13/16

Singapore

SINGAPORE. 1/8/50 - 12.01 a.m.

THAILAND RECRUITS VOLUNTEERS. It is reported from Bangkok that Thailand had started calling for volunteers for the expeditionary force Thailand is to send to join the U.N. forces in Korea. Recruiting stations are being set up in the provinces. The ..... enrolled over 100 officers and men in the first hour.

505/13/16

Bangkok 11/50 of 26/7

Rai Attitude re Korea –

Despatch of 4000 combat troops

re 505/11

505/13/16.

24/7/50.

New Delhi

24/7/50 - 1.30 a.m.

THAI TROOPS FOR KOREA. The Parliament of Thailand today approved the Government's decision to send an army contingent in support of U.N. forces in Korea. The Prime Minister, Marshal Pibul Songgram, said afterwards that detailed proposals of equipment and the date of departure would be sent to Lake Success within the next few days. He added there was a good response from volunteers, but the first batch would be drawn from active servicemen.

505/13/16

22/7/50.

New Delhi

22/7/50 - 1.30 a.m.

THAI TROOPS FOR KOREA. Thailand has offered 4000 combat troops in aid of South Korea. In Bangkok, the Thai Foreign Minister said that his country's expeditionary force would be ready for action after a month's intensive training in the use of modern arms.

DEPARTMENT OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS.

CABLEGRAM.

AP:HP

I.10963

DE [redacted]DE FROM:

Australian Consul-General,
BANGKOK.

This is an unparaphrased version of a Cypher Message. It is not to be communicated outside a British Commonwealth Government Department or Instrumentality without paraphrasing It is never to be downgraded below 'Restricted.'

Dated: 21st July, 1950.
1530
Rec'd: 22nd July, 1950.
9 a.m.

98. UNCLASSIFIED.

Siamese action on Korea.

Foreign Minister is reliably reported as stating that at least 4000 Siamese combat troops will be sent to Korea within one month.

The Government's decision will probably be discussed in Parliament within a few days.

5-0-5/13/16

Min. & Dept. of External Affairs.
A/G. Prime Minister & Dept.
" Min. & Dept. of Defence.

22nd July, 1950.

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DEPARTMENT OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS
Rec'd 17 JUL 1950
505/13/16
File No.

AUSTRALIAN CONSULATE GENERAL,
BANGKOK, SIAM. Thailand.

File No. 100/23/1.

Memo. No. 235/50.

12th July, 1950.

MEMORANDUM for:

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

THAI ATTITUDE ON KOREA.

I refer to my Departmental Despatch No. 9/50 of 5th July, 1950, in which I reported on the situation in Korea.

I now enclose for your information a paper prepared by the British Information Office, giving the text of local press comments on the situation, translated where necessary. I have remarked briefly on this paper on the standing of each newspaper, so that their credibility may be gauged.

CONSUL-GENERAL.

Encl.

P

BRITISH INFORMATION OFFICE, BRITISH EMBASSY, BANGKOK

PRESS COMMENT ON KOREA

THE BANGKOK POST, 27th June - Editorial English language newspaper (daily) edited by American.

WAR IN KOREA

The whole world listened with trepidation and dread yesterday to the news that warfare had broken out again in the East. The news that troops of North Korea had launched a Sunday attack on South Korea came with chilling suddenness.

It came as a bolt from the blue to Bangkok and the rest of South-East Asia. It was fearful news because behind the battle there were unmistakable indications of big Power aggression which may plunge not only all of Asia but much of the world into total war.

It is still too early to know what are the actual forces and motivations behind the Sunday attack upon South Korea.

Only when the responsible powers of the world make known their stand in the matter will the full portent of the Korean situation become known. For this is not an internal civil war. It is a conflict set into motion by forces from outside.

Korea today is a dismembered nation. The northern half of the country went under Soviet influence following the Japanese surrender in 1945, the southern half went under the influence of Anglo-American leadership, expressed primarily through the Tokyo headquarters of General MacArthur.

The big question in the world's mind today is: will the Korean conflict drag these ideological antagonists into the savagery of another world war? Will the Korean struggle quickly spread from local warfare into a world conflagration?

The United Nations has called upon both factions in Korea to cease fighting. It would be naive to believe that this would result in an immediate laying down of arms.

But the response that the U.N. demands make upon the powers which support it and which are supposed to be making its orders effective will soon tell how serious the fighting is that has broken out.

This is a critical time for the East and the world at large. The fear caused by this sudden show of force will not subside until the big Powers have given some assurance that fighting will not and must not spread and must be stopped at once for the sake of peace, of men, everywhere.

LIBERTY, 28th June - Editorial English language daily. British editor.

KOREAN WAR

The civil war in Korea has taken most of the world by surprise. Of course, the state of tension between the two Koreas is an old story by now; in the past, occasional exchanges of bullets over the thirty-eighth parallel took place but such

/happenings could ...

happenings could do nothing much more than create a temporary furore which subsided in the course of time, thanks to the prompt action of the authorities entrusted with the task of keeping peace in that troubled region.

But the present war between the two Koreas looks like being something bigger and there is a large section of people who are wondering if this present armed conflict will engulf the world in its turn.

It is this apprehension which has led all peace-loving people to look to the Security Council with so much hope. The Council has taken as much prompt action on the Korean development as it is possible under the circumstances; it has called upon both North and South Korea to withdraw their respective forces beyond the parallel and has urged, at the same time, the U.N. Korea Commission to do its utmost to bring about an end to the conflict. Probably this is all that the U.N. Commission can do at the moment. But the Commission is greatly handicapped in playing its full rôle as an arbitrator, as it is completely ignored by the North Korean authorities, Commission members, a few months back, were not even allowed to visit the northern region. This unhappy episode is too recent to be forgotten either by the Commission itself or by the world; and this memory will cast a doubt in many quarters whether the Commission will prove of any practical value on the spot. If it fails, the Security Council's task will increase manifold and it will be the real acid test of its moral and temporal worth.

Apart from the Security Council, a special obligation lies with the U.S.A. which fathered the creation of the Republic of South Korea. Of course, it is doing what it can at this stage of the conflict. The U.S. Senate has hurriedly passed a legislation to give all possible aid to South Korea and General MacArthur has ordered a number of aircraft to proceed to help the South Korean forces, while other types of arms and equipment are being kept near at hand for the latter. But the question is whether such aid will help bring an early end to the war or instigate the other party to resort to similar outside help from its allies. If the latter happens, the Korean war will undoubtedly be prolonged and the greatest task of all powers will then be to see that the war is localised within a particular region, as is the case with China and Indo-China. This idea may or may not be welcomed by all quarters; but the reality of the world situation should be given prior consideration. Whatever happens, the world certainly cannot afford to undergo another global war after suffering so much during the last world war which ended hardly five years ago.

THAMMATHIPAT, 28th June - Editorial Pro-government daily - Thai language - in effect the government mouthpiece.

THE WAR IN KOREA

There are two important facts which must be considered side by side with the war now prevailing in Korea. One is Korea's strategical position and the other is the United States' policy in Japan. Korea has been compared to a dagger which points at Japan's heart. Russia's attempt to spread its influence

/into Korea ...

into Korea started at the beginning of the century, and it was also because of this attempt that the nation was subsequently plunged into a war with Japan. Conflict between the United States and Russia is in sight if the latter means to threaten Japan after the domination of Korea, while the United States has been trying with its policy to convert Japan into a truly democratic nation.

The unprovoked attack on South Korea by the Soviet-led North is an indication of the Soviet attempt to dominate Asia. Previously Russia had resorted to provocatory measures, but now it has started a real war and the result of this war will be disastrous to the people engaged in the fight. It is now time for the people of this country to realise the true face of communism, if we want to avoid a civil war and bloodshed such as the communists have now brought into Korea.

PRACHATHIPATAI, 28th June - Comment

Thai language - Pro democratic (Opposition) & frequently anti-Government. Also anti-Chinese & anti-communist. Has one of the largest circulations in Thailand.

THE KOREAN INCIDENT

The first shot which may, in the future, turn the 'cold war' into a 'hot war' was fired in Korea at 11.00 a.m. on Sunday, 25th June.

The shooting was started by North Korea under communist control. The unprovoked attack on the South was launched along the 200 mile frontier and up to the time writing, continues unabated. A request for military assistance has been made by the South Korean Republic to the U.S. Government. While promptly answering the request, the U.S. Government, in its turn, has sent an urgent request to the Security Council of the United Nations to open discussions on the situation in Korea.

In the United States, Mr. Wyatt, Assistance Secretary of State for Far Eastern Affairs, regards the action of North Korea as very serious. There has also been an announcement from General MacArthur's Headquarters in Japan that U.S. arms aid has been rushed to Korea from Japan.

In Britain, the action taken by North Korea is regarded as a part of the communist plan to dominate Asia, in many ways similar to the fighting recently provoked by the communists in Malaya. General Roberts, chief of the U.S. Military Advisory Commission in Seoul, has revealed that the police and military forces of South Korea have been menaced by communist guerillas from North Korea since last November. Meanwhile claims have been made by North Korea of its legitimate right to unify Korea into one single nation.

The question of whether or not there will be another world war as the result of the Korean incident is worth thinking over. Everyone knows that Korea is one of the most important strategical points in Asia. Korea's position points as a dagger at U.S.-controlled Japan. Russia's attempt to make Korea its own is an age-old story. At one time this led to a war with Japan. Now the United States has taken Japan's place. If Russia ever tries to expand its influence over Korea to Japan, this would hasten the Third World War.

Nai - Maintains policy and inconsistent - One of the more responsible newspapers.

NATIONA, 28th June - Editorial

OUTBREAK OF ANOTHER WORLD WAR?

The declaration of war on the South Korean Republic by the Soviet-controlled North has been regarded with anxiety lest the incident lead to another world war. In a statement made some time ago by Mr. Dean Acheson, the U.S. Secretary of State, Berlin was predicted as the most likely brewing spot of a future war. Although some of the far-sighted Western statesmen like Mr. Acheson saw no possibility of Korea or other hot-spots of Asia proving the fuse that would ignite anticipated war, Korea may possibly become one, with the further development of the situation now prevailing in that country.

Should a state of war exist between the United States and the Soviet Union during this juncture, Japan would suddenly become the former's operational bases. In such circumstances, it can be surmised that Russia must have already had complete plans to wipe out the U.S. occupation forces in Japan without delay.

Whether or not the Korean incident will become the cause of a world-wide conflagration will depend largely on the future developments of the situation there. The United States has lately been very cautious in the prosecution of its foreign policy, in view of its desire to preserve world peace. It will be recalled that, in one of its provocatory measures, Russia recently encouraged German youths to march into the Western sector of Berlin at Whitsuntide. But the attempt failed in the face of the West's stern resistance. The Korean incident may after all be another Soviet provocatory measure to distract the attention of the United States from the right track!

LIBERTY, 29th June - Editorial Les Lupas.

TASK BEFORE U.S.A.

The war in Korea has been closely followed by a significant statement made by President Truman on the future policy of his country toward the Korean situation in particular and South-East Asia in General.

The statement has revealed that the U.S. authorities have asked the Seventh Fleet operating in Eastern waters to safeguard the Island of Formosa against any possible attack by communist forces and that they have asked the French Government to effectively combat the communist-inspired Viet Minh forces which are already at war within the country. Alongside this statement, a directive has been issued to General MacArthur to send aircraft, arms and equipment to the South Korean authorities, in accordance with which a terse communiqué, issued by MacArthur's headquarters last Tuesday, said that the U.S. aircraft stationed in Japan have gone to help the Seoul Government in its fight against the North Korean forces.

There may be many who will feel disquiet over the apprehension that the U.S.A. is gradually being entangled into

/the Korea ...

the Korea war by sheer force of circumstances which is not her making. Such an apprehension will necessarily be followed by a greater fear that in case the U.S.A. is dragged into it more actively, Russia may come out openly with its aid to North Korea, thereby pushing the present war into a wider area of the South-Eastern Region. Lest this apprehension proves true, there should be a clear cut limit to the extent of U.S. help to South Korea, which, under no circumstances, should be exceeded.

The principal motive which is guiding the U.S.A. in the present situation is understandable, logical, and in accordance with its declared policy; but to minimise the chance of its being misinterpreted and mutilated by the opposite camp should not be overlooked and for the sake of the greater world, adequate precautionsshould be taken from the very start.

While the war goes on, people will closely watch the development which follows the Security Council's directive asking the U.N. Commission in Korea to exert its full influence to end the war. If it fails and the war is continued, the clauses of the U.N. Charter, which deal with adequate sanctions against an aggressive nation should be immediately brought into full force. If these steps also fail, then,of course, the world powers will have to take the matter into their own hands. But such a day, if it comes at all, will be a black day for the world. This will be a glaring defeat for the U.N. and everything it stands for. What will follow next is anybody's guess.

THE BANGKOK POST, 29th June - Editorial

TRUMAN'S DECISION

President Truman took a carefully calculated risk of war with Soviet Russia in ordering American air and sea forces to support South Korea against the invading communists on Tuesday.

The policy he laid down, furthermore, appears to have a much wider application than to Korea alone. There are many countries to which the United States has commitments at least equally strong. Among them are Iran and Turkey in the Middle East and Indo-China in South-East Asia, in addition to the defensive alliance with the nations of Western Europe.

The risk of war was one of the factors considered in State Department conferences on the radically new Far Eastern policy. It also was considered in conferences Truman had with Secretary of State, Dean Acheson, Secretary of Defence, Louis Johnson, and other top officials, who joined in making the fateful decision.

On the basis of all available information, it was learned the President's advisors and the chief executive himself estimated that Russia probably would refrain from any act leading to an open and direct clash with the United States.

But they also frankly recognised that a danger exists and that this estimate of Russian policy could be wrong. The

/question raised ...

question raised is one which only the Kremlin can answer and its actions in the next few days will tell the story.

Against the war danger, the President and his advisers balanced other factors in favour of action.

Perhaps the most important of these was their belief that the Kremlin-directed communists, by marching into South Korea, have challenged the defensive determination and the will to resist of non-communist countries all over the world.

The fateful decision, which was initially worked out in the State Department under Acheson's direction, was, therefore, based on international political considerations rather than primarily on strict military grounds.

Under the pressure of the actual existence of war in Korea, it involved a virtual reversal of United States policy in the Far East. Until now this policy had not called for direct military support of South Korea and had flatly excluded the use of American forces to save Formosa from the Chinese communists.

On strict military grounds the joint chiefs of staff had long since decided that neither South Korea nor the Chinese island of Formosa was of sufficient strategic importance to the United States to fight for. So long as there was general peace in the area, outside China, the President and the State Department thus had been following a policy of limited commitments - military and economic aid to South Korea and small scale economic aid to the Chinese Nationalists on Formosa.

The former policies with respect to Korea and Formosa, built on the assumption that they were not militarily vital to the United States, reflected two opinions widely held by Administration leaders. One was that Formosa was beyond saving anyway and the other that Korea's chief danger lay in guerrilla type attacks from communists across the border.

Tuesday's policy announcement invalidated both these ideas and the President disclosed a belief that a new period has been opened in the conflict with communism.

"The attack on Korea," he said, "made it plain beyond all doubt that communism has passed beyond the use of subversion to conquer independent nations and will now use armed invasion and war."

From the outset, American officials had regarded the communist action in Korea as in part a Kremlin probing operation along their vast "front" which runs around Asia, the Middle East and the Iron Curtain line in Europe, and in part an effort to knock off South Korea before it got too strong.

It seems possible that insofar as they approved the operation - and Washington authorities assume Moscow did approve or even directed it - the Russians made a gross miscalculation of American reaction.

THAMMATHIPAT, 29th June - Comment

The war in Korea is a direct challenge to the United Nations. Should the United Nations fail to help South Korea, and the United States fail "to put out the flame when it is young," a small country like Thailand would be conscious of its own poor self more than ever before.

The United States has often, in the past, boasted of its help to the democratic nations of the world in their resistance to communism. But now that the crucial moment has come, the extension of the promised help has been undertaken in a clumsy manner, so clumsy that the stricken nation has had to complain about it.

The invasion of South Korea has long been anticipated. The situation made itself clear from time to time by border skirmishes. The fact that a large-scale organised attack has come now forebodes a greater danger which may very soon ensue. That danger may be the invasion of Formosa or Burma by Chinese communist forces. The Chinese communist forces under the command of General Liu Wieng Cheng, have already arrived at a point 30 miles from the Burmese border, and are preparing to invade Burma under the pretext of an expedition against the stranded Kuomintang troops now entrenched there. Thailand could not possibly escape the same fate should Burma be invaded.

It will be recalled that when the formation of a Pacific Union was first contemplated last year, Marshal Pibul opined that the Union would be useless unless provision for mutual military assistance were added. No heed was paid to Pibul's proposal and the matter was dropped. The Baguio conference was called recently, but no military measures were discussed at the meeting. Slightly before the outbreak of the Korean war, the United States openly showed its support for the formation of a Pacific Union based on joint military defence by the nations concerned. But the proposal came too late. The Korean war nipped it in the bud.

So long as the free nations in this part of the world continue to brag and not agree upon a joint defence plan, there is every possibility that they will succumb to the communist onslaught one by one, until all of them perish. At one time Marshal Pibul showed his willingness to enter into a military alliance with the Western Powers, especially Britain and the United States. It is now time, we think, that the offer be considered, so that the small nations of the world can feel relief.

PRACHACHON, 30th June - Editorial

THAILAND MUST BE PREPARED

The war in Korea calls for this nation to prepare itself in every possible way to face the repercussions which might result therefrom.

An actual armed conflict in its true form has now taken place between the conflicting Powers. The armed aggression

/upon one ...

upon one nation by another, which had frequently been employed as a means of settling international disputes before the outbreak of the last War, is now repeating itself.

As long as mankind continues to depend on brute force as a means of negotiating peace, the destructiveness of war which mankind has experienced with horror and dread, will again let loose its horror.

The question of whether or not the Korean incident will develop into a world-wide conflagration is not hard to predict. Sir Edward Grey, the British Foreign Minister at the time of the First World War, once put it bluntly on the question of war that "when a war broke out, war broke out," there is no way of avoiding it.

When a war has broken out and a land invaded, it seems that nothing can stop it from going on. It is Fate, the destruction mankind is destined to come across, no matter how much we dread its cruelties.

THAMMATHIPAT, 30th June - Comment See before.

Not only the Thais, but also the free peoples of the whole world outside communist lands lift their thumbs up in salute to President Truman's order to U.S. sea and air forces to help the South Korean Republic. Hardly a free citizen of the world can help but praise the U.S. President's resolute and momentous decision to cope with the flagrant violation of the United Nations' Charter by North Korea. The defence forces of South Korea are far inferior in number and quantity to the North's war machine prepared in advance for an aggressive war, and it is apparent that, without outside help, the Republic will in a few days, be completely overrun by communism. As the aggression began, every eye was turned towards Washington in anticipation of help to the invaded Republic. Being the only hope of democratic nations, United States' inaction would have totally shaken the confidence the democratic nations place in it.

With a terse tone, the U.S. President ordered help to be rushed to South Korea. Side by side with this step he ordered the U.S. Seventh Fleet in the Pacific to protect Formosa, while, at the same time, he acted so that military aid would be rushed to the Philippines and French Indo-China without delay.

The United States has made it plain that its policy is not merely its own security and that it will not tolerate any aggression upon small nations. The United States has shown obvious concern over the serious incident in Korea, and it will commit itself in deeds to help the democratic nations as much as it does in words.

The communists have also made it plain that it is not communist policy to win destined victims by peaceful means. It also shows that, no matter how communism claimsto be in favour of peace and gentle social reorganisation, the real communist method of achieving its aspirations is brute force. There has never been an instance in history of a nation becoming communist of its own accord.

Thai - very large circulation - one of the best papers in Siam in news coverage - thereare, is strongly anti - Pibul - sympathetic towards Chinese communists, but not towards Communism generally - Keeps a fairly open mind on subject.

SIAM NIKORN, 30th June - Editorial

THE WAR IN KOREA

The sudden outbreak of war in Korea has shaken the world with a jolt. Although border skirmishes had, previously, become almost a daily affair, the declaration of war on the South Republic by the North, followed by a general offensive, supported by a large number of war planes and tanks, was beyond expectation.

Owing to the suddenness of the outbreak of hostilities, no definite reason has yet been obtained as to the cause which led the North to declare war on the South. The North claims that the attack was launched in answer to the South's provocation. Some reports, quoting the statement made by the North, claim that one of the reasons which led to the war has been attributed to the South's imprisonment of Northern politicians who were despatched to the South to negotiate the unification of Korea. A nation's desire to unite the partitioned territories which have been an integral part in the past, in view of common blood ties, language and traditions, is not hard to explain. It is harder still for anyone to understand the purpose of a war for the achievement of such aspirations.

Since the termination of the last World War, Korea has been turned into a trouble-breeding spot of all forms, large and small. The fact that Korea is situated in a strategical position in the Far East has considerably increased the nation's political significance. Japan was once forced to annex Korea because of the nation's position, which has been regarded as a dagger pointing at the Island Kingdom's heart. Korea continues to remain an important strategical position in Japan's safety, even after the latter's decline in power.

After the War, Korea was divided into two sections, North and South with the 38th Parallel as the demarcation line. The former is under Soviet control, while the latter under that of the United States. The two Powers subsequently agreed to withdraw their respective occupation troops from Korea. It has been said that Soviet Russia did so only after it had successfully formed a pro-Soviet Government and strongly-equipped armed forces. After the withdrawal of its troops, the United States left approximately 500 military experts to train South Korean troops and supply continual aid to the South Republic. It has been the general opinion among the parties concerned that Korea should be entitled to unification as a single state, but the attempt to arrive at that end has been made not without great difficulty.

The common impression that every nation does not desire another World War and that no one would gain anything from it, except Chiang Kai-shek, is a concrete fact. Let us hope that the war in Korea is restricted to limited areas, so as to prevent its developing into another World War. The United Nations' effort to end the war in Korea should, therefore, be supported by all.

Thai - Chief mouthpiece of Pridi faction: violently anti-Pibul. Foreign news, is markedly anti-Western and pro-communist.

SIANGTHAI, 30th June - Editorial

THE WAR IN KOREA

The question of how long the war in Korea will continue is not as important as the causes of the war. Korea has been placed in a position which forbids peace. On one side is true democracy and on the other imperialism. The people of North Korea are free people who profess true democracy, while those in the South profess American-style imperialism. It is not difficult, therefore, to imagine which side is the aggressor in this case. To understand the aggression of South Korea, one need not trouble to look very far for reasons, but must first look at the imperialist United States, the mould out of which South Korea was produced.

Such an understanding will spare trouble for anyone to ponder over the cause of the war and the riddle of whether or not the provoked war will come to an end. The fact remains everywhere that a compromise can hardly be expected between true democracy and the oppressive imperialism of the American type. The United States has sent war planes and war material to help South Korea's war effort, which shows that the United States has openly intervened in an internal conflict. War-mongering is the true nature of American imperialists, and time will tell which side will win and which is to be destroyed at the end.

Thai - staffed almost entirely by veterans - strongly nationalist and anti-communist, but lacks effective circulation.

NAKORN SARN, 30th June - Article

THE KOREAN INCIDENT

The world has been shocked by a new fear as a result of the outbreak of war in Korea.

Korea should not have deserved such a great deal of world interest even with a civil war going on there, but what adds significance to the current fighting in that country is the Power which is on each side of the conflicting parties. It would be unfair to blame the Powers concerned as the sole factors responsible for the outbreak of war in Korea, but there must be no mistaking the fact that the partition of that nation and the actions of the World Powers behind each faction are among the causes implementing the outbreak of hostilities.

Fate has destined Korea to be an unlucky nation. She is placed in such a position that her independence means her neighbours' danger. Her desire for independence has always been a hope against hope, and no nation can help her. Many times in the past she has been the cause of international wars, and the winning nations took turns to dominate and hold her as a buffer state against aggression on their own lands. After the Second World War Korea was partitioned into two sections, North and South, with what is known as the 38th Parallel as the demarcation line. The nation was divided between Soviet Russia and the United States, the first on the North and the other on the South, respectively.

/The Powers' ...

The Powers' occupation forces were subsequently withdrawn, but that could neither spare Korea from the communist menace which has suddenly come into vogue following the Second World War. Already suffering from internal political complications, the national position of Korea was affected further by the repercussions arising from the World Powers' ideological conflict.

The war in Korea helps to show, once again, that what is claimed to be work for peace is merely a sham. The Korean war has very much to do with the failure of the World Powers, especially the United States and Russia, to come to an understanding. However, we must not forget that the United States' policy in Korea has always been in line with the United Nations'. If the World Powers are to blame at all for the war in Korea, the greater part of the responsibility should go to the Soviet Union for its constant disobedience of the United Nations' orders.

DAILY MAIL, 1st July - Editorial

Chinese - anti western and pro communist'.

THE PENTAGON'S ACTION IN KOREA

The United States has ordered its sea and air forces to support South Korea in the war against the North. Side by side with this action, the United States has reinforced its defence forces in the Philippines, accelerated its military help to Indo-China, while a part of its Pacific fleet has been assigned to patrol the sea areas around Formosa to keep the island safe from communist invasion. The United States claims that these measures have been taken in pursuance of the resolutions adopted by the Security Council in its effort to enforce the cease-fire order in Korea.

The question of whether or not the United States' action is justified defies consideration.

The first point of the problem to be discussed should be whether or not the Security Council's resolutions are valid for enforcement. The resolution, it will be recalled, were adopted by the Council in the absence of the Soviet delegate. The Soviet Union has made it clear that it will not participate in any U.N. discussions as long as the Kuomintang representative continues to sit in the Council, and that it will not recognise as legal any U.N. measures adopted during the absence of its representative. The Soviet claim in this case is in keeping with international law as the Kuomintang delegate has already ceased to become the rightful representative of the people of China.

There is equal justification in the Soviet Union's claim that any resolution passed by the Council is invalid without a permanent member's participation in the vote. The claim is strengthened further by the United Nations Charter which rules that any measures adopted by the United Nations can be regarded as rightful only with the joint consideration of every member of the Security Council. It is more so when the fact remains that North Korea, supposedly the 'defendant' of the case, has not been called to testify or been consulted. In the light of this, the United Nations' resolutions are not valid.

/Until and ...

Until and unless the U.N. resolutions are valid, the United States has no justifiable reason whatever to act on the decision.

Even if the United States were entrusted with the execution of the resolution, the most the United States can do, according to the spirit of the resolution, would be limited only to the settlement of the dispute by peaceful means and not with the military support which the United States is now rendering South Korea. Moreover, the United States' increase of military strength in the Philippines, the acceleration of military assistance to Indo-China and the fleet's protection of Formosa go beyond what is needed by the U.N. resolutions for the restoration of peace and security. The United States' claim that such precautions were taken to prevent the development of war in Korea from reaching those areas, is deplorable. The Soviet Union has remained calm throughout and there has been no sign that it has supported any side in the Korean war as the United States is now doing.

Many times in the past, the United States has made itself the enemy of Indo-China, the Philippines and China by supporting the reactionary elements in those countries. U.S. intervention in Korea and its obstruction of the liberation of the Korean people from foreign influence affords convincing proof that it also means to be the enemy of Korea. Taking the Korean incident as an excuse, the United States has now declared itself, by its action, the enemy of the whole world.

The United States' action in the Korean war is the first step of its aggressive war, as well as an attempt to plunge the world into another unnecessary and undesirable World War. Such an attempt must be opposed by all the peace-loving peoples of the world. The American people have already reacted to their Government's war policy.

What is particularly noteworthy is the United States' invitation of leaders of certain nations to participate in its military projects to cope with the current war in Korea. As a matter of fact, the United States has no valid reason to confer with those nations, unless they are bound in a secret military pact for joint action in an aggressive war with the United States.

According to a foreign report, the United States has requested the Soviet Union "to use its influence to force North Korea" to accept the Security Council's resolutions. The United States has, perhaps, made this effort under the impression that the Soviet Union has any influence over another country as the United States has over its puppet states.

In its protest against the U.N. resolutions, the Soviet Union stressed the fact that the Nationalist representative in the Security Council "has no legal right" to vote for the resolutions. It also pointed out that any measure passed by the Security Council could be regarded as valid only when all of the five permanent members of the Council, namely the United States, Britain, France, Soviet Russia and China, vote for it with one voice, according to the provisions of the United Nations Charter.

Foreign Minister Chou En Lai of the Republic of China, on the other hand, has announced that President Truman's declaration of Far Eastern policy as regards the Korean incident is an "armed aggression against China and a violation of the United Nations' Charter."

/Speaking either ...

Speaking either from the legal point of view or of actual fact, the United States' intervention in Korea is another illustration of its desire to cause a Third World War. The United States shows that it is ready to venture on its scheme, by taking the situation in Korea as an excuse, no matter whether or not that excuse is justifiable.

SIAM NIKORN, 2nd July - Editorial *Sur Lupaix.*

FROM KOREA TO FORMOSA

After a meeting with leading members of both political parties, President Truman, on 27th June, announced the United States' decision to render military help to South Korea, and ordered the U.S. Seventh Fleet to protect Formosa.

In a subsequent statement at a press conference, President Truman pointed out that the United States justified its action on account of the fact that the Republic of South Korea had been set up with the approval of the United Nations, and that the United States' help to protect the Republic from the North's invasion had been sought by the resolutions adopted by the Organisation, in view of North Korea's refusal to listen to the United Nations' cease-fire order.

The Soviet Union has protested against the Security Council's resolutions and held the decision as illegal, basing its charge on the ground of its representative's absence from the meeting during which the resolutions were adopted. The Soviet charge was, however, rejected by legal experts who insisted that the resolutions were valid according to international law, no matter whether or not Soviet Russia participated in the vote. The legal experts based their reasons on the precedent created by the admission into the United Nations of Israel.

Mr. Dean Acheson, the U.S. Secretary of State, in a statement made to the press, also pointed out the reasons why the United States has to support Korea in its fight against the aggressor. Referring to the independence of Korea, Mr. Acheson quoted the declaration made during the Cairo meeting, subsequently confirmed by the Potsdam Declaration, the proceedings of which were, on both occasions, recognised by the Soviet Union. But the attempt to make Korea a unified independent state met with failure. Success was achieved only in the case of South Korea, which was declared an independent Republic with the unanimous approval of the United Nations. The said Government was recognised by the United States in January, 1948, and was subsequently recognised by many others.

The above are some of the reasons for the United States' help to Korea which can be disclosed openly. But there must be many reasons which the United States cannot possibly disclose. It is well known that the United States has considerable moral obligations towards South Korea. It is true that, as a matter of form, the United Nations gave birth to the South Korean Republic, but, practically, the country is under the sole management of the United States. It is very natural, therefore, that, bound by such

/moral obligations ...

moral obligations, the United States cannot possibly allow South Korea to sink. The loss of Korea would mean a great 'loss of face' and entail strategical disadvantage to the United States.

One more noteworthy fact about the United States which must always be remembered is that its Government have been undergoing a hard time in prosecution of state policy towards the Far East. This has exposed the Government to severe criticism by opposition politicians, and the awkward situation cannot be righted.

The reason why President Truman has changed the U.S. Government policy towards the Far East so suddenly and so definitely, has been prompted not only by the question of help to Korea, but also for the modification of that awkward situation. The situation in Korea has not only enabled the U.S. to adopt a definite policy in Japan, the Philippines and Indo-China, but has also entitled it to participate in the defence of Formosa, not long ago written off, with Nationalist China. Although jubilant at the United States' extension of help to Formosa, the Foreign Minister of the Nationalist Government, in a recent statement, did not fail to remind the United States that Formosa is the Nationalists' own.

We believe in the U.P. report from Berlin of 26th June that Soviet Russia has no desire to bring about a Third World War from the Korean incident, since it fails to see any benefit from such a war at present. It is our opinion, therefore, that the Soviet Union will not intervene in the Korean war, unless some special future development makes it inevitable. According to the present situation, Formosa is the most dangerous spot which could most easily cause a large-scale war.

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DUPLICATE.

File No. 100/23/1.

AUSTRALIAN CONSULATE GENERAL
BANGKOK, SIAM.

XXX Thailand.

CONFIDENTIAL.

5th July 1950.

505/13/16

DEPARTMENTAL DESPATCH NO. 9/50.

FROM: Australian Consul-General, BANGKOK. THAILAND.

TO: The Secretary, Department of External Affairs.

THAI ATTITUDE ON KOREA.

As reported in my telegram No. 91, the Thai Government announced on 30th June its full backing of the decisions on Korea of the Security Council of the United Nations, and has declared itself ready, if called upon, to provide rice, and if necessary, armed forces for the support of Southern Korea. This action, which was decided upon by the Cabinet, followed speedily upon the practical support given by the United States, the United Kingdom, Australia and other countries to the South Korean forces, and the action of those countries quickly put an end to the first wave of doubts as reported in my memorandum No. 212/50 of 28th June.

2. The Prime Minister made a further statement clarifying Thailand's attitude to the House of Representatives on 3rd July, when, after some debate, the decision was formally approved by 63 votes to nil, with ten abstentions. The Prime Minister stated that, on being requested by the Secretary General of the United Nations to indicate what aid would be given, a reply was returned to the effect that Thailand gave full moral support to South Korea and the decision of the Security Council. The reply also stated that, being mainly an agricultural country, Thailand was able to give practical aid in the form of rice, and would give full consideration to requests for aid in any other form. The Government also strongly censured the action of North Korea. The question of military aid was not specifically mentioned in the reply, but it had been discussed by Cabinet, and it had been agreed in principle to provide forces if required.

3. In reply to the Prime Minister's statement, the Leader of the Opposition, Nai Khuang Aphaiwongse, agreed generally with the decision of the government, but questioned the capacity of Thailand, from a practical viewpoint, to provide military aid in any form. He also considered it unseemly for Thailand, as a small country, to censure the action of North Korea. The Prime Minister replied that a military force could be made available if it were required but he was not able to state the size of such a force. He reminded Khuang that in the First World War, King Rama VI, sent an expeditionary force to aid the Allies and thus gained considerable prestige for the Kingdom, besides advancing the practical experience of Thailand's armed forces. In spite of this reply, I myself feel that it is very doubtful if any effective military aid could be provided, and it might also be questioned whether it would be desirable to weaken the defences of this country by the sending of any expeditionary force overseas. To Khuang's second question, the Prime Minister replied that the support of the Security Council's decision implied censure of the actions of North Korea.

...../4. The question

4. The question was also raised by Khuang as to what repercussions the War in Korea was having in Thailand. In reply, the Prime Minister admitted that some merchants had taken the opportunity of raising the prices of commodities. If however it were found that shortages were being artificially created by hoarding, the Government would enforce Anti-hoarding laws, both in respect of rice and other commodities, and he felt sure that the present fluctuation in prices was only a temporary reaction.

5. On the general military situation, the Prime Minister stated that Thailand has now clearly aligned itself to the side of the democratic Western powers, and must be prepared to do all in its power to advance their cause against Communism. Thailand, he said, was fully prepared should a world war break out, and, although no general mobilization was intended at present over and above the normal intake of men for compulsory service, this would be done when it is required.

6. The Prime Minister's statement and the Government's attitude to the Security Council decision now seems to dispel any possible doubt as to Thailand's attitude, and the backing of Pibul by America and the United Kingdom appears to have been justified by events. The confidence in being able to obtain adequate military and other aid from the Western democracies has been increased considerably by the action of these powers in Korea, as well of course by the aid programmes of the United States and the British Commonwealth. The press and popular reaction to Pibul's attitude, apart from that of the few Communist newspapers, has been uniformly favourable. The virtual unanimity in the House of Representatives also indicates solid backing for the policy.

CONSUL-GENERAL.

DEPARTMENT OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS.

505/13/16

CABLEGRAM.

ACTION COPY

[redacted]MD

I.9726.

DECODE FROM:

Dated: 2nd July, 1950.
1150.

Australian Consul General,
BANGKOK.

Rec'd: 3rd July, 1950.

91. UNCLASSIFIED.

Thai attitude on Korea.

Prime Minister has announced that Thailand will support the decision of the Security Council and will send military forces, rice and any other aid it is able to give to aid South Korea whenever called upon by the United Nations. He said also that in the event of war Thailand will fight on the side of the Western Democracies.

Australia's attitude to the issue well received here and newspaper and other comment is very favourable.

MIN. & DEPT. EXTERNAL AFFAIRS.
A/G. " " " DEFENCE.
P.M.'S DEPT.

EJR

505/13 - on file
505/12
505/13/16 - Thailand's Policy

3rd July, 1950.

HG

Secretary
AS(P)
E
A
LC
Pac
ANT
UN
Admin
A/us
Econ.

File No. 100/5/1

Memo. No. 212/50

Australian Consulate-General,
Bangkok, Thailand

28th June, 1950. 505/13/16.

CONFIDENTIAL

MEMORANDUM for:-

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

THAI ATTITUDE ON KOREA.

Although, at this stage, it is not possible to give an accurate assessment of Thailand's attitude on the Korean situation, the first reaction is a typical and interesting one.

2. Thailand is not directly affected by the outbreak of hostilities, except to a small extent on the economic side, but, so far as can be gauged, the situation is looked upon as a test of the willingness and capacity of the Western Powers, and particularly of the United States, to give aid to small nations within their sphere of interest. It is felt that Korea, more than any other Asian country, has been "adopted" by the United States as specially under its protection, and, if it should fall to Communism, other Asian countries are not likely to obtain much effective aid against Communist pressures. These are the views which have been expressed to me by various Thai officials in the last few days, and seem to be the Government's views also. Today's press published a report that a source close to the Prime Minister had stated that "the Government is waiting to see how far the U.S. will go to support small nations against Red aggression". The attitude which is adopted by the Western Powers will be watched with very close interest by Thailand, and their prestige in this country, and probably other parts of South East Asia, will be greatly affected by the decision which is taken.

3. Meanwhile, there has been much speculation as to whether Thailand should endeavour to enter into military alliances with the United States, the United Kingdom and France. It seems farily clear that such a course is favoured by the Prime Minister, Field Marshal Pibul Songgram, but there may be opposition from other sources.

(A.H. LOOMES)
CONSUL-GENERAL