

Williams

Roderic O'Connor, AA/EA

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Ogden Williams, O/FSI (USOM/Thailand)

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I arrived in Bangkok last night very late and called on Phil Batson, Chief, Public Safety Division, at 0900 this morning. He informed me that a meeting was held on 15 June with Director General Prasert at which Newman, Hill, and he were present. I understand that there has been a telegraphic summary of this conversation from Newman which you may have seen. Batson is checking the accuracy of his own record of the meeting and will also check it out with the Thais. I hope to get this to you soonest.

I explained the problem in Washington and that anything Public Safety could do to show a contribution to solving the problem would not only be useful in itself but would also tend to safeguard availability of funds of the program. Public Safety has available ceiling and could no doubt request one special advisor and some equipment, if this would be good cosmetics. In fact, Public Safety already has experienced narcotics people on their staff, specifically Ralph Lampe and Gerald Greeley. Also, in fact, the Thai Police really don't need more manpower of their own or equipment in Batson's opinion. Any new program inputs should clearly be predicated on Thai agreement that they could use the help. Such agreement may be a bit problematical because it is widely felt that the Thai Police themselves are mixed up in the narcotics traffic. In the area of psychology and tactics, Batson feels that the Thai will not respond to appeals to help us. There is more hope that they could be motivated by stressing their own drug problem. They have one but it is not necessarily heroin and rather embraces the whole spectrum from opium, marijuana, to pep pills. Of possible interest, Pow Sarasin is leaving for Europe today and it is suspected but not yet confirmed that his trip is related to the drug problem. As you know, Pow handles TNPD liaison with the U.N. narcotics people.

It is felt here that Newman, the Ambassador's designee in charge of drug matters with the Thais, is not inclined to let USAID get into the drug act. He may have notions about Public Safety programs based on previous experience.

Enclosed is the informal and not yet fully checked out memo of conversation of the 15 June meeting.

Finally, please treat this memo as privileged information between us. I wish to get the word to you as rapidly as possible in each case, and to do that must avoid internal coordination within the Mission which would otherwise be normal. This places my informants in a potentially delicate situation which I know you will protect.

Attachment
AD/PS Draft Memo of Conversation
6/16/71