DECLASSIFIED
Authority NND969044

W I T H D R A W A L N O T I C E

SANITIZED COPY ATTACHED
10/30/08

TAB #: 9

RG: 059

ENTRY: 1613

1 / 18 / C / ------
COPIES/PPS/CLASS/SPECMAR
REGRADED:

BOX: 2623

ACCESS RESTRICTED

The item identified below has been withdrawn from this file:

Folder Title: POL 23 THAI 2/5/72

Document Date: 18/05/72

Document Ser.#:

AGRAM A-3 FR AMEMB BANGKOK TO DEPT OF STATE

In the review of this file this item was removed because access to it is restricted. Restrictions on records in the National Archives are state general and specific record group restriction statements which are avai for examination. The item identified above has been withdrawn because contains:

X Security Classified Information

WITHDRAWN: 08/11/98 by: tjh

NND: 969044

FOIA RETRIEVAL #: 969044 02623 00009

Authority
NARA ARCHIVES

DECLASSIFIED
Authority NND969044

POL 23-2

(21)

SECRET

MEMORANDUM OF CONVERSATION

American Embassy-Bangkok

4/24/72

Bangkok

SUBJECT: Insurgency

PARTICIPANTS: Deputy Assistant Secretary for East Asian and Pacific Affairs, Arthur W. Hummel, Jr.
Ambassador Unger
Field Marshal Thanom Kittikachorn, Chairman, National Executive Council (NEC).
Air Chief Marshal Dawee Chullasapya, Director for Development, Communications and Agriculture, NEC.
Charunphan Isarangkun, Under Secretary of State for Foreign Affairs.
Harold F. Colebaugh, Second Secretary, U.S. Embassy.

PLACE & DATE: Government House, Bangkok, April 24, 1972

COPIES TO: AMB, DCM, POL-4, MC, DS, SA, POMIL, DAO, ECON, USOM, FILES-2. UDORN, CHIANG MAI, SONGKHLA. Department: EA/TB, INR/REA, Ambassador Hummel.

POL 23 THAI XR POL THAI-US

Deputy Assistant Secretary Hummel asked Field Marshal Thanom for his estimate of the insurgency. Thanom answered that the insurgency in Thailand is "under control." He pointed to the recent Phu Kwang operation in the North as an example of RTG efforts against the CT's. Thanom also noted that Operation Phu Kwang was possible because of additional funds made available to the RTG through expanded US assistance programs such as PL-480 sales. Thanom noted that Phu Kwang cost approximately Baht four million for 10 days.

Describing the situation in the North, Thanom said that a number of CT camps have been captured in the Tri-Province area. "Chinese refugees" (CIF) are being used to oppose the CT's in Chiang Rai. In Nan the Cavalry Division is continuing its operations and has captured a considerable number of automatic weapons. In Tak there has been some hostile hilltribe activity. Thanom particularly mentioned ambushes of roadbuilding teams.

Turning to the South, Thanom mentioned that recent operations have resulted in the capture of several camps which will make it more difficult for CT's to train new recruits. He noted that efforts are being made to cut supplies received from local inhabitants. He claimed public opinion has turned against the CT's in the southern provinces because many people who had been attracted by offers of high pay and high positions have since defected from CT ranks when promises were not made good. This has resulted, he said, in more people joining local defense forces. They are also working better, according to Thanom. In this regard Thanom also mentioned the Village Self Defense Units (VSDU) trained in Prachuap, as well as the Volunteer Defense Corps (VDC).

SECRET

(2)

POL: H F Colebaugh: bb

DECLASSIFIED
Authority

THE NATIONAL ARCHIVES

DECLASSIFIED
Authority NND969044

Deputy Assistant Secretary Hummel asked about the situation in the Northeast. Thanom mentioned Nakae District, Nakhon Phanom Province, and the Phu Phan mountains are the principal areas of CT activity. He said troops have been operating in the area and have captured a camp large enough to handle 300 men. He said that General Praphat has a "new plan" specifically designed to counter the CT's (CSOC Plan 14/15). In this connection he observed that the CT's have very good intelligence in both the Northeast and the South. The Ambassador asked if the CSOC Plan included a coordinated use of the police and other forces available (e.g. VDC and VDSU) as well as civilians against the CT's. Thanom said that it does and pointed to the operation in Nakae District where all forces are under one command. Deputy Assistant Secretary Hummel also emphasized the importance of a coordinated approach to the insurgency with a single commander utilizing all resources available.

Thanom mentioned the problem of the North Vietnamese refugees in the Northeast. He said there are some 30,000 Vietnamese who could fight against Thailand and said an estimated 12,000 are "real Communists." When asked if there was evidence to support an active role by the North Vietnamese refugees in the insurgency, Thanom listed several examples of North Vietnamese fund-gathering efforts. Ambassador Unger observed that while there is ample evidence of their fund-gathering activities he was aware so far of little evidence the Vietnamese refugees are actively engaged in the insurgency against Thailand.

Amb. Unger

POL:HFColebaugh:bb

Approved: Ambassador Hummel (in draft)

DECLASSIFIED
Authority

TIONAL ARCHIVES