DEPARTMENT OF STATE

Memorandum of Conversation

DIVISION OF FAR EASTERN AFFAIRS

DATE: October 18, 1940.

SUBJECT: Export of airplanes to Thailand

PARTICIPANTS: The Thai Minister
and
Mr. Hamilton

REFERENCE TO:

FE:PO 1-1403

The Thai Minister called at his request. He referred to two previous conversations during which I had informed him that (a) this Government had decided to permit the export of certain aircraft to Thailand and (b) that this Government had been obliged to revoke the license for export to Thailand of ten dive bombers now at Manila to meet our national defense needs. The Minister recalled that I had previously said that the planes which this Government was not taking over were training planes. He said that he had received a telegram from his Foreign Office in which it was stated that at the time the Thai Government placed the order for the ten dive bombers now at Manila it had also purchased six NA-50 single-seat fighters. The Thai

Government

Government desired to ascertain whether this Government would also be obliged to revoke the license for the exportation of the six single-seat fighters. If so, the Thai Government wished to have knowledge of that fact in order that arrangements for repayment to the Thai Government for both lots of planes might be made at the same time.

I told the Minister that I had not previously made any comment to him in regard to the six single-seat fighters; that the comment which I had first made to him related to the five Fairchild training planes, which had probably been exported by this time, and to the ten dive bombers at Manila. I said that I thought that this Government would probably find it necessary to revoke the export license for the six single-seat fighters to meet national defense needs. The Minister asked whether I could let him know definitely, and I replied that I would be glad to look into the matter with a view to informing him either today or tomorrow.

The Minister raised an additional question with regard to Colt guns which he understood formed part of the equipment of the airplanes. He asked that he be informed whether the license for the export of these guns would

would also be revoked. I replied that I assumed that the guns would also be taken over for national defense needs but that I would check on this point also.

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Note: After consultation with Mr. Green of Co, I telephoned the Thai Minister this morning and informed him that I had ascertained that my surmise of yesterday was correct and that this Government was taking steps to revoke the export license for the six single-seat fighters to meet national defense needs. I added that the revocation of licenses would cover also spare parts for the airplanes. The Minister thanked me for communicating this information to him.

FE:MMH:MRS