DECLASSIFIED
Authority NND969014

CONTROL DISTRIBUTION
MADE IN S/S-I
Date OCT 6 1972
Initial

SECRET

DEPARTMENT OF STATE

Section I of II
Approved in S by Mr. Lissy
10/6/72

7215906

Memorandum of Conversation

DATE: October 2, 1972
3:00 p.m.
The Secretary's office

SUBJECT: Thai Contact with the PRC

RS/R FILES
Attention MRS MULLETT
Keep this study together.

PARTICIPANTS:

Pote Sarasin, Assistant Chairman, National Executive Council, Thailand
H.E. Anand Panyarachun, Thai Ambassador to the United States
Mr. Wichian Watanakun, First Secretary, Thai Embassy

The Secretary of State
Alf E. Bergesen, Acting Director, EA/TB

COPIES TO: S S/PC Embassy Saigon
U INR AmConsul Hong Kong
J EA
S/S Embassy Bangkok

The Secretary asked Pote about the Thai contact with the PRC. Pote said they had had to refuse the initial invitation to China which, in any case, was non-governmental, because Thailand was not a member (note: of the Asian Table Tennis Union). A few days later word came that Thailand had been made a member and so it was decided to send a team. Prasit Kanchanawat, whom Pote described as "my deputy", was sent with the team. When Prasit arrived the Chinese took special care of him, e.g., separate accommodations. His midnight meeting with Chou En-Lai was without any forewarning as to the personage involved. It was a correct and formal meeting. Chou sent best regards to His Majesty the King and Field Marshal Thanom. Pote noted as interesting one item that Chou mentioned, that the Thai must be very careful about Russian interest in the Kra Canal. The Chinese, Pote said, evidently tried to be very nice to the Thai visitors.

EA/TB:AEBergesen:fm:10/3/72
(Drafting Office and Officer)

FORM DS-1254 2-65

SECRET

MICROFILMED BY S/S-I

POL 7 THAI XR POL CHICOM - THAI
XR CUL 16 THAI

DECLASSIFIED
Authority

DECLASSIFIED
Authority NND 969044

Prasit told the Chinese that the Thai were worried about terrorists. The Thai people, he said, assumed that the Chinese were supporting the insurgents. Chou said "we" had nothing to do with this but would continue to support freedom fighters. After the tournament there was a tour of south China for the team and its advisors and Chou again appeared at the farewell party. Pote said that the Thai were not yet certain of Chinese motives. The Chinese understood that Thailand had good relations with the U.S.

In response to the Secretary's query about Chinese support of liberation movements, Pote noted that Bangladesh was a liberation movement, but the Chinese did not support it. The Secretary said that in his conversations in Peking the Chinese told him they favored "liberation and turmoil." He wondered about Africa, which obviously needed peace and stability far more. Pote said that Prasit had noted that there was no case for liberation in Thailand and the subject was then dropped.

DECLASSIFIED
Authority