DECLASSIFIED
Authority NND969044

ACTION

INR/B 16		
	LIIN 5	EA 4
	CU	INR 5
	P	IO 5
	FBO	AID
S/S 10		PM 2
	COM	FRB
	LAB	TAR
	XMB	AIR 5
	CIA	NAVY 5
	USIA 10	NSA 3
		NSC 6

COPYFLO-PBR

DEPARTMENT OF STATE

AIRGRAM

20

POL 17 THAI-NETH
XR POL 17 THAI-BENELUX

FOR OFFICIAL USE ONLY

A-208
NO.

CONFIDENTIAL/NOFORN
HANDLING INDICATOR

1

TO : Department of State

RECEIVED
APR 13

INFO; BRUSSELS, LUXEMBOURG, THE HAGUE, USUN, USEC

FROM : Amembassy BANGKOK

DATE: APRIL 9, 1970

SUBJECT : Sompong Sucharitkul Appointed Ambassador to Benelux Countries

REF :

The Ministry of Foreign Affairs has announced the appointment of Dr. Sompong Sucharitkul as Ambassador to the Benelux countries, resident at The Hague, and he is expected to arrive at his post during April. As one of his principal duties, Dr. Sompong plans to study the Common Market with a view to expanding Thai exports.

This will represent the first appointment abroad for one of the most brilliant of Thailand's new-generation diplomats and is clearly designed to provide representational seasoning for him after a career wholly concentrated in the Ministry (though with extensive international conference experience). He has been earmarked for a foreign post for more than two years, and USUN (where he is known from membership in past UNGA delegations) will be relieved that despite well grounded rumors he has now been assigned elsewhere -- the reason for the switch reportedly being that Foreign Minister Thanat desires to keep Ambassador Anand Panyarachun in New York while there remains any possibility that the UN may become involved in a Vietnam settlement.

Sompong goes to The Hague after some two years as Director General of the Economic Department in the Ministry. His preceding assignments were as Secretary to the Foreign Minister (Thanat) and Director of the SEATO Division, and through them he developed a close and apparently effective relationship with Thanat. Although no one makes policy for Thanat, Sompong is probably one of the most weighty subordinate (some would say mischievous) influences upon him. He has acted in his current assignment as though he had greater freedom for decision than any other Director General, and at the same time has been able to

GROUP 3

Downgraded at 12-year intervals, not automatically declassified.

CONFIDENTIAL/NOFORN

FOR DEPT. USE ONLY
X In ☐ Out

FORM 4-62 DS-323.

ted by: POL:DCFerguson/WCHamilton:lji 4/7/70
ranc
ECON:KBekker; DCM:NBHannah

Contents and Classification Approved by:
POL:WCHamilton

DECLASSIFIED
Authority

...T THE NATIONAL ARCHIVES

DECLASSIFIED
Authority NND969044

insert himself (or has been asked by Thanat to do so) into a number of matters outside his nominal field of responsibility.

Both his hosts and diplomatic colleagues will find Sompong, who is well known to this Embassy, alternately engaging and difficult. He and his capable wife, Taitow, can be socially charming, with wide-ranging interests and at home in a European cultural environment. Professionally, Sompong is quick and highly intelligent, a vigorous negotiator capable both of cogent argument and deliberate abrasion and irascibility. He is intolerant of mediocrity wherever he thinks he sees it, among foreigners or his own people, and as a result is respected in circles where he is not popular.

Dr. Sompong is highly nationalistic. Without attempting any clinical analysis, we are inclined to attribute the excesses to which this impulse sometimes carries him to a) his extensive foreign education, which sets him wide apart from most of his society in outlook as well as ability, and b) his partly Chinese extraction. He thus has two good reasons to demonstrate constantly to his peers, and indeed to himself, that he is a "good Thai". We understand that Sompong's Chinese forebear, already married into the Thai community, was one of the first Chinese to be taken directly into the service of the Thai Court. The family has now been prominent in government service through several generations. An uncle, Chitti Sucharitkul, reached the highest career position in the Foreign Ministry, Under Secretary, and was recalled from retirement to join the March 1969 Thanom government as Deputy Minister of Foreign Affairs.

Dr. Sompong has demonstrated his assertiveness over the past few months when, in the process of clearing his "In Box," he has had a large if not dominant role in:

a) making unduly difficult the negotiation of an amendment to the route annex of the Thai-U.S. air bilateral, to which he succeeded in adding unnecessary heat by artificial insertion of unrelated matters concerning traffic restrictions on established routes;

b) the sudden abrogation by the RTG of existing friendship and commercial treaties with some 17 nations (A-129 of March 5 to Department), which will leave his successor with a full year's work; Sompong may reap some of his own harvest, however, as the countries facing renegotiation include the three to which he will be accredited;

c) obfuscating a small U.S.-Thai problem involving duty-free importation of components of reconstituted milk for use by our military forces, on

Authority

POL THAI-US

Department of State **TELEGRAM**

CONFIDENTIAL **ACTION COPY**

ZFF4
GKOK
KONG IMMEDIATE 1759
ATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 5093

8294Q
1971 MAY 28 1254Z

5/28/71

CORRECTED COPY

Bangkok Tel. 7420 Dunn

T I A L BANGKOK 7420

7420

PENING OF BUSINESS

'S ONLY

OF UNDER SECRETARY'S TALK WITH DEPUTY
ME MINISTER POTE SARASIN

DER SECRETARY IRWIN PAIS APPROXIMATELY
ON DEPUTY PRIME MINISTER AND MINISTER FOR
MENT POTE SARASIN. THE UNDER SECRETARY WAS
ASSISTANT SECRETARY GREEN, DEPUTY ASSISTANT
AMB UNGER AND FSO COLEBAUGH.

CRETARY OPNED THE DISCUSSION WITH THE
AT THE CHIEFS OF MISSION CONFERENCE IN BAGUIO
RESSED ABOUT JAPANESE ECONOMIC AID IN
WHAT THE JAPANEEE REFER TO AS "AID" AP-
GELY COMMERCIAL CREDITS AND THE US WANTS
CREASE TRUE AID AND ASSISTANCE, AS UNDOUBTEDLY
LSO AND THE OTHER COUNTRIES IN THE AREA.
TARY ASKED POTE FOR HIS APPRAISAL OF

D THAT WITH HER BOOMING ECONOMY JAPAN
TO GIVE AID. HOWEVER, JAPANESE DO NOT LOOK
THE US AND EUROPEAN COUNTRIES. JAPAN
MORE IN RETURN. AS A RESULT OF THIS ATTITUDE
THE JAPANESE, THERE IS A TENDENCY ON THE PART
LLOK ON JAPANESE AS "GHOSTS", WITH MEMORIES
ERITY SPHERE AND WORLD WAR II, JEALOUS OF
Y AND FEARFUL OF THEIR MOTIVES.

D THAT ONCE AGREEMENTS ARE REACHED THE
ARD AND WELL TO CARRY THEM OUT, BUT NOTED
SE ARE HARD BARGAINERS. POTE EMPHASIZED
EVERTHELESS MUST WORK WITH THE JAPANESE:
MPORTANT TO PUSH ASIDE; WE ARE AFRAID IF
ITH THEM, THE JAPANESE WILL TAKE UP ARMS

D WITHOUT THE AUTHORIZATION OF THE EXECUTIVE SECRETARY

CONFIDENTIAL

POL
2-13-70
THAI-US