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E.O. 11652: XGDS-2-EEM
TAGS: PFOR, TH, UR

Declassified
Authority: 28158
By: Alan Lipton Date: 10-20-2008

FROM :American Embassy BANGKOK DATE: April 10, 1973

SUBJECT :Visit of Soviet Foreign Trade Mission

REF :Bangkok 4518

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UNCLASSIFIED: A scheduled three-day official visit by a Soviet Trade Mission, headed by Trade Minister Nikolai S. PATOLICHEV, was cut to one day by the Minister upon arrival in Bangkok on March 22. No official reason was given for the sudden change in the scheduled length of stay. A lunch on March 22 with members of Thailand's Board of Trade was also cancelled and no meeting with the press was held.

Patolichev did meet with Minister of Commerce Prasit Kanchanuwat for one hour the afternoon of March 22 and a reception was hosted by Prasit that evening. The Mission departed during the morning of March 23.

Press coverage of the shortened visit was sparse with articles mainly quoting Ministry of Commerce officials' statements that Mission had indicated USSR is prepared to assist Thailand in building irrigation dams and steel smelting plants, and desires increased trade with Thailand. END UNCLASSIFIED.

CONFIDENTIAL: Asa Sarasin, Secretary to the Foreign Minister, told Political Counselor that the MFA had no role in the visit and that there were no political implications arising from the visit.

Asa said Ministry of Commerce officials thought that visit could be helpful from a strictly trade standpoi

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However, the Soviets wanted to sell more products here and wanted the RTG to facilitate increased sales. Asa said that since the RTG has no state trading enterprise, it would be difficult to influence an increase in the sale of Soviet products. End CONFIDENTIAL

SECRET/NO FOREIGN DISSEM: [redacted] Minister of Commerce Prasit thought Soviet Minister Patolichev seemed singularly unprepared for substantive discussions. [redacted] had agreed to increase purchases from Thailand after subject brought up by the Thai but Prasit stated that he doubted USSR would follow through. There was no mention of follow-up meetings with local Soviet trade officials and the Thai plan to wait for further action from the Soviet side. End ~~SECRET~~/NO FOREIGN DISSEM.

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