NATIONAL ARCHIVES

Authority NND 969000

ACTION

A-6

REP	AF
EUR	FE
CU 3	INR 5
P 2	IO
PC 13	AID 12
S/P 1	S/S 10
COM	FRB
LAB	TAR
XMB	AIR 5
CIA 20	NAVY 5
USIA 10	NSA 3

DEPARTMENT OF STATE

AIRGRAM

22 46

POL THAI-US
XR TP 6-1 THAI
XR PER UNGER,
FOR RM USE ONLY
LEONARD

A-715
NO.

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

HANDLING INDICATOR

RECEIVED
DEPARTMENT OF STATE
JAN 24 7 07 AM 1968
RS/AH
ANALYSIS BRANCH

TO : DEPARTMENT OF STATE

FROM : Amembassy BANGKOK

DATE: January 22, 1968

SUBJECT : Address by Ambassador to American Chamber of Commerce

REF : A. Bangkok USINFO 1948 17 January 1968
B. Embassy Tel 8962

Action Assigned to EA/TB
Action Taken Noted

Ambassador Unger spoke to the American Chamber of Commerce of Bangkok on January 17, 1968, continuing what has become an annual tradition. He used the occasion for a major stock-taking at year's end, by reviewing the close mutual support and cooperation of Thailand and the United States both with respect to regional objectives and our program and activities within Thailand. At the same time, he sought to set to rest misconceptions about Thailand arising from a tendency to involve this country in the US policy debate over Vietnam.

Ref A transmitted a full summary of the Ambassador's speech, which included emphasis on the following themes: a) Thailand and the US are equally determined to help bring about a final settlement in Vietnam that assures national freedom and fosters a return to a peaceful order in Southeast Asian affairs. b) In the face of externally supported insurgency, primarily in the northeast, many factors are working in Thailand's favor; given the increasing commitment of Thai resources to both suppression and development efforts, the insurgent efforts seem likely to meet with as little success in 1968 as in 1967. c) The US will continue to support and assist Thai programs; most of our efforts represent education in the broadest sense--teaching, technical training, and advisory services. d) Some 43,000 of the US military forces using Thai facilities and installations are here by mutual agreement, and virtually all of them relate to conduct of the Vietnam war; no US military elements are involved in the effort against Thai insurgency and the nature of American assistance to the Thai CI program does not lead toward operational involvement.

Decontrol Following July 22, 1968.

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

FOR DEPT. USE ONLY
[X] In [ ] Out

FORM DS-323
4-62

Contents and Classification Approved by:
POL:WCHamilton

by:
:WCHamilton:diw 1/22/68
es:

COPYFLO-PDR

DECLASSIFIED
Authority

CLASSIFIED
Authority NND 969000

e) The greater number of Thai and Americans working in close association adds new strains that will test our cordial and easy associations of the past; the long term results will be positive, in terms of the objectives Thailand and the US share of building security, stability and greater prosperity throughout the region.

The audience on January 17 was the largest recorded for a regular meeting of the American Chamber of Commerce in Thailand. The Ambassador's speech was extremely well received as a timely and important statement on Thai and American cooperation in pursuit of vital common goals in Southeast Asia--bringing out facts and comments of direct interest to American business representatives. The importance of the Ambassador's points, and the opportunity the Ambassador's speech gave to American business representatives to learn about the broad policy and actions underlying the American presence in Thailand, was underscored in the Chamber President's comments and in the comments of the audience after this meeting.

The two English-language Bangkok papers carried the text of the Ambassador's speech; three Thai papers--Prachatipatai, Siam Rath and Chao Thai--and all Chinese papers reported the speech or printed excerpts. As yet, no editorial comment has appeared.

A single, record copy of the Ambassador's address is enclosed with this report. Ten copies have been pouched for the attention of EA/T and 25 copies for P (Mr. O'Brien).

UNGER

ott SEC

Enclosure:

as stated.

DECLASSIFIED
Authority _____