# MEMORANDUM OF CONVERSATION

PARTICIPANTS: Mr. Semyon P. Dyukarev, Counselor of the Soviet Embassy, Bangkok.

Mr. Ali Teymour, Second Secretary of the United Arab Republic Embassy, Bangkok.

Mr. Ben F. Dixon, First Secretary of the American Embassy, Bangkok.

DATE: January 26, 1961

SUBJECT: A Rather General Discussion of Laos, Bangkok English Language Press, Films, and Personalities

Standing just off the end of the reception line at the Australian National Day reception was Semyon Dyukarev whom I had not seen since before Christmas. Ali Teymour, standing with him, started to introduce me but was interrupted by Dyukarev who said that I was one of his oldest friends in Bangkok. Mr. Dyukarev explained that we were very close. Facetiously he added that the Soviet Far East is very close to Alaska. Mr. Teymour laughed and asked if we had anything in common such as Laos. Mr. Dyukarev made a wry face. Teymour said that the United States had accepted the International Control Commission (ICC) for Laos. Would the Soviets also accept the Commission? Dyukarev said that they approved of the Commission but were not sure what it could do in respect of Laos. Teymour continued to press for further information, and Dyukarev said in a rather exasperated way that the United States and the Soviet Union should stick together and not answer any more questions because all Mr. Teymour wished to do was to get information for a report. I replied that, speaking for myself, I rather gathered that the Soviets seemed to be in the "maybe" position of the joke about the diplomat and the woman regarding the ICC and Laos. I asked Dyukarev if the Soviet "maybe" should be considered from the point of view of a diplomat or a woman. Dyukarev retorted that the United States "does not know how to say maybe, only to say yes or no".

Apparently in an effort to make small talk Dyukarev began to discuss the English language press in a rather carping fashion. He said that he had been greatly amused by the "Bangkok World" citing the recent articles about "Prostitutes Being Taught Another Trade". The aphrodisiac chocolates which Interior Minister Praphas had described in a press statement as being normal chocolate but billed as aphrodisiac for reasons of advertising. Dyukarev implied that Praphas had called them ordinary chocolate in order to keep them himself. He also referred to the article in which the new Paramount Theatre had advertised that its lost and found department had gathered up a number of articles including brassieres and male and female underpants which could be claimed. After a real belly laugh he said this indicates the kind of influence which American movies exerted. Mr. Teymour remarked that he had seen the movie "G. I. Blues",

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with Elvis Presley, which he considered "a very bad influence." I stated that I had not seen the movie but that Presley was a very young but talented performer. His films were light entertainment, but it seemed to be going too far to say that they were a bad influence.

Adverting again to the Far East for some reason, Dyukarev explained that Vladivostok was in their Far East Republic, and reminisced somewhat about his assignment at Vladivostok where he was associated with Angus Ward. Angus Ward, he said, was a very precise and forceful diplomat (he said this in such a way as to imply that other diplomats were not). Mr. Dyukarev laughed and said that this forcefulness had got him in trouble in China where he had beaten some of his servants. I asked Mr. Dyukarev if Mr. Ward had ever beaten him because I was sure he must have deserved one at one time or another. Mr. Dyukarev said in surprise that Mr. Ward had never beaten him. This development in the conversation was abruptly ended by the Soviet Ambassador who walked in the middle of the group at this moment and told Dyukarev to call for his car (the Ambassador's) and addressed some rather sharp-sounding statements in Russian to him. Dyukarev meekly went off to do the bidding.

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