

DECLASSIFIED

E.O. 12356, Sec. 3.4

NEJ 94-403By LBJ, NARA, Date 10-24-95~~SECRET~~

Friday, October 6, 1967

MEMORANDUM FOR THE PRESIDENT

SUBJECT: Visit by Thai Minister Thanat and Pote Sarasin

Foreign Minister Thanat and Development Minister Pote Sarasin will call on you at 12:30 P.M. today.

Thanat delivered a strong defense of our Viet-Nam position in a UN speech yesterday. Pote is a long-time friend of the U.S. You have met them both before.

You may wish to:

- 1) welcome them to Washington and express appreciation for Thailand's economic progress and its cooperation with us.
- 2) congratulate Thanat on his good speech yesterday.
- 3) ask for their impressions of the UN.

Items of interest that may come up:

- 1) Thai troop contribution

Their 2300-man unit has arrived in Viet-Nam. We are discussing an additional 8500 in Bangkok. You may wish to underline the desirability of a prompt Thai decision and announcement. I suggest this be discussed not as a U.S. request, but as a step important to Thailand's own security.

- 2) Regional Development

Thanat played a key role in forming ASEAN (Association of Southeast Asia Nations). Congratulations are in order. You may wish to refer to your message to Congress asking \$200 million for the Asian Bank Special Fund.

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3) Thai Economic Development

Minister Pote has been the chief architect of Thai economic policies. Their growth rate has averaged 9% over the last 5 years. You may wish to congratulate them on their achievements and promise continued U.S. cooperation with others in helping them.

4) Thai Internal Security

You may wish to ask them for their estimate of the insurgency. They are determined to deal with it as a Thai responsibility. They are integrating civil, police and military elements. We strongly approve their approach.

They may raise the question of U.S. security commitment to Thailand. They are somewhat nervous about our staying-power in Southeast Asia.

You may wish to state:

Our commitment to Thailand is clear and we intend to keep it.

The above matters are covered in more detail in Secretary Rusk's memo (attached).

Regarding a press release, it is the Thai's strong wish that there be no press release or joint statements. But we can be sure that Thanat's and Pote's statements in the U.S. will be strong and positive and useful.

W. W. Rostow

Att.

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SAC
THE SECRETARY OF STATE
WASHINGTON

October 4, 1967

~~SECRET/EXDIS~~

MEMORANDUM FOR THE PRESIDENT

Subject: Your Appointment with Minister of National Development Pote Sarasin and Minister of Foreign Affairs Thanat Khoman of Thailand.

You have agreed to meet these two Thai civilian leaders on Friday, October 6, at 12:30 p.m. You will recall that you met with the same two leaders together just a year ago. Thanat is here for the UN, and Pote is here to speak at a major economic meeting in New York.

Enclosed are talking points for your possible use, together with biographical material, and a possible press release.

You should also know that Clark Clifford will be lunching with Pote on the preceding day. We will arrange with Mr. Clifford to pass on any special points that arise at that meeting.

Dean Rusk

Dean Rusk

Enclosures:

1. Talking Points
2. Biographical Material
3. Possible Press Release

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NIJ 91-524

By sig NARA Date 6-5-92

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not automatically declassified.