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LEGATION OF
THE UNITED STATES OF AMERICA
Bangkok, February 7, 1941

No. 49

Excellency:

Confirming the opinion which I expressed to Your Excellency a few days ago in the course of our conversation regarding the alleged importation of airplanes from the United States into Indochina, I wish to inform Your Excellency's Government that I have made an investigation of the report which was published in several Thai newspapers, including the Thai Seri Daily News, Krungdeb Varasab, and the Srikrung Daily News, and I can give assurance that this report is absolutely without foundation. No American airplanes have been received in Indochina as alleged, and no American airplanes are expected there according to information which I have received from authoritative sources.

I wish to call Your Excellency's attention to the fact that the publication of such reports is unfair to my country and is calculated to cause an unfriendly feeling towards my Government and country on the part of Thai citizens who read such reports. It would be appreciated if Your Excellency's Government would consider taking the necessary steps to correct this report and to prevent the publication of such reports in the future since according to my further information, the report was given out to certain newspapers through the Thai Publicity Department.

Sincerely yours,

Hugh G. Grant
American Minister

His Thai Majesty's Deputy
Minister of Foreign Affairs

CONFIDENTIAL

September 30, 1940.

Memorandum of Conversation between the Minister and His Excellency Nai Direck, Deputy Minister of Foreign Affairs

I asked Nai Direck if there were any new developments, or any reply or indication of early reply from Vichy. He replied in negative. He then said that the French community had petitioned the French Minister here in support of the Thai claim in Indochina. I inquired as to who the people were and he replied that he thought the Thai advisers who are French had initiated the matter and that the French Apostolic delegate in Bangkok was also interested and had or would present a petition. He said that the Thai government would ask for burial expenses for the Siamese merchant who was killed in Indochina last week. Nai Direck indicated he feared more trouble with French planes on the frontier. He said the "French seemed to be excited over there."

Nai Direck brought up the matter of the purchase of 100 planes from an American firm which had agreed to sell them to Finland and now is agreeable to sell them to Thailand if there is no embargo. Did I know anything about this? I replied I had no official information concerning any embargoes, but I understood that in connection with our defense plans there were some embargoes or would be, but that I thought such plans were based on licenses and furthermore the definite policy had not yet been worked out since the defense program in the United States was very recent and there were important policies still to be worked out.

I inquired if the Thai government had anything to say or had received any communication concerning the new pact between Japan and the Axis powers. He replied in the negative and seemed reluctant to talk about it or to give any expression of opinion. I then talked personally with him on the subject to the effect that I thought Japan had made a serious mistake, that she stood

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to lose more ultimately than she could possibly gain from this pact. I said it seemed to give Japan a free reign theoretically in East Asia and this program if carried through created dangers for Thailand. Domination of this general area by any one nation was a direct threat to Thailand, I said, and the Thais could depend upon it that Japan was looking out for the interests of Japan in any such program, and that ultimately the free and independent country of Thailand would suffer. I described how Italy had used "honey" phrases with Albania, pretending to be a friend and all the time undermining the independence of the country until one fine day her army came over and took over the whole country. The Thais would do well to be on the look out, I suggested.

Hugh G. Grant
American Minister

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