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EA/TB: AEBergesen
(Drafting Office and Officer)

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DEPARTMENT OF STATE

Approved by: WGB
WGBrown

Memorandum of Conversation

DATE: 4:30 p.m. May 27, 1970

Ambassador Brown's office

SUBJECT: Courtesy Call by General Krit Sivara

PARTICIPANTS:
General Krit Sivara, Deputy Commander-in-Chief, Royal Thai Army
Major General Prasert Dhamsiri, CG First Infantry Division
Ambassador Sunthorn Hongladarom
Colonel Parmote Thavornchan, Military Attache, Royal Thai Embassy
Ambassador Winthrop Brown, Deputy Assistant Secretary, EA
Alf E. Bergesen, EA/TB

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General Krit noted that he and his party were visiting Army establishments and had just come from Fort Belvoir. He had also had a very good call on General Westmoreland. They had left Bangkok April 18 and arrived in Washington from Europe on May 26.

Ambassador Brown asked whether there had been much talk about Cambodia in Europe. General Krit said yes, and added that they had been able to bring out in these conversations a number of facts about the situation in the area that their interlocutors hadn't known before.

Ambassador Brown noted that many people in this country tended to forget the origins and purpose of our presence in South East Asia. However, we had found that some, at least, of the students with whom we had spoken were willing to listen.

General Krit said that he was convinced from contacts between Thai and U.S. personnel that U.S. soldiers would not want to see a precipitate withdrawal. Their losses would then be for nothing. The U.S.'s NATO Allies were also anxious for us to keep troops in South East Asia.

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