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To: Department of State

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A-180

1972 MAY 1 PM 2 05

HANDLING INDICATOR

TO : Department of State

INFO: HELSINKI, STOCKHOLM, VIENTIANE

Division Assigned to EA/TB

Action Taken

DATE May 17, 1972

Action Office Symbol

Name of Officer

FROM : Amembassy BANGKOK

SUBJECT : Thai National Liberation Movement

REF :

1. [redacted] the RTG is aware of and following developments in the so-called Thai National Liberation Movement, which surfaced in Helsinki soon after the November 17, 1971 change of government in Thailand. The movement has been characterized as a group of disaffected students who are seeking to generate significant anti-National Executive Council (NEC) activity in Thailand and abroad. One manifestation of their intent is the formation of a so-called "Thai People's Provisional Government."

2. The Liberation Movement has appealed for support primarily in the student community. We have an indication, however, that Dr. Puey Ungphakon, a significant figure in the Thai intellectual community with great influence among students, temporarily resident in England, (see Bangkok A-134, April 12) was approached, but turned down a request from students and others abroad to associate with a "government-in-exile." [redacted] The group that approached Puey is based in Paris. That group may or may not be coordinating activities with the Liberation Movement.

A communique of the Liberation Movement (Enclosure 1) reports that a conference was held in Helsinki December 10, 1971 to bring together "patriotic Thai students of various persuasions to discuss ways to alter the situation currently facing our country." The same communique, issued on February 15, 1972, reports that a more recent meeting was held in Thailand, bringing together representatives of a broad cross-section of the Thai community, including civil servants, military and police personnel. (Comment. There is no verification that this second meeting was actually held.)

Enclosure:
1. Communique of Thai National Liberation Movement.
2. Report of the meeting of Thai patriots.

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FORM DS-323 10-64

Drafted by:	Drafting Date:	Phone No.:	Contents and Classification Approved by:
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Clearances:
POL:Mr. Suggs

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By: John Clagett
Date: 07-29-2014

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3. The Movement accuses the present NEC leadership of being a "bunch of traitors who have subjected the people to tyranny, persecution, harsh treatment, and injustice." They go on to accuse the "American imperialists" of turning Thailand into a new-style colony, tricking Thai troops into fighting in neighboring countries, drawing the enemy to Thailand's doors. The Movement has circulated a letter to parents of Thai soldiers sent to fight in Laos, claiming that the office of the movement's representative is ready to contact and look after the well-being of Thai POW's. A letter allegedly written and signed by a Thai POW - Sgt. Suan Dokkhamtai - taken prisoner at Phu Keng on December 20, 1971, accuses the Thai Government and the U.S. of duping him to fight for the Lao army.

4. Also included in the Movement propaganda is an appeal to those who "revere the King to petition him to do something for the people." The Movement supports the continued existence of the monarchy and of the role of the King as chief of state, and suggests that the people petition the King to "crack down on the traitors," since it is "easier for him to do it than it is for our Movement or Provisional Government." In another report (Enclosure 2) the Movement severely criticized the King for "signing too many constitutions" and supporting the NEC.

5. The Movement claims in its propaganda that it is not Communist. Its nomenclature, however, is heavily, probably intentionally, leftist. Its appeal to all classes to cooperate with the Liberation Movement is obviously designed to attract support from the socialist camp.

6. At the present time the Thai National Liberation Movement poses no real threat. It may have some potential for mischief, however, among students abroad. Thai Embassies and Consulates exercise little or no control over the activities of Thai students abroad, except for those under government sponsorship, who in any case would not be the likely participants in this Movement.

7. Embassy Bangkok is interested in obtaining any other information addressees may have on the Thai National Liberation Movement.

8. FOR STOCKHOLM. The communique gives the following overseas mailing address - Sjosavagen 73, 12437 Bandhagen, Sweden.

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Communique of the Thai National Liberation Movement on the Establishment of a Thai People's Provisional Government

As reported in the Movement's previous communique, Helsinki, Finland was the site for the 10 December 71 conference arranged by the Thai National Liberation Movement Committee for representatives of patriotic Thai students of various persuasions to discuss ways to alter the situation currently facing our country.

More recently the committee of representatives of patriotic Thai students and representatives of committees for labor, paddy farmers, teachers in prachaban schools, civil servants, military and police personnel, businessmen, the monkhood and patriotic citizens in general held another meeting in Thailand, and after listening to the views of their fellow Thais from all social classes and all walks of life, issued a unanimous call to check Thailand's deteriorating economic, political and social situation, to alleviate the hardships facing everyone from the actions of a bunch of traitors who have subjected the people to tyranny, persecution, harsh treatment and injustice and used Thailand as a military and logistical support base for the American imperialists and turned Thailand into a new-style colony, tricking Thai troops into fighting in neighboring countries which simply draws the enemy to our doors and is turning Thailand into a battle-found which can only spell catastrophe for our beloved country.

/For these reasons/ a Thai People's Provisional Government should be established.

1. Basic Policy:

1) Total independence
2) Full democracy
3) Neutrality
4) Bringing about the happiness and well-being of the people
5) Improving the economy to insure that the Thai people have adequate food and housing.

2. The Provisional Government emphatically insists that it is not communist. We hold that the wishes of the Thai people are paramount in determining the system of administration, economics, politics and society and as such are different from communist countries.

3. The Provisional Government will be happy to cooperate with political parties and citizens of all classes who love this land and who share the views of the Thai National Liberation Movement as outlined above.

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Inparticular to those MPs who were victims of the so-called "NEC's" illegal action in abrogating the constitution and dissolving parliament, we wish to assure you that in our eyes those assemblymen constitutionally elected to office are still entitled to membership in parliament and we invite those MPs who love this land and who are unwilling to become tools of the revolutionary traitors to join our Movement and the Provisional Government. We feel that only certain MPs were engaged in graft and corruption, while the majority were good men.

4. The Provisional Government is situated in Thailand at a secret location. As the situation lends itself to our coming into the open, we will keep you informed.

Anyone wishing to contact us to cooperate with the Movement and with the Provisional Government is invited to try to contact a representative of the /Provisional/ Government to the extent that it is possible for our representatives to reveal their identity. If you find it difficult or impossible to contact the Provisional Government in Thailand at this time, please get in touch with the office of the representative of the Thai National Liberation Movement abroad at the following address:

Representative of the
Thai National Liberation Movement
Sjösavägen 73
124 37 Bandhagen
Sweden

15 February 1972

(Phairot Siriratkun)

Secretary-General,
Thai National Liberation Movement

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Report of the Meeting of Thai Patriots

Since the military traitor group, led by Field Marshal Thanom Kittikachorn, took power and abrogated the constitution which took more than ten years of drafting and brought back the barbarous dictatorial regime for the Thai people in order to solve the present problems, we the Thai National Liberation Front therefore set up a meeting. This meeting is attended by the Thai patriotic students in order to discuss the problems facing the Thai people.

Report of the meeting:

Helsinki, Finland
December 10, 1971

Attendants:

Mr. Suphote Bunnak, representative of the Thai students in the central part of Thailand and Thai patriotic students in North Europe.
Mr. Chantha Saenkaeola, representative of the Thai students in the north of Thailand and Thai patriotic students in West Europe.
Mr. Somchai Kamdee, representative of the Thai students in the Northeast of Thailand and Thai patriotic students in South Europe.
Mr. Haji Ahwang Abdullah, the representative of Thai Islamic students and Thai patriotic students in South Europe.
Mr. Kitcha Techasawat, the representative of Thai students of the southern part of Thailand and Thai patriotic students in the United States.

The meeting passed the following resolutions:

1. Appointing Mr. Kitcha Techasawat as chairman of the meeting and Mr. Somchai Kamdee as secretary.
2. Discussing the situation of Thailand, we agreed that every Thai, including the King, are considered as patriots if they care for national interest more than personal interest, and they must be brave to reject the behavior of the traitors and corrupt persons. He who holds the highest or lowest positions, but dare not reject them, shall be regarded as accessories to the national traitors.
3. We are worried about the constitution system in Thailand because the King has signed his name to too many constitutions. When compared with the former kings, he is very different from them.

    1) During the reign of King Rama Seven, or King Pok Klao, there were two constitutions: The 1932 Temporary Provisional Constitution of Siamese Kingdom which was promulgated on June 27, later this Provision Constitution was replaced by the Permanent Constitution on December 10, 1932. The second constitution had been used for fourteen years and it was the longest lasting constitution we ever had. Later it was replaced by the 10 May 1946 constitution in the reign of King Rama Eight, or King Anandha Mahidol.

    2) During the reign of King Rama Eight, or King Anandha Mahidol, the 10 December 1932 constitution was still used. It was later replaced by the 10 May 1946 constitution which authorized the National Assembly composed of the Senate and the House of Representatives.

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But the present King has broken the world record by promulgating too many constitutions as listed below.

A. The 9 November 1957 constitution which was generally called "The Under the Jar Constitution" was drafted by the coup d'etat group.
B. The 23 January 1949 constitution with the Senate appointed by the King.
C. The 6 December 1951 constitution.
D. The 1932 constitution was then used once again, but it was corrected under the desire of the coup d'etat group.
E. The Dictatorial 6 January 1959 constitution.
F. The 1968 constitution, which took more than ten years to draft.
G. And many other constitutions which are beyond our ability to describe.
H. The King has agreed with the 17 November 1971 Revolution by saying that it is good to have a dictatorial administration regime. And the Revolutionary Group said that the temporary constitution shall be promulgated soon. The King has signed his name once again, and he may sign in other many constitutions in the future.

4. Those present are asked to return to seek a public opinion. Who must be responsible for this unusual situation? What should we do with such people in order to maintain our country and the welfare of Thai people?
5. Those present agreed to have the next meeting held in Cuba.

(Signed) Mr. Kitcha Techasawat
Chairman of the meeting

Mr. Somchai Kamdee
Secretary

Agreed to unanimously.

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