DECLASSIFIED
Authority NND 969000

Appd & by RLBrown, 9/30/69, NYC
Drafted: EAP/MCA
WHClark, Jr.:MCA
9/25/69

15390

SECRET NODIS

SECRET/NODIS
Secretary/MC/122
September 25, 1969

SECRETARY'S DELEGATION
TO THE
TWENTY-FOURTH SESSION OF THE
UNITED NATIONS GENERAL ASSEMBLY
NEW YORK, September, 1969

MEMORANDUM OF CONVERSATION

Date: September 23, 1969

Time: 12:30

Place: US Mission

SUBJECT: Secretary's Bilateral Meeting with Foreign Minister Thanat on September 23, 1969 -- U.S. Policy in Asia (Part 5 of 6)

PARTICIPANTS:

U.S.: The Secretary
Amb. Yost
Mr. Clark

FOREIGN: FonMin Thanat
Amb. to UN Anand
Amb. Designate to US Sunthorn
Spec. Asst. to the FonMin Birobhangse

DISTRIBUTION:

S	CIA
U	DOD
J	VP
D	EA
C	USUN
S/S	Amembassy BANGKOK
S/PC	
INR/OD	
WH	

Thanat discussed US policy in Asia and said he agreed with the US policy of making gestures to the other side, including the replacement of certain US forces. However, he stressed the need for the US to maintain a strong position in Asia and said if we did so, he was sure something positive would result. The Secretary reiterated the President's position, we would hold a strong position in Asia, and would not move from that stance. Thanat said even the French, who have not always been with us on Asian matters, feel North Viet Nam

DECLASSIFIED
Authority

ED AT THE NATIONAL ARCHIVES

DECLASSIFIED
Authority NND 969000

may soon make some positive move. However, he was sure they would ask for concessions when they did.

Thanat then asked if it would be possible for his Government to have more advance notice on troop replacement. The Secretary said we certainly would wish to have full consultation as early as possible with the Thai. He said we would consult if there were any change in B-52 operations, but at present we saw no change in prospect. He asked if Thanat was concerned over the 36-hour pause in B-52 operations or over the complete cessation of such operations. Thanat said his main concern was cessation. The Secretary said that we see no possibility of that at the present time. With respect to the next troop replacement increment, we certainly hoped to have more time for our consultation with the Thai Government. The Secretary stressed the difficulty we encounter with leaks, such as the recent one by Vice President Ky in Saigon, and the way such advance word can circumscribe the President's flexibility. He said the President wishes to be in a position to alter his stance as events occur. However, we would tell the Thai in advance. We hope to have these troop reductions occur on a three-to-four month interval without establishing a fixed time frame. Thus, we would be considering the next troop replacement increment sometime in mid-November and would talk to the Thai Government at that time. Thanat agreed it was indeed a difficult problem considering the amount of public opposition and the inclination of the press to build these matters up.

The Secretary then asked Thanat if his Government was considering any reduction of its forces in Viet Nam. Thanat replied they were not currently doing so and would certainly not make any reduction without full consultation with their allies in Viet Nam and, in particular, with the Government of South Viet Nam. In any case, he said, they would not withdraw forces unless they were sure it would not have an adverse effect on the Vietnamese situation. The Secretary said he appreciated the Thai position and realized the need for a strong military posture within Thailand. Thanat agreed this was the case and said troops may very well be needed in the Northeast. The Secretary said the major problem in troop withdrawal would probably come from the Australians. The Koreans have indicated they would leave their forces in Viet Nam as long as required. However, Australian Prime Minister Gorton has said his troop contribution is an integrated unit and cannot be partially reduced. If reductions were necessary, the Australian contingent would have to be removed altogether, or not at all. However, if the Australians decided to remove their ground forces, they would leave naval and air elements to continue in Viet Nam.

DECLASSIFIED
Authority _____