

MITROPS EDUCATIONAL FOUNDATION MAD 7 22-3-68 (AA)

Saturday 9 March 1968, the Mitrops Educational Foundation performed one of its many fund raising skydiving and parachute demonstrations, Nonthaburi, 13 miles from Bangkok, Thailand. The fund was started in 1961, when a Thai Officer and an American adviser visited a local school and seen the shape the roof was in during a rain storm. On 4 July 1961 operation Mitrops was began with private and commercial donations plus parachute demonstrations from Thai and U.S. Army personnel.

Dignitaries of the State, Provinces, Town, and military officials come to view the fund raising programs. The Foundation isn't a official function of either the Thai or U.S. government, but its activities are approved at the highest level to include the Prime Minister of Thailand and President Johnson.

The last to leave the plane are the people one Thai, the other U.S. each carrying the flag of the other country, which is raised on flag poles after the two men touch ground. Following the two national anthems of the opening ceremony four parachutist leave the plane at a time, these include the Army Seacor team and female military personnel. Last are the skydivers.

Once the military cover team is on the ground a match will be played between the local champs and the military team. Camping between 3 and 10 days to see the game and parachute demonstration, the Mitrops Foundation gets the money to build the schools. At Saturday's meet about 14,000 people were present including MG Donald L. Mc Conn CG of U.S. Forces in Thailand, who gave a donation to the fund. To date the Foundation has acquired enough money to build a four room school house in 50 of the countries 71 provinces.