

Message Text

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

PAGE 01 BANGKO 27768 061627Z

44

ACTION EA-09

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 EAE-00 SSO-00 NSCE-00 USIE-00 INRE-00

CIAE-00 PM-04 H-02 INR-07 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01

PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15 OMB-01 A-01 OPR-02 OC-06 CCO-00

DHA-02 SCS-03 SCA-01 SY-05 AID-05 /076 W

----- 085869

O R 061650Z OCT 76

FM AMEMBASSY BANGKOK

TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 4338

INFO AMCONGEN HONG KONG IMMEDIATE

CINCPAC HONOLULU IMMEDIATE

DIA WASHDC IMMEDIATE

AMEMBASSY JAKARTA

AMEMBASSY KUALA LUMPUR

AMEMBASSY MANILA

AMEMBASSY SINGAPORE

AMEMBASSY VIENTIANE

AMEMBASSY RANGOON

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE BANGKOK 27768

CINCPAC ALSO FOR POLAD

AMCONGEN HONG KONG PASS TO USDLO FOR CNO

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: PGOV, PINT, TH

SUMMARY

AT 1900 LOCAL TIME OCT 6 ADMINISTRATION REFORM PARTY (ARP)
HEADED BY ADMIRAL SA-NGAT CHALOYU (SUPREME COMMANDER OF
THAI ARMED FORCES TILL SEPT 30 AND MINISTER OF DEFENSE IN
SENI GOVERNMENT AS FROM OCT 5) ANNOUNCED IT HAD SEIZED
ADMINISTRATIVE POWER IN THAILAND AS OF 1800. SERIES OF
LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

PAGE 02 BANGKO 27768 061627Z

ORDERS ISSUED SINCE THEN HAVE PROCLAIMED MARTIAL LAW AND HAVE

SET OUT USUAL MEASURES ASSOCIATED WITH MILITARY COUP. FBIS IS CARRYING TEXTS OF DECREES AND ORDERS AS THEY ARE ISSUED. FOL IS BRIEF DESCRIPTION OF PRINCIPAL ORDERS AND DECREES ISSUED TO DATE.
END SUMMARY

1. AT 1900 LOCAL TIME OCT 6 ADMINISTRATIVE REFORM PARTY HEADED BY ADMIRAL SA-NGAT CHALOYU (SUPREME COMMANDER OF THAI ARMED FORCES TILL SEPT 30 AND MINISTER OF DEFENSE IN SENI GOVERNMENT AS FROM OCT T) ANNOUNCED IT HAS SEIZED ADMINISTRATIVE POWER IN THAILAND AS OF 1800 LOCAL TIME.

2. INITIAL ANNOUNCEMENT DESCRIBES DANGER FACING THE COUNTRY AS COMING FROM GROUP OF STUDENTS WHO HAVE COMMITTED ACT OF LESE MAJESTE (REFERENCE TO MOCK HANGING AT THAMMASAT UNIVERSITY OCT 4 AT WHICH STUDEN WHO ACTED AS HANGING VICTIM BORE SUPERFICIAL RESEMBLANCE TO CROWN PRINCE). STUDENTS AIM STATED TO BE TO DESTROY MONARCHY AS PART OF COMMUNIST SCHEME. STUDENTS RESISTED ARREST AND FOUGHT BACK WITH WEAPONS "IN LEAGUE WITH VIETNAMESE COMMUNIST TERRORISTS." CERTAIN POLITICIANS AND SECTION OF THE MEDIA "HAVE STRONGLY AND OPENLY SUPPORTED THIS MOVEMENT," CREATING SERIOUS SITUATION WHICH HAS PREVENTED GOVERNMENT FROM ADMINISTERING THE COUNTRY ACCORDING TO CONSTITUTION. ADMINISTRATION REFORM PARTY STATES IT HAS SEIZED ADMINISTRATIVE POWER TO RESOLVE THESE PROBLEMS PROMPTLY, "FOR THE SAKE OF THE SURVIVAL OF THE NATION AND IN ORDER TO PREVENT THAILAND FROM BECOMING THE PREY OF THE COMMUNIST IMPERIALISTS...." STATEMENT GOES ON TO PLEDGE ADMINISTRATION REFORM PARTY TO PROTECT KING AND THE ROYAL FAMILY AND RECOGNIZES KING AS HEAD OF STATE. ADMINISTRATION REFORM PARTY PLEDGES TO "MAINTAIN A DEMOCRATIC FORM OF GOVERNMENT." SUBSEQUENT ANNOUNCEMENT OFFERS PROTECTION TO PRIME MINISTER SENI PRAMOT, AND LATER STATEMENT UNDERTAKES TO HONOR UNITED NATIONS CHARTER AND THAI INTERNATIONAL OBLIGATIONS.

3. SERIES OF NUMBERED ORDERS ISSUED BY ARP COVERS FOL SUBJECTS:

ORDER NO 1 (MILITARY COURTS TO HANDLE OFFENSES STIPULATED IN CRIMINAL CODE; CRIMINAL AND PROVINCIAL COURTS IN BANGKOK AREA PLACED UNDER BANGKOK MILITARY COURT; CIVILIAN AUDGES APPOINTED LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

PAGE 03 BANGKO 27768 061627Z

MILITARY JUDGES). ORDER NO. 2 (AIR CHIEF MARSHAL KAMON DACHATUNGHA--WHO ASSUMED OFFICE AS SUPREME COMMANDER OF ROYAL THAI ARMED FORCES OCT 1--APPOINTED COMMANDER OF PEACEKEEPING IN THE COUNTRY, WITH AUTHORITY OVER ARMED FORCES, POLICE, AND CIVIL OFFICIALS.). ORDER NO. 3 (CONSTITUTION OF 1974 ANNULLED; NATIONAL AASEMBLY AND CABINET DIS-SOLVED; POWERS AND DUTIES OF PRIME MINISTER ASSUMED BY CHIEF OF ADMINISTRATION REFORM PARTY--ADM SA-NGAT.). ORDER

NO. 4 (GATHERINGS OF FIVE OR MORE PERSONS PROHIBITED.).
ORDER NO. 5 (ESTABLISHMENT OF CONTROL OVER MEDIA; ALL
NEWSPAPERS TO CEASE PUBLICATION IMMEDIATELY UNTIL FURTHER
NOTICE; RADIO AND TV STATIONS TO COME UNDER GOVERNMENT CONTROL.).
ORDER NO. 6 (DISSOLUTION OF POLITICAL PARTIES.). ORDER NO. 7
(HOARDING OF GOODS AND RAISING EXISTING PRICES PROHIBITED.).
ORDER NO. 8 (EXISTING ANTI-COMMUNIST LAW TO BE ENFORCED STRICTLY.).
UNNUMBERS ORDER CALLS ON UNDER SECRETARIES OF STATE
(SENIOR SUB-CABINET OFFICIALS), IN ALL GOVERNMENT DEPARTMENTS
TO MEET WITH ARP ON OCT 7. ORDER NO. 9 (ESTABLISHES CURFEW
UNTIL FURTHER NOTICE FROM 2400 TO 0500.).

4. WE ASSUME EXTENDED SERIES OF ORDERS IS STILL TO COME.
TRANSITION TO THIS FORM OF MILITARY GOVERNMENT HAS BEEN RE-
LATIVELY SMOOTH, AFTER TUMULTUOUS EVENTS OF MORNING OF OCT 6.
BANGKOK QUIET, WITH TRAFFIC BELOW NORMAL. CONSUL IN CHIANG MAI
REPORTS THAT NORTHERN CITY IS ALSO QUIET.

5. COMMENT: IT IS MUCH TOO EARLY TO ADDRESS ISSUE OF U.S.
RELATIONS WITH NEW REGIME. HOWEVER, IT SHOULD BE NOTED THAT
KING REMAINS AS CHIEF OF STATE AND THAT, ON THE SURFACE AT
LEAST, ADMINISTRATION REFORM PARTY HAS PROMISED TO CARRY
OUT ADMINISTRATIVE REFORMS IN ORDER TO MAINTAIN DEMOCRATIC
FORM OF GOVERNMENT. WHAT PASSES FOR THE THAI LEFT, WHICH HAS
PRESSED RTG VERY HARD OVER PAST SIX WEEKS ON THE ISSUE OF
THE RETURN OF FORMER PRIME MINISTER THANOM, IS VIRTUALLY
LEADERLESS AND CONSIDERABLY DISORIENTED BY EVENTS OF OCT 6.
HOWEVER, MANNER IN WHICH NEW LEADERS CONDUCT THEMSELVES WILL
DETERMINE WHETHER STUDENTS, LABOR LEADERS, AND PROGRESSIVE
FACTION OF DEMOCRAT PARTY SUMMON COURAGE AND ORGANIZE THEMSELVES
TO OPPOSE CHANGES WHICH HAVE TAKEN PLACE TODAY. IN THE LAST
ANALYSIS ARP LEADERS, WHO INCLUDE APPARENTLY ALL MAJOR FIGURES
OF THAI ARMED FORCES, HAVE ATTEMPTED THUS FAR TO WRAP THEM-
LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

PAGE 04 BANGKO 27768 061627Z

SELVES IN THAI PATRIOTISM IN SITUATION WHERE THEY APPEAR TO BE
DEFENDING KING AND NATION. THIS IS A POWERFUL BEGINNING FOR
THE NEW DISPENSATION, BUT IT REMAINS TO BE SEEN WHAT THE
NEW LEADERSHIP MAKES OF IT.
BURKE

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

NNN

Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01 JAN 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: GOVERNMENT REFORM, POLITICAL SITUATION
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 06 OCT 1976
Decaption Date: 01 JAN 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Authority: izenbei0
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 28 MAY 2004
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1976BANGKO27768
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: N/A
Errors: N/A
Film Number: D760377-0302
From: BANGKOK
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1976/newtext/t19761079/aaaacpxf.tel
Line Count: 159
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Office: ACTION EA
Original Classification: LIMITED OFFICIAL USE
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 3
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: LIMITED OFFICIAL USE
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: n/a
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Authority: izenbei0
Review Comment: n/a
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 30 OCT 2003
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review History: RELEASED <30 OCT 2003 by GarlanWA>; APPROVED <20 SEP 2004 by izenbei0>
Review Markings:

Margaret P. Grafeld
Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
04 MAY 2006

Review Media Identifier:
Review Referrals: n/a
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: n/a
TAGS: PGOV, PINT, TH
To: STATE
Type: TE
Markings: Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 04 MAY 2006