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American Embassy,
Bangkok, Thailand,
September 29, 1959.

Dear Clinton:

You will have received by this time a rather long and rambling memorandum of conversation between the Ambassador, Prince Wong, Phya Srivisarn and me about the King's visit. In fact, the conversation was even more disjointed than the memo would indicate; I had to put all sorts of bits and pieces together in writing it up.

Now several things apropos of the visit:

1. I asked the Ambassador what he thought would be the best type of communication between the Embassy and the Department on this subject. He thought the despatch would be the best means, although recognizing that the official informal letter would be more appropriate for certain subjects. From the departmental point of view, is this the most useful form? I will, incidentally, send a despatch asking for answers to several question raised in the memo of conversation referred to above, e.g., the Order of Chakri and the President's grandchildren.

2. The King's ADC, General Luang Suranarong, came to see the Ambassador over the week-end, and among other things asked if we had a road atlas of the United States that we could give the King. The Ambassador told me to write you asking that you (the Department) buy copies of the Rand McNally Road Atlas of the US, Canada and Mexico ($1.75) and the New Rand McNally Vacation Guide of the US, Canada and Mexico ($1.95) and pouch them out to us; you'd better put my name on the transmittal slip so they won't go astray.

3. I don't know if the Ambassador has written to anyone on the subject of the King's interest in jazz, and how this interest might be gratified in a reasonably dignified manner during the visit. It was touched on briefly in the September 23rd conversation, both in the sense that his interest is one of the few things known about the King in the US, and in the Ambassador's suggestion that the King might attend the current musical hit while in New York. In this connection, you may recall the short interview with Jack Teagarden in the New Yorker's Talk of the Town

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Anthony Clinton Swesey, Esquire,
Officer in Charge, Thailand Affairs,
Department of State,
Washington, D.C.

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350.1 Kings Visit to US.

9-29-59

several months ago. Do you have any thoughts on what might appropriately be done? From the point of view of ensuring that the King is pleased with the visit, I suppose that something special should be arranged, and I am sure that American musicians would cooperate. On the other hand, they would probably want some publicity on the subject, and we don't want this to get out of hand.

Sincerely,

John I. Getz

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