

For the Record

May 8, 1970

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Conclusions Drawn From Trip to Thailand

The following were among the major conclusions reached by the Public Safety Evaluation Team during its trip to Thailand between April 5, 1970 and May 1, 1970:

1. Need for clearer U.S. policy.
2. Assuming present U.S. policy is to promote internal security in Thailand, then improvement of the Thai national police is highly desirable.
3. A public safety program is therefore relevant.
4. The office of the SA/CI should be strengthened.
5. The TNPd is expected to increase at a rate of 3,000 to 4,000 men per year for five years, topping off at about 90,000 men. Despite this increase, no requirement for increase in funding levels is foreseen.
6. Procurement of helicopters should be initiated at this time.
7. Generally speaking, the TNPd needs leadership and organization and training more than it needs U.S. resources. It does, however, need Thai budgetary support.
8. Within PSD, certain advisory slots should be abolished as soon as practical and certain new slots created.
9. For the majority of field positions, candidate should be required to successfully complete FSI Thai language program before proceeding to the field.
10. The Mission should reexamine the local currency support now given the U.S. advisers.
11. Limited original issue of equipment should be provided to support extension of the TNPd, almost entirely limited to the BPP and BP.

12. The BPP and SAF should receive some M-16's from either Thai or U.S. resources.

13. Each element of the TNPD has its own vertical command with no lateral communication at local levels. Thoroughgoing reorganization is needed. The TNPD has some leaders of impressive quality in the middle and upper ranks. Nevertheless, the current structure is unwieldy, particularly in the counterinsurgency field. Although some 4,000 insurgents, half of whom are not even ethnic Thais, cannot now constitute a significant threat to the security of Thailand or its present government, nowhere, with the possible exception of the northeast, are the teams really on top of the insurgency problem. Each area has its specific characteristics and own problems.

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