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SUBJECT : Who's Who in the National Executive Council

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INTRODUCTION

Four months after the November 17 change in government, the National Executive Council (NEC) has settled into a bureaucratic regimen with the twofold task of maintaining continuity of operations through the established ministries, now grouped into directorates, and of devising new programs, policies, and reorganization initiatives through newly-created advisory boards. Nearly all of the senior officials in the last government, except for several Cabinet members, have been named to one of more positions within this interim government. The membership of the NEC is distinguished by the advanced age of its members and the absence of the RTA troop commanders, normally the power-brokers in any such change in government. This situation portends a certain instability for the future. The principal figures reported on below, therefore, constitute the old elite, and may include some but clearly does not include all of the men who will rise to power in the late 1970's. Following are capsule comments identifying military, police and civil officials holding prominent positions in the various directorates and advisory boards, and within the NEC itself.

THE NATIONAL EXECUTIVE COUNCIL

On the night of November 17, 1971, Radio Thailand broadcast the news of a government takeover by the "Revolutionary Group," headed by Field Marshal Thanom Kittikachorn. Two days later, Thanom asked that the term "Revolutionary Group" (in Thai) be translated (in English) as "National Executive Council." On December 9, Thanom announced the formation of an "Executive Council" naming 16 men (12 military and four civilians) as members. The term "NEC," therefore, refers both to the

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16-man Council and in a more general way to the entire senior level of the post-November 17 government. As noted in Bangkok 15699, the NEC is largely a list of holders of military office and not necessarily holders of real power, though certainly the real holders of power are among them. Soon after November 17, it was announced that the functions of government were to be operated through two directorates, military and civilian. General Praphat headed the former, which was comprised solely of the Ministry of Defense, and Police General Prasert headed the Civilian Directorate, made up of the other 11 ministries.* A more realistic division of labor was instituted December 9, when the present four directorates were established. Even after this realignment, however, the majority of the members of the Executive Council had no real participation in the day-to-day functioning of the government until January 2 when a decree gave the Executive Council members, acting as a body, the powers and duties of the Council of Ministers, until an interim constitution is promulgated. (* In fact, Praphat never gave up control of the Ministry of Interior.)

Following are members of the NEC:

1. Field Marshal Thanom Kittikachorn, Chairman of the NEC. Age 60. Prior to November 17 Thanom was Prime Minister and Minister of Defense, and officially responsible for the Department of Central Intelligence. He has ceded the latter two areas to General Praphat though it is still unclear whether this is a permanent shift of responsibilities. Thanom still heads the government as Chairman of the NEC and retains the position of Supreme Commander of the Thai Armed Forces. The ministries of Justice and Foreign Affairs now report to him through the Secretariat, although there is no directorate incorporating their activities. The office of the Prime Minister is still in operation, but most of the NEC staff work is handled by the Secretariat. Thanom has also been named chairman of a recently-formed National Farmers Group, which seeks to promote and protect the welfare of farmers.

2. General Praphat Charusathien, Deputy Chairman of the NEC. Age 59. Since December 9 the Director of the National Security Directorate (NSD) comprised of the ministries of Interior and Defense. He remains Deputy Supreme Commander, Commander in Chief of the RTA, Commander of CSOD, and has responsibility over the Department of Central Intelligence.

3. Pote Sarasin, Assistant Chairman of the NEC. Age 65. Formerly Deputy Prime Minister and Minister of National Development, he is now Director of Economics, Finance and Industry, which is comprised of those three ministries.

4. Police General Prasert Ruchirawong. Age 60. Director General of National Police and Director of the Directorate for Public Health and Education. Prasert has also been named as one of the Deputy Directors to Praphat's National Security Directorate (NSD) and is a member of the Defense Planning and Policy Advisory Board to the NSD. He is also a Deputy Commander of CSOD. Prasert, who was Minister of Health prior to November 17, appears neither to have gained nor lost in power compared to

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the pre-coup period. Indications are that he is likely to remain as DGNP until October 1972 and will then retire. He holds the rank of general in both the Police and the Army.

5. Air Chief Marshal (ACM) Dawee Chullasapya. Age 57. Director of the Directorate for National Development, Agriculture and Communications and a Deputy Director of the NSD. Remains Chief of Staff of Supreme Command. Immediately after November 17 Dawee's Supreme Command staff took over support functions for the NEC, a move that was probably not at Dawee's initiative but welcomed by him and his group. General Krit Sivara (see below) took cognizance of the situation, however, and replaced the Supreme Command elements with Royal Thai Army (RTA) personnel closer in loyalty to the RTA staff. Subsequently Dawee, together with Lt. Gen. Kriangsak Chomanan and others, have been unable to block Krit's move toward increased power and influence.

6. General Krit Sivara, Secretary General of the NEC. Age 57. Krit heads the NEC Secretariat and is a member of the Defense Planning and Policy Advisory Board to the NSD. He remains Deputy Commander in Chief of the RTA. Prior to November 17 Krit was Deputy Minister of Defense. Krit appears to be one of the major gainers of power since the takeover and has used his positions as Secretary General and Deputy RTA CinC to establish himself as a clear number 3 in the regime, after divesting ACM Dawee and the Supreme Command staff of the pre-eminent position they enjoyed immediately after November 17. Krit clearly plans to fill Praphat's footsteps (CinC of RTA and Deputy Supreme Commander) when and if Praphat replaces Thanom in any of his positions. Krit apparently has the strong support of Lt. Generals Chote Hiranyasthiti, Prachuab Suntrangkun and Chalat Hiranyasiri, who are his deputies in the Secretariat.

7. Air Chief Marshal Boonchoo Chandrubeksa. Age 58. Deputy Chief of the Defense Planning and Policy Advisory Board to the NSD. Remains CinC of the Royal Thai Air Force (RTAF). There has been one report from CAS sources that Boonchoo was reluctant to support the coup. He is believed close to Thanom and is a rival of Dawee. Former Senator.

8. Admiral Thawin Rayananonda. Age 60. Deputy Chief of the Defense Planning and Policy Advisory Board to the NSD. Remains CinC of the Royal Thai Navy (RTN). Former Senator.

9. General Surakij Mayalarp. Age 58. An assistant director of the NSD, one of three Deputy Commanders of the Joint Administration Center of the NSD, and a member of the Defense Planning and Policy Advisory Board to the NSD. Remains Chief of Staff of the RTA and of CSOD. Respected by both Thanom and Praphat. He is not considered politically ambitious. Former Senator.

10. Admiral Kamol Sitakalin. Age 59. Member of the Defense Planning and

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Policy Advisory Board to the NSD. Remains Deputy CinC of the RTN. Former Senator.

11. Air Chief Marshal Siri Muangmanee. Age 57. Member of the Defense Planning and Policy Advisory Board to the NSD. Remains Deputy CinC of the RTAF. Former Senator.

12. Air Chief Marshal Kamol Thejathunga. Age 54. Member of the Defense Planning and Policy Advisory Board to the NSD and one of three Deputy Commanders of the Joint Administration Center of the NSD. Remains Chief of Staff of the RTAF. Former Senator.

13. Vice Admiral Jit Sangkadun. Age 55. Member of the Defense Planning and Policy Advisory Board to the NSD and one of three Deputy Commanders of the Joint Administration Center of the NSD. Remains Chief of Staff of the RTN. A former Commandant of the Armed Forces Staff College, he is popular among Staff College graduates.

14. Luang (title) Chamroon Netisart. Age 69. Chairman of the Legal Advisory Board of the NEC. As Minister of Justice in the pre-November 17 Cabinet, Chamroon was engaged in a running battle with the Judicial Council over the appointment of an Under Secretary in the Ministry of Justice. Chamroon continues to carry on a feud with Kamol Wanaprapha (see below) but was frustrated in his attempt to name his choice to the Under Secretaryship by General Krit soon after the change in government.

15. Somphot Hotrakit. Age 51. Member of the Legal Advisory Board. Remains Secretary General of the Juridical Council. Former Senator.

16. Kamol Wanaprapha. Age 63. Member of the Legal Advisory Board. Formerly Director General of the Department of Public Prosecution, Ministry of Interior. Sometimes mentioned as a possible Minister of Justice in a Praphat Cabinet. Former Senator.

LEGAL ADVISORY BOARD

The Legal Advisory Board was established on December 9 to draft NEC announcements and on request to give legal advice to the NEC Chairman. The 13-member board reports to the Chairman through the Secretariat; however, the presence on the board of three members of the NEC give the board the possibility of more direct contact with the top leaders. The Board has also been tasked with the drafting of the interim constitution. Significant members include:

1. Luang Chamroon Netisart, Chairman. See NEC above.

2. Somphot Hotrakit. See NEC above.

3. Kamol Wanaprapha. See NEC above.

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4. Lialalong Bunnag, Secretary General of the board. A lawyer and former Senator.

5. Chaichet Sunthornphipit, Deputy Secretary General to the board. Retired from the Ministry of Interior.

6. Colonel Chinda Na Songkhla, Secretary General of the Civil Service Commission, a former Senator and recently appointed to the Advisory Council for Administrative Procedures. Pote Sarasin's son-in-law.

7. Sanguan Choopanya, Director General of the Department of Public Prosecution, Ministry of Interior.

8. Osot Kosin, Secretary General of the Board of Export Promotion and a former Senator.

9. Colonel Sanguan Khamwongsa, Deputy Secretary General of the Board of Export Promotion and a former Senator.

ADVISORY COUNCIL FOR ADMINISTRATIVE PROCEDURES

On January 3 NEC Chairman Thanom announced the formation of this council for the purpose of studying and recommending changes in the governmental organizational structure.

1. Major General Siri Siriyothin, Chairman. Siri is also a Special Advisor on the Interior Planning and Policy Advisory Board. As former Speaker of the House of Representatives of the Thai Parliament, he was a key member of the government party in the House.

2. Lt. General Sawaeng Senanarong, member. Prior to his appointment to this council Sawaeng had continued in the government only in his capacity as head of the former Office of the Prime Minister, which continues to serve Thanom through the Secretariat, and as Deputy to Thanom in the National Farmers Association and to Pote in the Rice Policy Control Committee. Sawaeng has obviously not yet regained a significant position and is unlikely to if Praphat has his way.

3. Admiral Anant Neteroj, member. Replaced Police Major General Sanga Kittikachorn as Secretary General of the Cabinet shortly before the November 17 coup. A former Senator, and former (retired October 1971) Deputy Commander-in-Chief, RTN.

4. Lt. General Boonruen Buacharoon, member. Under Secretary of State in the Office of the Prime Minister. Follows student affairs for the NEC. Former Senator.

5. Lt. General Chan Angsuchote, member. Director of the Budget Bureau and Director General of the Department of Technical and Economic Cooperation at the Ministry of National Development. Former Senator and a

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supporter of Thanom.

6. Colonel Chinda Na Songkhla, member. Also a member of the legal Advisory Board (see above).

7. Lt. Colonel Chinvudh Sunthornsima, member.

8. Malai Huvanand, member. Chairman of the Interior Planning and Policy Advisory Board to the NSD. Former Senator. (See below.)

9. Praphon Bunnag, member. Comptroller General in the Ministry of Finance.

10. Praween Na Nakorn, member. Deputy Director General of the Civil Service Commission.

11. Samran Thawarayut, member and Secretary of the Council. Director of the Office of Technique and Examination, Civil Service Commission.

12. Thien Thamathip, Deputy Secretary to the Council, Assistant Director of the Office of Technique and Examination, Civil Service Commission.

NATIONAL EXECUTIVE COUNCIL SECRETARIAT

The Secretariat was established to coordinate the work of the various elements of the NEC and controls communications channels to and from the NEC Chairman. The former Office of the Prime Minister, the Legal Advisory Council, and the ministries of Justice and Foreign Affairs are directly subordinate to the NEC Chairman through the Secretariat. However, unlike the other ministries which have been grouped together into four "super ministries" with directors and deputy directors to make policy decisions, the ministries of Justice and Foreign Affairs have no policy decision makers assigned short of the NEC Chairman himself.

1. General Krit Sivara, Secretary General, See NEC above.

2. Lt. General Chote Hiranyasthiti, Deputy Secretary General and Secretary to the National Security Directorate. Age 57. Chote remains Chief of Army Field Forces. Shortly after November 17 he was Secretary to General Praphat in latter's role as Deputy Chairman of the NEC. Former Senator. Reportedly close to Thanom and Krit, Chote has lined up solidly behind Krit. He replaces Lt. General Kriangsak Chomanan, a Dawee man, who held the Deputy Secretary General position in the immediate post-November 17 period.

3. Lt. General Prachuap Suntrangkun, Assistant Secretary General, Age 51. Prachuap has held this position since November 17 and was early identified by the press as having been "instrumental in the coup." He remains Director of the Port Authority and is a former Cavalry Division Commander and a former Senator. (See next page.)

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Younger than most of the top leadership in the NEC, he is a strong Praphat man and a solid follower of General Krit. Prachuap is often mentioned as a candidate for higher office and will likely be influential in the future.

4. Lt. General Chalat Hiranyasiri, Assistant Secretary General. Age 49. He remains Commandant of the Institute of Army Academies and formerly commanded the Command and General Staff College. Chalat is known to be politically ambitious and in pursuit of higher position. He has allied himself solidly behind Krit and Praphat to whom he is close in an organizational sense, but is not fully trusted by Praphat.

5. Major General Thep Kranlert, Chief of the Staff Directorate for the Secretariat. In the immediate post November 17 period he was brought in to the NEC as Chief of Staff of the Military Affairs Directorate under Praphat. He is Praphat's brother-in-law.

6. Major General Chusak Watnaronchai, Chief of Operations Division (Ministerial Affairs Division) which coordinates NEC business with the various ministries. Formerly the Assistant Secretary General for Operations of the National Security Council and also formerly a Deputy Secretary General of Government House. Basically apolitical.

7. Lt. General Chalermchai Charuvat, Chief of the Public Relations Division of the Secretariat and Spokesman for the NEC. Age 54. Remains head of the Tourist Organization of Thailand (TOT). Former Senator. He has been extremely effective as spokesman for the NEC. Still younger than most of the NEC leadership, Chalermchai appears to have a good future.

8. Witt Siwasariyanon, Deputy Chief of the Public Relations Division. Age 58. Former Senator. Also Deputy Chief of the old Public Relations Division (PRD).

9. Major General Som Kattaphan, attached to the Secretariat. Age 48. For many years an aide to General Praphat and a former Senator. Deeply involved in Parphat's economic dealings and serves as a contact point between Praphat and lower echelon military commanders.

10. Major General Amphorn Suphasamut, attached to the Secretariat. Military Secretary to Field Marshal Thanom as Minister of Defense prior to November 17.

11. Major General Withun Yasawat, attached to the Secretariat. Solid supporter of General Krit.

NATIONAL SECURITY DIRECTORATE

The most important of the four directorates in terms of power is the National Security Directorate (NSD). Under the control of this organization headed by General Praphat Charusathien are the ministries of Defense and Interior, CSOD and the Thai intelligence community. Staffing of the four directorates or "super ministries" was left up to the director and Praphat chose to name

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Air Chief Marshal Dawee Chullasapya, Police General Prasert Ruchirawong and former MOI Deputy Minister Thawin Sunthornsaratun as his Deputy Directors. Commenting on the appointments of Prasert and Dawee, a high-ranking MOI official told the Political Counselor that "the boss likes to have high-ranking people as his deputies." Special advisory boards and bodies were also created under the NSD including: a Joint Administration Center to coordinate use of forces under the NSD; an office of Defense Planning with a board of Defense Planning and Policy Advisors; an intelligence Advisory Board and a Joint Intelligence Center; and advisory boards for Interior Administration and for Interior Planning and Policy. Appointments to the NSD include:

1. Air Chief Marshal Dawee Chullasapya, Deputy Director. See NEC above.

2. Police General Prasert Ruchirawong, Deputy Director. See NEC above.

3. Thawin Sunthornsaratun, Deputy Director. Age 63. Formerly Deputy Minister of Interior and a close Praphat supporter. One of the first appointments made to the "Revolutionary Command" on November 17; however, perhaps for protocol reasons, he has been omitted from the NEC.

4. General Surakij Mayalarp, Assistant Director. See NEC above.

5. Police Lt. General Yuen Prabhavat, Assistant Director. Deputy Director General, National Police (number 2 position in police) and a career police officer. Former Senator.

6. Withun Chakkaphak, Assistant Director. Under Secretary of State for Development, Ministry of Interior.

7. Lt. General Chote Hirayasthiti, Secretary to the NSD and Deputy Secretary General of the NEC (number 2 to Krit in the Secretariat). See Secretariat above.

8. Lt. General Serm Na Nakhon, Deputy Secretary for Defense, NSD. Age 52. Assistant Chief of Staff for Operations of RTA and an Assistant Director of the Joint Administration Center, NSD. Was formerly commander of Thai forces in Vietnam. Former Senator.

9. Chaowat Sudlapha, Deputy Secretary for Interior of the NSD, Secretary for the Advisory Board for Interior Planning and Policy and Deputy Chief of the Office of Interior Planning and Policy Board. Formerly Secretary to Praphat at the Ministry of Interior and an activist for Praphat in political affairs.

10. Lt. Colonel Narong Kittikachorn, Assistant Secretary of the NSD. Deputy Commander of the 11th Regiment of the First Infantry Division. Thanom's son and Praphat's son-in-law. Has played a useful role in maintaining communications between Thanom and Praphat, but has personally been something of a problem.

Joint Administration Center

1. Air Chief Marshal Dawee Chullasapya, Commander of Joint Administration Center. Chief of Staff of Supreme Command. See NEC above.

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2. General Surakij Mayalarp, Deputy Commander. Chief of Staff of RTA. See NEC above.

3. Air Chief Marshal Kamol Thejathunga, Deputy Commander. Chief of Staff of RTAF. See NEC above.

4. Vice Admiral Jit Sangkadun, Deputy Commander. Chief of Staff of RTN. See NEC above.

5. Lt. General Kriangsak Chomanan, Director of Joint Administration Center (JAC). Age 52. Deputy Chief of Staff of Supreme Command and a member of the Defense Planning and Policy Advisory Board to the NEC. Kriangsak was formerly Deputy Secretary General of the NEC Secretariat under General Krit. However, Krit succeeded in having Dawee-supporter Kriangsak moved out of the Secretariat, and Dawee has found this position for him. Former Senator.

6. Lt. General Boonchai Bamrungphong, Deputy Director of the JAC. Age 56. RTA Deputy Chief of Staff for Communist Suppression. Former Senator.

7. Vice Admiral Amorn Sirikaya. Deputy Director of the JAC. RTN Deputy Chief of Staff.

8. Air Marshal Prasong Khunadilok, Deputy Director of the JAC. RTAF Deputy Chief of Staff.

9. Lt. General Kamchon Chunathasut, Assistant Director of the JAC. Assigned to Supreme Command Headquarters.

10. Lt. General Saiyut Kerdphon, Assistant Director of the JAC. Age 50. Director of CSOD Operations Coordination Center and a member of the Defense Planning and Policy Advisory Board. Former Senator. Deputy Chief of Staff of RTA for Personnel.

11. Lt. General Serm Na Nakorn, Assistant Director of the JAC. See NSD above.

12. Rear Admiral Sathap Keyanon, Assistant Director of the JAC, Assistant Chief of Staff, for Operations, RTN.

13. Air Vice Marshal Phaniang Kantarat, Assistant Director of the JAC. Deputy Chief of Staff for Operations, RTAF.

14. Major General Thamrong Pansing, Assistant Director of the JAC. Commander of the Armed Forces Security Center and a member of the Intelligence Advisory Board.

15. Major General Phorn Dhanaphumi, Assistant Director of the JAC. Age 53. Deputy Commander of the First Army Area. Former Senator.

<u>Joint Intelligence Center and Intelligence Advisory Board, NSD</u>

1. Air Chief Marshal Dawee Chullasapya, Commander of Joint Intelligence Center (JIC). See NEC above.

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2. Major General Bunmag Desaputra, Deputy Commander of JIC and Chief of the Intelligence Advisory Board. Age 58. Director of the Department of Central Intelligence. Former Senator.

3. Police Lt. General Pote Bekananda, Deputy Commander of JIC and Deputy Chief of Intelligence Advisory Board. Age 58. Deputy Director General of National Police (number 3 position in police). Former Senator.

4. Lt. General Charoen Pongpanich, Director of the JIC and Deputy Chief of the Intelligence Advisory Board. Age 53. Chief of J-2 at Supreme Command and attached to the Secretariat of the NEC. A member of the Defense Planning and Policy Advisory Board to the NSD. Former Senator.

Defense Planning and Policy Advisory Board

This advisory board appears to provide much of the senior military leadership with an NEC position without necessarily giving them any authority. Included among the membership are many members of the NEC (see above), senior officers at the Ministry of Defense, and the CinC's, Deputy CinC's, Assistant CinC's, Chiefs of Staff, Deputy Chiefs of Staff and Assistant Chiefs of Staff of the Supreme Command and the military services excluding Thanom and Praphat.

The chiefs of the Defense Planning and Policy Advisors and the Staff of the Defense Planning and Policy Office include:

1. General Chitti Nawisathien, Chief of Advisors. Age 59. Chitti is Assistant Commander of the Supreme Command and a former Deputy Minister of Defense. He was one of six senior officers assigned to the "Revolutionary Headquarters" immediately after November 17 who were not named to the NEC. He is virtually incapacitated by ill health.

2. General Bunsak Wannamat, Deputy Chief of Advisors. Age 58. He was recently named Under Secretary of State of the Ministry of Defense. Not considered politically influential. Former Senator.

3. Air Chief Marshal Boonchoo Chandrubeksa, Deputy Chief of Advisors. See NEC above.

4. Admiral Thawin Rayanananda, Deputy Chief of Advisors. See NEC above.

5. General Wichai Phonganan, Advisor. Age 59. Deputy Under Secretary of State, Ministry of Defense. Former Senator.

6. General Thanom Pattamanon, Advisor and Chief of the Defense Planning and Policy Staff. Age 59. Deputy Chief of Staff of Supreme Command. He was one of six officers assigned to the "Revolutionary Headquarters" immediately after November 17 who were not named to the NEC. Former Senator.

7. General Bhisith Chaimuenwong, Advisor. Age 58. Deputy Chief of Staff of the Supreme Command. He was one of six senior officers assigned to the

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"Revolutionary Headquarters" immediately after November 17 who were not named to the NEC. Former Senator.

8. Vice Admiral Sangat Chaloryu, Advisor. Age 56. Deputy Chief of Staff of the Supreme Command. He was one of six senior officers assigned to the "Revolutionary Headquarters" immediately after the events of November 17 who were not assigned to the NEC. Former Senator.

9. General Krit Sivara, Advisor. See NEC above.

10. Admiral Kamol Sitakalin, Advisor. See NEC above.

11. Air Chief Marshal Siri Muangmanee, Advisor. See NEC above.

12. General Thuanchai Kosinanon, Advisor. Age 58. Assistant CinC, RTA and an Assistant Chief of Staff for CSOD. Former Senator.

13. General Thongcherm Sangkhawanit, Advisor. Age 59. Assistant CinC of RTA. He was one of six senior officers assigned to the "Revolutionary Headquarters" immediately after the events of November 17 who were not assigned to the NEC. A long-time supporter of Thanom. Former Senator.

14. Admiral Ying Srihong, Advisor. Age 59. Assistant CinC of RTN.

15. Air Chief Marshal Harin Hongsakun, Advisor. Age 58. Assistant CinC of RTAF. Former Senator.

16. General Surakij Mayalarp, Advisor. See NEC above.

17. Vice Admiral Jit Sangkadun, Advisor. See NEC above.

18. Air Chief Marshal Kamol Thejathunga, Advisor. See NEC above.

19. Lt. General Boonchai Bamrungphong, Advisor. See JAC above.

20. Lt. General Kriangsak Chomanan, Advisor. See JAC above.

21. Air Marshal Earn Khemasinkhi, Advisor. Age 55. Chief of J-1 at Supreme Command.

22. Lt. General Charoen Pongpanich, Advisor. See JIC above.

23. Vice Admiral Sonthi Bunyachai, Advisor. Age 54. Chief of J-4 at Supreme Command.

24. Lt. General Thip Thirathada, Advisor. Director of Finance Department, Ministry of Defense.

25. Lt. General Wek Chiao-wet, Advisor. Age 58. Director of the Budget Office at Supreme Command Headquarters.

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26. General Prasert Ruchirawong, Advisor in his capacity as Director General of National Police. See NEC above.

27. Major General Bunmag Desaputra, Advisor. See JIC above.

28. General Lek Naeomali, Advisor and Deputy Chief of the Defense Planning and Policy Staff. Age 60. Chief of General Staff/Forward, Supreme Command Headquarters.

29. Lt. General Saiyut Kerdphon, Advisor. See JAC above.

30. Lt. General Kan Rattanawaraka, Advisor, Assistant Chief of the Defense Planning and Policy Staff and Secretary to the Advisors. Age 59. Director of the Secretariat at the Ministry of Defense.

31. Lt. General Prasert Siphayat, Advisor. Assistant Chief of the Defense Planning and Policy Staff and Deputy Secretary to the Advisors. Age 57. Director of Joint Operations (J-3), Supreme Command.

Advisory Board for Interior Administration

This board is made up of senior Ministry of Interior personnel under the Chairmanship of Thawin Sunthornsaratun, one of Praphat's three deputies in the NSD.

Advisory Board for Interior Planning and Policy

This 13-member board is further assisted by numerous specialized committees staffed by many persons considered to be bright and capable comers. However, none yet stand out as future leaders. The following are significant members of the board:

1. Malai Huvanand, Chairman of the Advisory Board and of the Office of the Advisory Board. Age 61. Formerly an advisor to Minister of Interior Praphat and a close friend and political advisor to him also. Recently named to a new Advisory Council for Administrative Procedure. See above.

2. Major General Siri Siriyothin, Special Advisor. Formerly Speaker of the House of Representatives of the Thai Parliament and a government party leader. Recently named chairman of the new Advisory Council for Administrative Procedure. See above.

3. Winyu Angkanaraksa, Advisor. Recently named Governor and Lord Mayor of the newly-merged Bangkok and Thonburi provinces which have been combined into the "Bangkok-Thonburi Metropolitan City." Will be responsible for achieving results in one of the NEC's primary target areas.

4. Damrong Sunthornsaratun, Advisor. Governor of Chonburi Province.

5. Marut Bunnag, Advisor. President of Thai Bar Association.

6. Chaowat Sudlapha, Secretary to Advisors and Deputy Chief of the Office of the Advisory Board. See NSD above.

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DIRECTORATE FOR ECONOMIC AFFAIRS, FINANCE AND INDUSTRY

The three ministries of Economic Affairs, Finance and Industry were grouped into this one directorate to enhance NEC capabilities in formulating policies and programs pointed toward the objectives of the third five-year plan, which commenced on October 1, 1971. The directorate is headed by Field Marshal Thanom (former Deputy Prime Minister and Minister of National Development, see box above), and includes the following key individuals:

1. Prasit Kanchanawat, Deputy Director. Age 39. Formerly Deputy Minister of Economic Affairs, Prasit is a strong leader and probably the most capable authority in the directorate. He has been a long time associate of General Praphat, and during the last parliament proved to be an extremely effective and popular leader who had his own group of supporters. He also has access to very substantial financial resources from his connections with the Bangkok Bank, in which he is a director.

2. Dr. Amnuay Viravan. Age 38. Amnuay is third in command in the directorate, serving as secretary and chief liaison and coordination officer. Also General's protégé. Amnuay had been Secretary General of the Board of Investment from 1965 until February 1971, when he was appointed secretary general of the newly-organized Economic Cooperation Center (ECOCEN) of Asia and Pacific Council (ASPAC). By drawing him into the NEC structure, Thai has given an additional boost to Amnuay's career, which was already quite remarkable considering his youth.

Three substantive sections are included in the directorate, headed by the following:

3. Vicharn Nivatvongse. Age 45. Chief of the Industry and Commerce Unit, and Director General of the Foreign Trade Department, Ministry of Economic Affairs. He is considered a bright young man who combines considerable advanced training in economics in the United States with 19 years of experience in the ministry.

4. Chanchai Leethavorn. Age mid to late forties. Chief of the Monetary and Fiscal Affairs Unit, and continues to serve as Director of the Office of Fiscal Policy, Ministry of Finance. This additional responsibility for Chanchai correlates exactly with the subject matter he has been dealing with in the ministry since he returned from Manila in mid-1971 where he had been the Thai representative to the Asian Development Bank (ADB). He has spent most of his career in the ministry.

5. Prasong Sukhum. Age 40. Continuing the apparent emphasis on youth, the NEC has drawn Prasong from his regular assignment as Secretary General of the Office of Accelerated Rural Development (ARD) to become at the same time, Chief of the Economic and Fiscal Policy Planning and Promotion Unit of the Directorate. Prasong was trained in the United States where he received a BA from Dartmouth and an MBA from Harvard Business School. After almost ten years in the Bureau of the Budget, he moved to the Office of the Prime Minister in 1964 and in 1966 took over leadership of ARD.

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THE DIRECTORATE OF NATIONAL DEVELOPMENT, AGRICULTURE AND COMMUNICATIONS

The ministries of National Development, Agriculture and Communications are under a joint directorate headed by ACM Dawee. There is continuing speculation that the National Development Ministry may be dissolved and its divisions merged with the respective closely-associated ministries. The senior staff of the Directorate, made up of former deputy ministers and present under secretaries, is supported by advisory boards, one per ministry, and a secretariat. The boards include the directors-general and managers of all of the departments within the three ministries, which is to say that the leadership of the three ministries has not appreciably changed since the November 17 change in government. They include the following members:

1. Dr. Boonrod Binson, Deputy Director for Development. Age 55. Formerly Deputy Minister for National Development. Considered one of Thailand's most intelligent and able technocrats. He was the first Secretary General of the National Energy Authority, and is devoted to Southeast Asia regional development. His appointment as Deputy Minister in 1968 was highly controversial in a political sense, because Prasit Kanchanawat aspired to the same post.

2. Police Lt. General Pichai Kullawanit, Deputy Director for Agriculture. Age 66. A retired career police officer, he is reportedly close to Police DG Prasert. Pichai was also a Deputy Secretary General of the government's Saha Pracha Thai (SPT) Party before November 17, and concurrently Deputy Minister of Agriculture.

3. Rear Admiral Chalie Sindusopon, Deputy Director for Communications. Age 64. Former Deputy Minister of Communications, Chalie has had a varied career as a naval officer, politician and government official. He was a member of the 1932 Revolutionary Group. At various times Chalie was a strong supporter of Pridi, Phibun, a member of the Democrat Party, and worked with Sarit. He has held positions as Under Secretary of Industry, member of the National Economic Development Board (NEDB), member of the Executive Committee of the Board of Investment, and as an official attached to Government House.

4. Vija Setthabut, Assistant Director for Development. Age 57. Concurrently Under Secretary for National Development, there was considerable controversy over his appointment in 1971 to that position. At the time he was under investigation for corruption in his position as Director General of the Mineral Resources Department. He has since been declared innocent of such charges by the Police and NEC officials.

5. Prida Karnasut, Assistant Director for Agriculture. Age 51. Concurrently Under Secretary for Agriculture. Prida's expertise is in fisheries, but he is regarded as highly competent in all work covered by the ministry.

6. Dr. Sirilak Chandrangsu, Assistant Director for Communications. Age 54. Concurrently Under Secretary for Communications. A competent engineer, Sirilak has spent the greater part of his career in the Highways Department. He has been tough on air rights for U.S. carriers.

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DIRECTORATE FOR EDUCATION AND PUBLIC HEALTH

The ministries of Education and Public Health are combined under a single directorate headed by Police General Prasert Ruchirawong. Prasert retains the Public Health portfolio he held previously, continues as Director General of Police, and adds education to his responsibilities. His deputies in the directorate are the two under secretaries of the ministries:

1. Bunthin Atthakorn, Deputy Director for Education. Age 57. Concurrently Under Secretary for Education. A career ministry official, he is the brother of Bunchana, who was the last Minister of Economic Affairs. Unlike his brother, Bunthin has stayed out of controversies. He is a respected author of textbooks.

2. Dr. Kamol Phengsithong, Deputy Director of Public Health. Age 58. Concurrently Under Secretary of Public Health, Dr. Kamol is an expert in pharmacology and toxicology.

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