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SecDel/MC/22
September 25, 1969

SECRETARY'S DELEGATION
TO THE
TWENTY-FOURTH SESSION OF THE
UNITED NATIONS GENERAL ASSEMBLY
NEW YORK, September, 1969

NODIS REVIEW
Cat. A - Caption removed; transferred to C/FADRC
Cat. B - Transferred to C/FADRC with additional access controlled by S/S
Cat. C - Caption and category retained by S/S
Reviewed by: Ambassador W. Wilson, II
Date: 3-6-76

MEMORANDUM OF CONVERSATION

Date: September 23, 1969

Time: 12:30

Place: US Mission

SUBJECT: Secretary's Bilateral Meeting with Foreign Minister Thanat on September 23, 1969 -- Thanat's Candidacy For the ICJ (Part 2 of 6)

PARTICIPANTS:

U.S.: The Secretary
Amb. Yost
Mr. Clark

FOREIGN: FonMin Thanat
Amb. to UN Anand
Amb. Designate to US Sunthorn
Spec. Asst. to the FonMin Birobhangse

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The Secretary asked Thanat how his candidacy was progressing for a seat on the International Court of Justice. Thanat replied he understood his opposition had recently been circulating rumors to the effect that, even if elected, he would be pressured to decline because the US wanted to keep him in Thailand to finish the job there. The Secretary asked if anyone had said we had made such a statement? Thanat replied "no", and no one should seriously believe he could be pressured to withdraw. He said he had asked people who had reported this rumor to him if they really believed he did not

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serve his king and country but rather the US. Ambassador Yost asked if there was any action we could take with specific delegations to assist Thanat in his candidacy. Thanat replied that, at the present time, the Colombian vote on the Security Council appeared crucial. Ambassador Yost said he had spoken to the Colombian delegate on the Security Council and had been told the Colombian Government was committed to support the Indian candidate and this commitment was made when Prime Minister Indira Gandhi was in Bogota. The Colombian delegate said he saw no possibility of escaping from the commitment. Thanat asked if it would be possible for the Colombian representative to vote for both the Indian candidate and for himself. Ambassador Yost agreed this was a possibility and said he would check it out. He observed that, at this stage of Thanat's candidacy, work in the Security Council was most important. Thanat agreed with this and said he would appreciate also assistance in talking to the Finns. Ambassador Yost said we had talked to the Finns but have had no response beyond their saying they were considering their position. Thanat asked if the Finns had said they were committed. Yost said no, only that they were studying the question. Thanat said he felt they were important in the Scandinavian context and said he also hoped to get support from the Danes. The Secretary said he was having dinner with Latin American Foreign Ministers that evening and would speak to the Colombian Foreign Minister on Thanat's behalf. The US and Colombia enjoy good relations and we would be happy to take whatever line Thanat suggested. Thanat reiterated his hope Colombia would find it possible to vote for both the Indian candidate and himself. Ambassador Yost said we had been told the representative of Paraguay would vote in favor of Thanat. The Secretary then asked how many votes Thanat now had on the Security Council. Ambassador Anand said they now have 7 and thus needed one more. However, 2 of the 7 did not wish to be named at the present time. The Secretary replied that if Colombia supported Thanat, he was assured of election in the Security Council. Thanat thanked the Secretary for his support. Ambassador Anand said they would also like us to work on the Finns since 9 votes in the Security Council would be better than 8. The Secretary and Ambassador Yost promised to work on the respective delegates on Thanat's behalf. The Secretary expressed the hope Thanat would be successful in his candidacy for the ICJ but said he would miss him as a colleague.

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