

Monday,

November 20, 1967

Pres file

MEMORANDUM FOR THE PRESIDENT

SUBJECT: Letter to Thai Prime Minister

Following up on your instructions, we have redone the proposed letter to the Thai Prime Minister. The note of urgency which you suggested is contained in the new second paragraph. This, I think, should do it. State has approved this text.

W. W. Rostow

Att.

Text approved _____

Text disapproved _____

See me _____

November 20, 1967

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Dear Mr. Prime Minister:

I have learned with great satisfaction of your Government's decision to send a division of Thai troops to Viet-Nam. In your letter to me of September 21, you noted that Thailand had never felt more conscious of its responsibilities for the maintenance of peace and stability in Southeast Asia. I congratulate you on your Government's present action, which demonstrates to the world how seriously Thailand regards its responsibilities. It also shows that Thailand recognizes the aggression against South Viet-Nam as a threat to Thailand and to the entire region of Southeast Asia.

As you know, in response to General Westmoreland's request, we have raised the level of United States forces in Viet-Nam to 525,000 men and are making every effort to deploy these troops to the field as rapidly as possible. I hope that for your part, it would be possible to dispatch your most welcome contribution to Viet-Nam at the earliest possible date. Ambassador Unger and General McCown are prepared to render any necessary assistance in this connection.

I am aware of your concern over the threat to your security from Communist activities within your borders. As you know, we are continuing to seek ways to assist you in meeting this problem.

Sincerely,

/s/ Lyndon B. Johnson

His Excellency
Field Marshal Thanom Kittikachorn
Prime Minister of Thailand
Government House
Bangkok

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