
350 POL AFFAIRS (A-Z) (U) 1961

AIRGRAM

Foreign Service of the United States of America

OUTGOING

A-19

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Date Sent: 21 July 1961

FROM: Amembassy BANGKOK

TO: Secstate WASHINGTON

NO: A-19

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350 Pol Aff Laos Kbn

Fonmin Thanat Khoman made following points to press July 13:

a. Statements General MacArthur made in Philippines on Commies and Laos (presumably that uncertainty of West in making decisions in Laos would plague West as had similar state of affairs in Korea) deserve careful consideration. "I feel they true to situations in past and present. With regard Laos in particular, pro-Commies had little military strength at first but later Commies poured both military personnel and weapons into Laos until today pro-Commies have advantage and greater strength than Royal Lao Gvt. At same time, Free World has no definite policy and lacks courage to make decision. Indeed, there are devisive opinions and obstructions (in Free World). Lao situation therefore alarming."

b. Soviets claim that increase in Soviet military budget and refusal reduce armaments is in response US military buildup. This however only propaganda with object of increasing international tension. Actually US finds it necessary improve its military stance because of attitude of Soviets, who increasingly intransigent on Berlin, on nuclear controls and on general disarmament. It will result in race in nuclear and conventional weapons and in size of forces.

c. Recent Soviet-Korean and Sino-Korean agreements indicate both Commie powers want establish condominium in North Korea and stabilize Commie empire. Maybe North Korea will be used as base for expansion Commie power and influence.

Thanat made following points to press several days later (BANGKOK POST July 18 said "today" but Thai-language press carried July 15):

a. Thailand has not yet determined its attitude with regard recognition Outer Mongolia and its admission into UN because problem has not yet arisen.

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b. Thailand has nothing to gain or lose in this matter but is interested in general way. "Thailand does not see clearly how opening diplomatic relations with Outer Mongolia would benefit Free World. On contrary, there may be adverse effects on attitudes of peoples who have faith in ideals of Free World."

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POL:WWHitchcock:ls
July 19, 1961

AIRGRAM

Foreign Service of the United States of America

OUTGOING

Phnom Penh 6-164 350 AR Cambodia Army Neutral Status

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DATE SENT: 6-12-61

FROM: Amembassy, PHNOM PENH

TO: Secstate WASHINGTON

NO: G-322

DNR EAP IR WRH JSR
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RPTD INFO: AMEMBASSY BANGKOK G-164 — AMEMBASSY VIENTIANE G-139
AMEMBASSY NEW DELHI G-20 AMCONSUL GENEVA G-04
AMEMBASSY RANGOON G-05 CINCPAC POLAD G-158
AMEMBASSY SAIGON G-184

Geneva for PECON.

	ACT.	INF.
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ADCM		✓
POL/T	✓	
ECON		✓
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ACTION NOTE

Information Ministry daily bulletin (AKP, Agence Khmere de Presse) June 11 reprints editorial from daily Depeche June 10 entitled "Concerning the Belt of Neutral States." Embassy translation (no unnecessary words):

"Idea of creating belt of neutral states, composed of Cambodia and eventually Thailand, Burma and India in order create buffer between East and West and consolidate peace, is on no account 'interference into internal affairs of Thailand' and even less a maneuver 'inspired by Communists' as Marshal Sarit Thanarat has declared. We fully respect sovereignty of Thailand and never allow ourselves criticize its decisions. We understand perfectly that should Laos have little chance enjoy true neutrality -- and this may well be correct --, grave threat would weigh on countries of Southeast Asia, beginning with nations which have common frontiers with that country. SEATO, despite all its promises, evidently does not possess means effectively defend its Asian allies. It cannot, in consequence, do other than draw reprisals from Communist world. Belt of neutrals occupying all South Asia, from Indus to Mekong, would separate two rival blocs. These states would assure their own security, not only by material and moral strength they represent, but also because they would take away both from Communists and Occidentals any serious reason for intervening in this region. Formation of this belt conceivable only with participation of Thailand, country having strong army and good administration. It up to Thailand reconsider this idea and see where its true interests lie."

COMMENT: Editorial originally appeared over initials of extreme leftist Tep Chhieu Kheng, assistant editor of Depeche, city's most important daily. Appearance in AKP appears indicate general approval in RKG circles of editorial's approach, which

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hardly surprising since Sihanouk himself has mentioned at Geneva possible neutralization of Thailand. Cambodians have been quick to sense Thai dissatisfaction with SEATO failure so far intervene effectively in Laos and to take advantage of resulting reports that Thais may be willing consider neutrality. Complimentary remarks on Thai army and administration most unusual in Cambodian press, but statement that Thai decisions never criticized a fatuous exaggeration, to say least.

TRIMBLE

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