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MEMORANDUM

THE WHITE HOUSE
WASHINGTON

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DATE: March 31, 1969
PLACE: The White House

3/31/69

President
From -

MEMORANDUM OF CONVERSATION

Air Chief Marshal Dawee of Thailand

The President
Richard L. Sneider, NSC Senior Staff Member
General Walters

POL THAI-US

The President recalled his past trips to Thailand and associations with Dawee. He then asked Dawee's views on current conditions in Thailand.

Thailand

He said the Communist threat in Northern Thailand was getting worse. He had just visited the area five days ago and found the Communist threat increasing. The Communists are equipped with the most modern equipment supplied by the Chinese and Russians. They are coming in through Laos and are supported by both the Chinese and the North Vietnamese. Thailand was prepared to fight the subversive threat, but needed modern weapons, not American soldiers.

Vietnam

Dawee said that the situation in Vietnam was still difficult. There, as well, Communists have the latest weapons given to them by the Chinese and the Russians. He urged that we give the Vietnamese the most modern weapons as well. The President expressed appreciation and admiration for the Thai forces in Vietnam.

Laos

Dawee felt that the situation in Laos was also getting worse, particularly in the northern part of Laos. When asked about the Laos Government, he said that this situation had improved and that Souvanna had united the neutralists and right-wing forces under his leadership and the Laos Government was doing well. However, Communist pressure is increasing.

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Cambodia

Dawee said that Sihanouk is showing signs of being frightened by the current situation. He cannot cope with the Communist forces infiltrating in his country, who could take it over. Sihanouk has already made some gestures towards Thailand but he has only extended his hand part way. Until he extends it all the way, Thailand cannot resume relations with Cambodia since Cambodia had taken the steps to break relations. However, he hopes to meet with General Lol Nol some place along the Thai-Cambodia border in the near future as a further step toward improving relations.

When he was departing, Marshal Dawee gave the President a letter from the King of Thailand.

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