

Thailand & Laos

Status of Thailand on 19th of September, 2006

Coup occurred the night of the 19th by Sonthi Boonyaratkalin, Army Chief while the Prime Minister, Thaksin Shinawatra was in New York giving a speech to the United Nations.

He sent troops and tanks around the country and into Bangkok to take over the government and proceeded to remove Thaksin's close aids, classmates, and friends from offices. They were put in house arrest and all major government buildings, banks, and telecommunications were under Fourth Cavalry Battalion's control. M-41 "A" tanks were placed in strategic locations. Other military artillery pieces were also strategically located. Villagers were ordered to obtain permission to travel. Radio and T.V. Stations were ordered to avoid divisive comments and to promote harmony.

Thaksin, the former Prime Minister was charged with corruption and malfeasance, abuse of power, conflict of interest and non-payment of taxes. The Anti-corruption Commission had previously charged Thaksin of hiding dollars from his taxes in 2,000. According to the Bangkok Post, 91.83% of the Thais supported the Coup. Thaksin was the Ted Turner mogul of Thailand with the ownership of the Satellite Communications. He had also sold some of the Satellites to Singapore.

Thailand

1860 – Gave up Cambodia and Laos

1940 – Premier Field-Marshal changed the name from Siam to Thailand.

1970 - Population of 33,693,000 in Thailand and 1.8 million in Bangkok.

Land size of 198,000 sq. miles (Texas-261,000, Cal. – 155,000)

Tourism – 300,000 (Japanese, US, England)

Industry – Cement, Sugar, Paper, Tobacco, Cotton, Gunny bags

Tin Ore, Fluorite Ore, Gypsum, Lead, Iron, Lignite, Manganese,

Satellite Communication, Communication, Highway, Railway.

Rice, Maize, Rubber, Tapioca pellets, , Cassava, Coconuts

Teak, Yang, Fishery (marine/fresh) Buffalo, Oxen, Pigs, Chickens, Ducks

Baht 20.9: \$1 US

Status of Thailand in 2006

Thailand opened the new Suvarnabhumi Airport on September 28th at 3:00 A.M. It was estimated to cost \$4 B and is the 18th largest in the World. They estimated they will have 40 million passengers, 90 international carriers, and can handle 76 planes per hour on two 2 ½ mile runways. It will replace Don Muang Airport that had been in operation for 92 years!

Some General Statistics about Thailand:

Birth Rate- 16.6/1000 births, 30.5/1000 deaths.

Thai – 75%, Chinese 14%, 11% Other

Religion: Buddhist 94.4%, Islam 4%, Hindu 1.1%

Education 93% Literacy

Exports: Tin, textiles, fish, rice, tapioca, jewellery, electrical, furniture,

Construction 7%, Ag. 13%, Industrial 32% and Services 48%

2006 Estimated Economic Growth of 3.5% (Oil prices, increased consumption of India/China.

Today's tourists are from Europe, United States, Japan, China, South Korea, and Russia. Warm temperatures, great beaches, tourist activities, scenery, and prostitution draw the tourist to Thailand.

Things to see: Shopping centers, Buddhist Temples, Cultural events, Floating Market, Rose Garden, Jim Thompson's House (Silk), Long Tail Boat excursions, zoo, restaurants, evening markets (Patpong Road) and travel by boat, train and air.

A brief Trip to Laos

Education: 45% literacy

Population: 6 Million (68% Lao Loum, 22% Lao Theung, 9% Lao Seung, 1% Vietnamese.

85% Buddhist, 15% Animist

Currency- Lao Kip 10,000 kip: 1\$ US

91,428 sq. miles in size (Oregon or Kansas)

\$ 6400 / per capita

*shrimp, rubber
rice, sugar cane*

\$ 700 / per capita

37.8/1000 birth, 92.9/1000 infant death Life Expectancy 57.6 Female, 53.4 Male

Agriculture: sweet potatoes, vegetables, corn coffee, sugar cane, tobacco, cotton, tea, water buffalo, pigs, cattle and poultry.

Industry: tin, gypsum, timber, electric power, agricultural processing, construction, garments (cloth)

Exports: wood products, garments, electricity, coffee, tin.

Major trading: Vietnam, Thailand, Germany, France, Belgium, Japan, China, Singapore, Hong Kong

18th Century to 19th Century Laos was under the Kingdom of Siam.

19th Century Laos was part of French Indochina.

1907 Franco-Siamese Treaty defined the Borders.

1975 Communist Pathet Lao established a strict socialist regime close to Vietnam.