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September 25, 1969

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Date: 7/6/76 19

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.-Soviet Talks (Part 4 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

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Thanat asked if there had been any results from the Secretary's dinner with Soviet Foreign Minister Gromyko the previous evening. In particular, if there had been anything new on Viet Nam. The Secretary said there had been nothing new. He had not raised Viet Nam since we had made it clear previously we would appreciate any assistance the USSR wished to provide to aid in obtaining a settlement there. We now had to avoid appearing to push too hard or giving the impression that we might be panicky, which we were not.

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As a result neither Viet Nam nor China was discussed. The Secretary said his impression was that the Russians had not settled on their foreign policy position at this time and were thus vague and up in the air on many issues. Thanat said he had listened to Foreign Minister Gromyko's address at the GA and, with no bias, did not think it was a very good speech. Ambassador Yost said at least the speech was less violent in tone than had been the case in the past. The Secretary said the tone had also been good at the dinner and there had been no arguments. They said they would reply soon on the SALT talks and asked that we not prod them.

The Secretary said the Russian proposal on a European security conference was equally vague. Thanat asked if what they intended was abolition of both NATO and the Warsaw alliance. The Secretary said no, they had not been that definite. They only said they wished a big conference on security to reduce tension. Thanat said the proposed security arrangement did not appear clear, although they said it would not be against China or the US. He went on to say that one Asian Foreign Minister who was in Moscow recently told him he had seen no change in the Russian position. The Secretary agreed that their suggestions were vague and said the same had been true of their proposed Asian Security Pact. People all over the world had asked for clarification, but to our knowledge, no one had received any definite answer. Thanat said the Gromyko speech was the same and there was, in fact, nothing of substance. Thanat then mentioned the Soviet proposal to start Aeroflot service to Thailand. The Secretary replied that they seemed willing only to provide goodwill, but had not given any help on Vietnam. He said they might help on the Middle East, but it was still too early to tell. Thanat agreed that on the Middle East they might find themselves in a position where they could do nothing but help.

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