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11 AUGUST 1986

SOUTHEAST ASIA REPORT

CONTENTS

BURMA

Fighting, Economic Conditions in Shan State Reported
 (Thong Tai; KHAO PHISET, 16-22 Jun 86) 1

THAILAND

Chawalit Manipulation of Labor Party; Splits Seen
 (SIAM RAT SAPDA WICHAN, 15 Jun 86) 3

Socialist Leader on Party Demise, Links to Other Parties
 (Somkhit Sisangkhom; SIAM RAT, 17 Jun 86) 5

New Southern Moslem Mujahadin Movement Discussed
 (SU ANAKHOT, 28 May-2 Jun 86) 8

16 Killed in Campaign in Provinces
 (BANGKOK WORLD, 24 Jul 86) 12

Writer Faults Overly Close Ties With U.S.
 (Khom Khieu; THAI RAT, 8 Jun 86) 13

University Group Blasts U.S. on Farm Act, Arms Depot
 (SIAM RAT, 18 Jun 86) 15

CPT Returnees' Political Moves, Harassment by Officials
 (KHAO PHISET, 12-18 May 86) 16

Foreign Minister 'Harassed' by Phone Threats
 (BANGKOK WORLD, 15 Jul 86) 22

New Travel Restrictions on Diplomats Imposed
 (THE NATION, 19 Jul 86) 23

Political Parties' Economic Platforms Viewed
 (THE NATION, 23 Jul 86) 25

New Force Chief Discusses 'Leftist' Image, Economics (Prasan Tangchai Interview; SIAM RAT, 18 Jun 86)	31
Prasong on Plans To Close Cambodian Refugee Camp (Various sources, various dates)	35
Closing Reaffirmed	35
NATION: Best Solution	36
Prasong Bars Amnesty International	37
Prasong Says CPT Workers in Human Rights Groups (BANGKOK POST, 14, 17 Jul 86)	38
'Infiltrated by Communists'	38
BANGKOK POST: On Credibility, Editorial	39
Minister on Rescuing Ailing Finance Companies (BANGKOK POST, 15 Jul 86)	41
Central Bank Said Wary in Rescuing Ailing Banks (Wachira C. Santikun; THE NATION, 14 Jul 86)	43
Banker on Current Account Surplus, Deficit (BANGKOK POST, 17 Jul 86)	45
Sitthi To Persuade Indonesia To Buy Rice (BANGKOK POST, 15 Jul 86)	47
Rice Export Earnings Drop in First Half of 1986 (BANGKOK POST, 17 Jul 86)	50
Briefs	
Lao, Cambodian Refugee Relocation	51
Jenkins Bill 'Impact'	51
Arrested UDP Candidate 'Claims'	51
EC Aid to Refugees	52
Antipiracy Program Extended	52
Government Receipts, Expenditure	52
Bank Risk Assets Reclassified	53
Oil Service, Supply Industry	53
Fifth Bangkok-London Air Service	53
UK Loan for Rubber Replantation	53
Diplomatic Ties With Comoros	54
PRC Humic Acid	54
Aid Agreement With Japan	54
FRG Technical Assistance	54
New Permanent Secretary	54
Campaign Against CPM in Yala	55
'Heavily-Armed' Pirates Arrested	55

COALITION GOVERNMENT OF DEMOCRATIC KAMPUCHEA

Briefs
 Khmer Rouge-SRV 21 Jul Clash 56

PEOPLE'S REPUBLIC OF KAMPUCHEA

SRV Assists Cambodia in Posts and Telecommunications Field
 (Dang Van Than; NHAN DAN, 23 May 86) 57

Hau Giang Gives Aid to Cambodian Brotherhood Province
 (NHAN DAN, 6 Jun 86) 59

VIETNAM

PARTY ACTIVITIES AND GOVERNMENT

More Readers Offer Ideas for Forthcoming Party Congress
 (SAIGON GIAI PHONG, 20 May 86) 61

Youth Union Chapters Deal With Self-Criticisms, Criticisms
 (V.K.-Tuan Linh; SAIGON GIAI PHONG, 21 May 86) 64

1987

FIGHTING, ECONOMIC CONDITIONS IN SHAN STATE REPORTED

Bangkok KHAO PHISET in Thai 16-22 Jun 86 pp 21, 22

[Special Reporter column by Thong Tai: "The Guerrilla War Between the Burmese Military and the Shans"]

[Text] It will not be easy to settle the dispute with the minority groups in the Union of Burma as long as the puppet government that is manipulated by Gen Ne Win continues to seek retribution against the minority groups in Burma. Besides the fighting between the Burmese government forces and the Kawthulay, or Karen forces to the west of Thailand, the Burmese government forces are also fighting several Mon groups (the Republic of Raman) and the government group of the Tai Revolutionary Council, which is called TRC for short and which is headed by Konchoeng, or Mo Heng, who serves as prime minister.

Reports from Thailand's northern border area, which borders the Shan State, state that there are frequent clashes. In particular, Burmese soldiers have attacked and robbed undefended Shan villages. In less than 2 months, that is, from the middle of March to the beginning of May, the Shan forces fought the following engagements against the Burmese government's 104th Battalion, 77th Division:

On 13 March, the Burmese forces attacked a Shan village and temple at Ban Pang Hu in Lai Kha Township, Khoi Laem District. Eight villagers were treated in a barbaric manner and some of them fainted. Worst of all, some of them were blinded. Also, the Burmese forces stole their property.

On 3 April, 40 Burmese soldiers attacked and burned Ban Pha Khrua in Muang Lang Town, Hua Pong Township. Reports state that 20 people suffered losses. The Burmese troops stole 12,030 tang [1 tang equals 20 liters] of paddy, 54,600 kyat in cash, and gold weighing 8 baht [1 baht equals 15 grams]. They also burned 17 Shan houses. Seven villagers were seriously injured. This stemmed from the persecution of Shans by government troops who were tired and hungry.

On 12 April, Burmese troops stole three cows for food. This happened at Ban Pong Sophu in Khoi Laem District. At about the same time on 25 April, Burmese

soldiers robbed villagers at Ban Khitla in Muang Lang Town, Hua Pong Township, Tongki District. Ten Shans suffered losses. The government soldiers stole cattle, horses, clothing, blankets, oil, rice, and 2,100 kyat in cash.

On 4 May, Burmese soldiers launched an attack and burned houses in Pla Kham, Pang Hu, and Nong Daeng towns. Four Shan villagers lost a total of 216,700 kyat. The soldiers also stole 2,150 tang of paddy and 2 horses.

The attacks on and pillaging of defenseless Shan villages generated great anger within the Tai Revolutionary Council, or TRC. A news source reported that on 10 May, Maj Gen Chao Kanchet, the commander of the Shan national liberation forces, led an attack on Burmese forces at Ban Phalai in Lai Kha Township. One Shan and 16 Burmese soldiers were killed. At least 10 Burmese soldiers were wounded. This attack was in revenge for the savage way that Shan villagers had been treated.

Our reporter observed that ever since the Union of Burma took all 100- and 50-kyat banknotes out of circulation, the price of goods has skyrocketed. The people are all experiencing great difficulties. For example, in Pan in Khoi Laem District, which is a handicrafts and trade center in southern Shan state, the price of goods has shot up alarmingly. A package of noodles used to cost 120 kyat, but the cost is now 400 kyat. Kerosene used to sell for 7 kyat a bottle but is now selling for 24 kyat a bottle. Khabong cigarettes used to cost 22 kyat a carton but are now selling for 35 kyat. Khuya cigarettes used to cost 5 kyat a pack but are now selling for 12 kyat. The internal turmoil under the administration of the Union of Burma has grown worse and worse. Ever since Burma gained independence, there have constantly been reports of fighting between various groups. Today, the Shan forces have joined together under the leadership of Maj Gen Chao Kanchet and are waging a civil war against the Burmese government. But the problem for the Shans is that they must also fight and suppress the Burmese communists and the Haw Chinese opium caravans, which are guarded by Wa forces.

As for Khun Sa, the international opium kingpin, there have been reports that he has stopped trafficking in narcotics and is now cooperating fully with the TRC.

11943

CSO: 4207/263

THAILAND

CHAWALIT MANIPULATION OF LABOR PARTY; SPLITS SEEN

Bangkok SIAM RAT SAPDA WICHAN in Thai 15 Jun 86 pp 6, 7

[Unattributed report: "The Labor Democracy Party Is Not for the Laborers"]

[Excerpts] The Labor Democracy Party (the Social Democracy Party joined this party recently), which is led by Mr Prasoet Sapsunthon, was established in order to act on behalf of and protect the interests of the laborers. But many laborers, actually the majority of the laborers, refuse to join or use this political party to fight for or protect their interests.

"This party is not clear," said a labor leader from the Employees Council of the Labor Federation to SAPDA WICHAN. "Everyone knows that it is backed by the military."

The Labor Democracy Party was established in 1983. In the 1983 general election, this party fielded candidates for 6 of the 324 seats in parliament. But not one of its six candidates was elected.

This party has frequently been criticized for having close ties with "soldiers." In particular, the party leader, Mr Prasoet Sapsunthon, has a close relationship with Gen Chawalit Yongchaiyut, the present RTA CINC. Among laborers, it is said that these two men have constantly tried to infiltrate the labor movement.

In the past, Mr Prasoet and Gen Chawalit have frequently been involved in the strikes and protests of workers from state enterprises, such as the State Railway of Thailand and the Thailand Tobacco Monopoly. When Mr Ahmat Khamthetthong and Mr Sawat Lukdot, two labor leaders who are defendants in the 9 September Rebellion case and who are still in jail, were leaders of the Labor Council (Employees Council of the Labor Council of Thailand), they joined the Labor Democracy Party enthusiastically and tried to involve the labor movement in this.

"If this party can clear up things and actually stand on the side of the laborers, all laborers will support it," said the same labor leader from the Labor Federation. "But actually, they can't do that. Because the party wasn't established to work on our behalf."

However, there are certain labor groups that support the Labor Democracy Party. Most of the laborers who support this party are people who are close to

Mr Prasoet in his capacity as their "teacher." Such laborers include Mr Chuphong Thithuan, the president of the Provincial Water Works Authority labor union and the former secretary general of the Labor Council, and Mr Wanchai Phrompha, a railroad labor leader at the Makkasan plant.

Mr Chuphong and 19 labor leaders resigned from the executive committee of the Labor Council in the middle of May. In labor circles, it is said that the reason why Mr Chuphong and the others resigned their positions was that they got into a dispute with Mr Thanong Pho-an, the president of the Labor Council, about the work. Another reason was that Mr Thanong disagreed with Mr Chuphong about having laborers from the Labor Council support the Labor Democracy Party. Mr Chuphong and his supporters resigned in order to force the election of a new executive committee. He hoped that he would be elected president of the Labor Council and that he would be able to take the Labor Council in the direction that he wanted.

As for the Labor Federation, it held a meeting on 10 June and passed a resolution to have all members support the Community Action Party in various ways, including voting for the party's candidates and carrying on public relations activities on behalf of the party.

"The reason why we support this party," said a Labor Federation leader, "is that besides the fact that this party has a clear labor policy, it has given laborers an opportunity to participate both directly and indirectly. That is, it has allowed us to participate directly by becoming members of the party and to participate indirectly by giving suggestions and expressing our ideas on labor matters."

A labor observer said that it is not surprising that the Labor Federation passed such a resolution. Because Mr Phaisan, the president of the Labor Federation, is now serving as an advisor to the Community Action Party. Mr Phaisan was one of those who pushed for including a labor plank in the policy of the Community Action Party.

"Mr Phaisan has worked with Mr Bunchu since the very beginning," said a labor leader close to Mr Phaisan to SAPDA WICHAN. "Mr Phaisan planned to transfer the house registrations of laborers to his place of work by 1987. But the government dissolved parliament before he could do this."

A news source from the Labor Federation said that actually, the Labor Federation took a good look at the Democrat Party, because this party has people such as Mr Nikhom Chantharawithun, the former director-general of the Labor Department for whom laborers have great respect. But after discussing matters with him, they saw that even Mr Nikhom did not know very much about the structure of this party.

However, the fact that the Labor Federation is supporting the Community Action Party shows that although the Labor Democracy Party has the word "labor" as part of its name, it is not a labor party.

11943

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THAILAND

SOCIALIST LEADER ON PARTY DEMISE, LINKS TO OTHER PARTIES

Bangkok SIAM RAT in Thai 17 Jun 86 p 2

[Interview with Col Somkhit Sisangkhom: "The Final Moments of the Social Democracy Party"; date and place not specified]

[Text] [Question] How do you feel about having to disband the Social Democracy Party after having been through so many difficult political struggles?

[Answer] We still have emotional ties to each other. I feel very sad about these political conditions. We will have to continue the struggle by uniting with other parties. If we have a chance to enter parliament, we will quickly push to revise the political parties law.

The current law forces the political parties to field a total number of candidates equal to more than half the number of MPs. This conflicts with the constitutional provisions on people's rights and freedoms in establishing associations and political parties. Promulgating a law to disband parties because they cannot field the required number of candidates is tantamount to curtailing people's political rights and freedoms.

[Question] The ideals of the Labor Democracy Party and the Social Democracy Party seem very different. It seems unlikely that they could form a united front.

[Answer] I think that the Labor Democracy Party has one point in common with us and that is it has fought for the laboring class. Based on my discussions with Prasert Sapsunthon, he is trying to wage a parliamentary struggle. Laborers have joined forces in order to build a democracy. Just like the Social Democracy Party, they have used mass forces and not become involved with interest groups. We have struggled on behalf of the people. The fact that the Labor Democracy Party has leaned toward that power group is its business. We are relying on the legal conditions to field candidates in the name of the Labor Democracy Party. We could not join with any other party because our ideals are too different.

In particular, the capitalist parties believe that capitalism can solve the country's problems. But I don't believe that. The capitalists will just try to maintain their own interests. They have no intention of trying to solve the

problems. For example, when the national bank promulgated a law to control the capitalists, there was great opposition. How could they solve the country's problems?

[Question] In your view, the Social Democracy Party continues to exist, isn't that right?

[Answer] That's right. People still hold these ideals. There are still many people who hold social democracy views. Some have joined capitalist parties, but they have said that they are still social democrats at heart. All we have is money for the application fees. We owe money for everything else. Even the party telephone has been disconnected because we don't have the money to pay the bill.

However, we plan to continue the struggle after the election. We must revive the party and continue to lead our supporters.

[Question] How many members of the Social Democracy Party are running for election in the name of the Labor Democracy Party?

[Answer] At first I didn't plan on running for election. But committee members asked me to run in the interests of the parliamentary struggle. Our first talks with the Labor Democracy Party were on 5 June. We decided that each party would field its own candidates. We tried to find the required number of candidates, holding to the principle of helping ourselves. But we didn't have enough money to wage a campaign. Together with the Labor Democracy Party, we issued a joint statement stating that we would wage separate struggles. But we couldn't find enough money to field candidates and so on 9 June we passed a resolution to join with the Labor Democracy Party in fielding candidates.

Legally, the Social Democracy Party has had to disband. But we are still a de facto political party. We have joined together based on the legal conditions. But in the political struggle, we are continuing to use the name Social Democracy Party in the campaign.

Thirty members of the Social Democracy Party are now running for election in the name of the Labor Democracy Party. Most of these are new members. Many of the old members such as Mr Khlaeo and Mr Suthi deserted the party a long time ago.

[Question] What are democracy's chances of surviving?

[Answer] Democracy in Thailand is very disorderly. The next election will be very dirty again. Can you believe how MPs have jumped from one party to another? Whenever party members see more money somewhere else, they jump to the other party. Actually, democracy evolves on its own. Politics is like a social science. This is different from the natural sciences in that the natural sciences can take substance A and combine it with substance B in a controlled manner and predict the results. But the social sciences deal directly with human affairs.

You can't test human behavior in a laboratory. Human behavior takes time to evolve. It evolves on its own. Humans are malleable depending on the situation. But for some reason, Thailand likes to promulgate weird laws like this.

[Question] The military has stated that it will remain neutral in this election. How likely is that?

[Answer] From what I have seen of the RTA CINC, that seems quite likely. The soldiers must return to their bases. The military and democracy can get along. But this depends on the senior officers. Soldiers think that they know everything about politics. But actually, their knowledge is very incomplete. Their interviews show that they lack knowledge. Only now has the RTA CINC begun to understand politics. In the past, they claimed that soldiers were citizens who had a right to get involved in politics. Soldiers are regular government officials in a democratic country. They are the tool of the state. They can't do whatever they want. All they can do is express the government's viewpoint. If they play a role that goes beyond the duties of soldiers, they should be dismissed immediately. Very few soldiers have stepped out of line. Most are professional soldiers. Only a few have stirred up trouble.

I don't think it was necessary to set up election centers. After all, the prime minister didn't have to set up civil service election centers or compel government officials to go vote.

[Question] Whom do you think will be chosen prime minister following the election?

[Answer] The leaders of the political parties have the right to become prime minister. Others, regardless of who they are, are not involved. The only people who have the right to serve as prime minister are the leaders of the political parties. But Thai politics is special, because the party leaders don't dare become prime minister. They have to ask an outsider to serve as prime minister. For example, MR [royal title--FBIS] Khukrit begged Gen Prem to become prime minister even though the Social Action Party received sufficient votes for the party leader to serve as prime minister.

I think that this is a grave mistake. Outsiders should be kept out unless the party leaders know that they cannot serve as prime minister. Then they can ask an outsider to serve in this position. I think that we are the only country in the world with such a semi-democracy. If I were elected and my party won a majority of the seats, I would serve as prime minister.

Everyone wants to be prime minister. Mr Ukrot Mongkhonnawin would like to be prime minister. People are waiting in line. Those who want to be prime minister are all waiting in line. They would be like Mr Thanin and Mr Praphat. As for which outsider will become prime minister, I don't want to guess. They will probably look for an outsider as a compromise just like before.

11943

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THAILAND

NEW SOUTHERN MOSLEM MUJAHADIN MOVEMENT DISCUSSED

Bangkok SU ANAKHOT in Thai 28 May-2 Jun 86 pp 16-18

[Unattributed report: "Mujahadin, the Last Gasp of the Bandit Terrorists"]

[Text] Some people refer to the south as the "diamond-studded golden ax handle," which refers to the wealth and abundance of natural resources that are found there and that provide a living for the people there. But at the same time, something else that is present in great abundance is terrorism. In the other regions of the country, the terrorists who have appeared and become well known have all been communist terrorists. But in the south, there have also been terrorist movements whose aim is to stir up internal turmoil, movements that oppose a neighboring country, and bandit terrorists.

As a result of the military and political offensives, the various terrorist groups have grown weaker and weaker. One group after another has disbanded. And so today, only a few groups continue to exist. These are the BNPP, the BRN, and PULO.

Based on the above, it is clear that if these terrorists groups insist on acting alone as if it is "each man for himself," in the end their movements will all collapse. The leaders of these groups are well aware of this and so they have made an effort to unite. That is, all three terrorist groups have made an effort to join their forces. This is the origin of the terrorist movement known as the Mujahadin movement, or Pattani Mujahadin Party.

Around the end of last April, Lt Gen Wanchai Chitchamnong, the 4th Army Area commander, talked about the case in which an unknown number of terrorists of unknown origin set off a bomb at the American consulate in Songkhla Province. It seems that the people or group responsible for this wanted to show the power of the terrorist ideology of Col Muammar Qadhafi, the Libyan "demon of terrorism" who wanted to stir up trouble in retaliation for the U.S. bombing attack on the Libyan capital.

But the 4th Army Area commander expressed a different opinion about this case. He said that this act might have been committed by members of the Mujahadin movement. This remark by the 4th Army Area commander aroused the interest of those who have followed the terrorist situation, particularly the situation in the south. All had the same question: What is the Mujahadin?

Mujahadin means religious fighter. It is an organization that was founded in the Middle East and in other Moslem countries. It subscribes to the Islamic principle of fighting on behalf of or supporting Moslems who are being oppressed by non-Moslems.

In Thailand, this movement uses the name Pattani Mujahadin Party. It was established in 1984 by Mr Ha Yaha, a former PULO leader who got the idea from Pakistan. Mr Ha Yaha died at the end of 1984. He was replaced by Mr Hassan at the beginning of 1985. He contacted the BNPP, the BRN, and PULO and worked to unite these groups. There was an immediate response from these three terrorist groups, with the reason for this probably being as discussed above.

These three groups began coordinating things and began organizing a new movement. They openly announced the formation of the party on 16 September 1985, calling themselves the "United Pattani Mujahadin Party," or "Pattani Mujahadin" for short. Their stated objective was "to have Moslems unite and struggle in accord with the Islamic line."

The struggle line announced by the "United Pattani Mujahadin Party" can be summarized as follows: the Moslems in the five southern provinces are to wage a struggle for the independence of the State of Pattani and create an Islamic State of Pattani that is governed according to the laws of Islam. They are to do everything in accord with the teachings of Islam and spread Islam and the Islamic struggle.

As mentioned above, these three terrorist movements have joined together to form the Mujahadin movement out of necessity. Members of these movements have died from natural causes. Some have been killed in military suppression operations. Some have left as a result of political pressure. And some have surrendered voluntarily. These terrorist movements have grown weaker for all these reasons. Thus, whether this new party "stays or goes" depends mainly on the "number of members." For this reason, the Mujahadin Party has stipulated the following policy and tactics for bringing in new members:

The party wants the people of Pattani to be general members. It is relying on the old members of PULO, the BRN, and the BNPP to form the primary front. The leaders of all bandit terrorist groups will serve as honorary members. The name of the group in English is Barisan Bersatu Mujahadin Pattani (BBMP), or United Pattani Mujahadin Organization. PULO is serving as the activist in coordinating things. Funds are obtained by demanding protection money from people in Thai zones. Violent means are used, such as setting off bombs in hotels, stores, and rubber plantations belonging to Thai of the Buddhist faith and in government offices. They also receive support from Moslem countries.

The Pattani Mujahadin movement, which from now on will be referred to as the BBMP, has its headquarters, which stipulates policies and operations methods, on Osapita Road near a 12-room apartment building in a country bordering Thailand. It isn't necessary to name this country, which would just hurt others' feelings unnecessarily.

The BBMP has formulated a three-stage plan of operations. The first stage calls for political operations, the second stage calls for military operations, and the final stage calls for social and cultural activities. The BBMP has also stipulated tactics for coordinating the interests of other movements on various fronts. For example, it has secretly carried on activities in the Dawa group and with the subdistrict chief of Tako Subdistrict in Ruso District, Harathiwat Province (a former bandit terrorist leader) with the objective of gaining information.

The leadership of the BBMP is as follows:

1. Abdul Raman Mufti, or (former) Instructor Phoming, is the president.
2. Waehama Bin Waeyuso is the vice president for administration and religious affairs (he was a BNPP leader).
3. Abdul Karim Bin Hatsan is the vice president for armed forces (he was a BRN leader).
4. Abdul Bin Abdul Raman is the secretary.
5. Amin To Mina is the finance chief.
6. Hatrotmi Bin Abdul Raman is the assistant finance chief. (He is also the secretary to the minister of an important ministry in a neighboring country.)
7. Suding Abdul Salae is the treasurer. (He is the younger brother of Siri Abdul Salae, the mayor of Narathiwat City.)

This neighboring country has said that it will cooperate with Thailand in suppressing the bandit terrorists. Joint operations have been conducted several times. Each of these joint operations is given the code name "Taksin Operation...", which is followed by numbers designating the year of the operation and number of operations carried out that year. The targets are the bandit terrorists, who pose a threat to the security of Thailand, and the Malaysian communist guerrillas, who pose a similar threat to the government of that country. But it is worth considering the sincerity of that country. That is, have they really taken resolution action against the terrorist groups that pose a threat to Thailand? Because the BBMP, whose objectives pose a direct threat to Thailand, has been allowed to openly establish its headquarters in that country. Also, politicians in the government hold important positions in this movement. And what is even worse is that the government of that country has given support to the BBMP.

On 3 February 1986, the government of that country gave members of the BBMP land for growing crops and building houses. This land is located in a forest preserve in a state in the northern part of the country. This comprises more than 400 acres. They were also given another 1,000 acres in another district in this state. Thus, the role of this friendly country in this matter should be looked at closely.

From what has been said above, it can be seen that the birth and organization of the BBMP is no cause for alarm. There is no reason for thinking that this movement will pose a threat to the security of Thailand. It has been more than a year since this party was established, but there is no indication that this movement is growing in power. This is because the activities of this movement are like those of a drowning man who will grasp at anything, even a straw, in an attempt to save himself. What we should keep an eye on is the role of that friendly country. In the past, it has constantly been ready to exploit us. That is what is interesting.

11943

CSO: 4207/264

16 KILLED IN CAMPAIGN IN PROVINCES

BK240731 Bangkok BANGKOK WORLD in English 24 Jul 86 p 3

[Text] Sixteen persons involved with election campaigning have been killed in 16 provinces, the Police Peace-keeping Force for the General Election (PPFGE) was told yesterday.

At a meeting of PPFGE officers chaired by Pol Lt-Gen Wichian Kanchanarat, Special Branch Police Commander Pol Maj-Gen Kasem Saengmit said there was a tendency that more violence would occur before and on polling day.

He said 16 canvassers, supporters and government officials have been killed since campaigning began two months ago.

Among those killed were five canvassers and one supporter of the Democrat Party, four canvassers and one supporter of the United Democratic Party, four canvassers of the Chat Thai Party, one canvasser of the Ratsadon Party and one canvasser of the National Democracy Party.

Moreover, five government officials involved with the election preparation were killed. They included a school teacher, a provincial councillor, two village headmen and a deputy village headman.

Four canvassers of Democrat, Chat Thai, Ratsadon and Progressive parties have also been wounded in attacks, Pol Jam-Gen Kasem said.

Three members of Social Action, Chat Thai and Ratsadon parties have been threatened with explosives, he added.

Ten candidates--two from the Democrat Party, five from Social Action Party, two from the Community Action Party and one from the United Democratic Party--have violated the election law, Pol Maj-Gen Kasem said.

/6662

CSO: 4200/1246

THAILAND

WRITER FAULTS OVERLY CLOSE TIES WITH U.S.

Bangkok THAI RAT in Thai 8 Jun 86 p 9

[Complete Mechanism column by Khom Khieu: "American Style"]

[Text] A recent article by a U.S. news agency that appeared in the Asian edition of the WALL STREET JOURNAL praised the U.S. Farm Act, saying that this has achieved good results and that the United States has been able to take world rice markets away from Thailand because of this clever system of giving paddy mortgages to American farmers.

The Thai mass media has been criticizing the United States on this issue for several months now. They have exhausted almost all the swear words in the Thai dictionary. It must be admitted that the United States is a clever but selfish country that will abandon its friends to save itself. It is not bound by any moral considerations.

When anything bad happens in the world, if someone says that the CIA was involved, people will tend to believe this. This is because of the two-faced behavior of the United States. It says that it hates dictatorship. But Marcos was a great friend of the United States. When the people drove him out of the country, he went to live in the United States.

In Haiti, which is in the backyard of the United States, when the people rose up to drive out their ruthless president, the United States had to provide an aircraft to fly him out of the country. But those who took control of the country are from the same group of dictators. They have begun killing the people with the support of the CIA. This has been the subject of sensational television reports in the United States.

Or take the anti-terrorist campaign waged by the United States against Libya. The news agencies in the United States have never told the world that five American oil companies are still producing oil there. The activities of these companies account for more than half the budget of Libya, which the United States accuses of providing funds to support terrorist activities throughout the world.

The United States has not touched these oil companies. This is because it places profits above principles. But a U.S. congressman has had the "cheek" to

review the role of Thailand, which voted in favor of the UN resolution to condemn the action taken by the United States. When the Thai government fell recently, there were rumors that the CIA was involved. And people believe this.

Thailand has been following the butt of the United States for a long time. More than half of the administrators in the public and private sectors have studied in the United States. Thus, the Thai bureaucracy is filled with administrators who speak Thai mixed with English. When a guest comes to visit and speeches are given, the visitor speaks in his own language and uses his own interpreter to translate his speech into Thai. The Thai host reads his speech in English, too, and the translator has to translate it into Thai. I don't know why they don't speak Thai.

Even the mighty Thai military has copied the American system even though it knows that the military budgets of the two countries aren't comparable. American soldiers fight in comfort. They depend on logistics with little thought of the cost. But Vietnamese wearing sandals and straw hats drove them into the sea because of their lack of morale. The difference between the Thai and American militaries is that American generals ride in mid-priced cars made in the United States. But Thai generals ride in expensive German automobiles.

The Thai private sector is trying to apply the principles of business administration that were learned in the United States in an attempt to improve the work system and make it an "American-style" system even though the personnel and resource structures are very different. Also, in the United States, when a company releases a worker, there is a labor welfare system on which the worker can rely. He does not have to experience great difficulties. But Thai workers have to help themselves and accept their fate.

But today, the American style of administration is beginning to spread in Thailand. Recently, the Thai distributor of Kodak film began using a new system of dismissing people. It has ordered that employees are to be given a chance to resign. If that does not succeed in reducing the number of employees, then people will be fired. This is the policy of the parent company, which is experiencing financial problems and which had had to reduce its work force worldwide. But it has taken this action without considering the fact that wages in Thailand are much lower than in the United States.

American-style administration in the company is a matter that is still pending in court. Because when one bold worker was transferred to another position, which he did not think was fair, he filed charges in both the labor and criminal courts. The case is still pending. Thus, administrators are again using the policy of releasing people through voluntary resignation. This form of administration, in which profits are placed above everything else and no thought is given to the difficulties of the workers, is called "American style."

11943
CSO: 4207/266

THAILAND

UNIVERSITY GROUP BLASTS U.S. ON FARM ACT, ARMS DEPOT

Bangkok SIAM RAT in Thai 18 Jun 86 p 7

[Article by the "Din Nieu [Clay] Group, Songkhla Nakharin University, Hat Yai campus: "Back to the Farm Act and Arms Depot; Don't Forget These Things"]

[Text] During the past period, there has been widespread and continuous opposition to the Farm Act by various power groups. In particular, student groups led by the Student Federation of Thailand have joined with other groups and organizations to protest against this U.S. law. And there has been a good response from the Thai government. This is another case in which people from all circles are showing an interest in and participating in opposing the great danger from this ally, a danger that is threatening Thai farmers, who are already in dire straits.

But it is worth noting that Thai farmers have been exploited and oppressed for a long time. The government and those concerned have not shown much interest in this or taken steps to solve the problem and make things fair for the farmers. This is very different from the case of the Farm Act. What is the reason for this?

One thing that cannot be denied is that the farmers have suffered greatly as a result of the depressed prices for farm products, which (it is said) will drop even more. But one important reason that has received little attention is that besides the effect on the farmers, the Farm Act will have a great impact on financiers and exporters. Foreign revenues (which have rarely reached the farmers) will drop. The financiers who have a monopoly on selling fertilizer and seed and even bankers will be greatly affected by the financial problems of the farmers, who may even go bankrupt (and sooner than expected). Or this can be discussed from the standpoint of the people's purchasing power, which will decline. The important thing is that the common target this time is a "foreign country."

However, the real problems confronting Thai farmers are the same ones that they have faced for decades. They have been totally dominated by the market mechanism. They have had to "buy high and sell low." That is, pressure has been exerted to keep farm prices low. But they have had to pay high prices for production factors such as fertilizer, insecticides, and seed and consumer

goods. They have been adversely affected by consumer capitalism. There is debt and poverty. People have lost their land as a result of the exploitation. Children suffer from malnutrition. People have fallen into the vicious circle of ignorance, poverty, and pain. But the government and people concerned have not yet taken resolute and urgent action to solve these problems.

Talking about the great danger posed by the United States, which many people refer to as our "great ally," we don't know whether those who are opposing this threat are doing so because they understand the problem and realize that the United States has been exploiting Thailand for a long time or whether they are doing this just because of the "Farm Act."

Actually, this great ally has done many other things that have harmed Thailand. We hope that people in all walks of life will take an interest in, monitor, and keep abreast of what the United States is doing on all fronts. We call on the Thai government to implement truly independent policies, including independent foreign, economic and military policies, and not act like the colony of a great power.

Another very important and interesting matter that concerns the United States is the war reserve stockpile. Pressure is being exerted to establish this arms depot in Thailand. Caspar Weinberger, the U.S. secretary of defense, came to discuss this and received a very favorable response from the Thai government and military. Steps will be taken to complete this within 2 months. We have the following views on this:

1. This is a very important matter. It will have a strong and direct effect on international politics in this region. It will increase the tension and may lead to an arms race in this region. "Will nuclear weapons be stored at this arms depot?" "If an arms depot is established, will this be followed by the establishment of military bases?" This will definitely pose a threat to peace in this region.

This is a very important issue and so action shouldn't be taken too hastily. This should be considered very carefully by various sides.

2. The Thai people should be informed of the facts, because every person has an equal stake in the country. This shouldn't be decided in secret by people at the top. They shouldn't rush to complete this. To date, very little has been said about the importance of this.

3. People have the legal right to express their opinions regardless of whether they agree or disagree as long as they have reasons. The government (and the military) must show respect for parliament. It can't be said that "this is a military matter. It doesn't concern the people." Because this arms depot will be established on Thai soil, which belongs to all Thai.

We hope that all sides will take an interest in and monitor this closely. More people should give their opinion on this.

11943

CSO: 4207/266

THAILAND

CPT RETURNEES' POLITICAL MOVES, HARASSMENT BY OFFICIALS

Bangkok KHAO PHISET in Thai 12-18 May 86 pp 25-27

[Special Reporter column by "707 Northeast": "False Rumors at Dong Mu and Harmful Reports at Dong Luang: Who Has Created Conditions for a New Revolutionary War?"]

[Text] The April 1986 issue of the journal KPPP (KHANA KAMMAKAN PRASAN NGAN PRACHACHON PHUA PRACHATHIPATAI) published an article entitled "The CPT and the Tight Political Situation." At one point, it stated that the political situation has begun to open up and that Thai democracy definitely has a chance to grow, particularly with the election in 1987. But the "CPT [Communist Party of Thailand] feels that the present political situation is very tight." And "it can be seen that the villagers have no way out, or they haven't been able to find a way out." As an example, the article cited the poverty of the people. In order to explain the words "tight situation," at the end of the article it said that the CPT is trying to expand its united front activities by resolutely concealing its activities. It is difficult for government officials to find out what is happening. "By the time they find out, it may be too late."

KHAO PHISET has made an effort to find out what is happening in the rural areas. We have learned several things that are quite disturbing and are afraid that in today's fragile and complex situation, these problems will have a bad effect on the country's security unless these problems are understood clearly. Occasionally, conclusions about CPT activities in the rural areas need to be reviewed thoroughly. But we are not doing this just to print something sensational.

The Events at Dong Mu 4 Years After Laying Down Arms

On 23 January 1983, 300 men from the CPT's upper northeastern forces surrendered in Kham Cha-i District in Mukdahan Province. After that, these people went to live in villages assigned them by government officials, that is, Ban Phuphahom in Don Tan District, Mukdahan Province, and Ban Dong Mu in Thatu Phanom District, Nakhon Phanom Province. Altogether, there were about 140 families. Most of these were members of the CPT who had operated in the Phuphan zone, or zones 111 and 333. Their leader was Mr Ramphoei Unchai (Comrade Som).

It was well known that these participants in the development of Thailand [PDT] had conflicts with the CPT group that was still in the jungle. Security officials knew all about this conflict. They knew who was left in the mountains and what their reaction was to those who had returned to the government side.

And then all of a sudden, reports appeared in the newspapers stating that the Region 4 Border Patrol Police Precinct had discovered a weapons cache in the jungle along the Um Mao-Khap Phuang highway on 1 April 1986. The police found 10 automatic rifles. The weapons were found approximately 2 km from Ban Dong Mu and 4 km from Ban Khap Phuang. Even though the newspapers said that the weapons belonged to participants in the development of Thailand living in Ban Khap Phuang, no one believes that. The weapons must have belonged to the PDT in Ban Dong Mu.

"That's not true. I can assure you that no one from this village ever went into the jungle and joined the communists. When they came to get the weapons, I was at home. I saw a helicopter land at the school and so I went out to see what was happening. I saw that a truck had arrived to pick them up. About an hour later, they returned to the helicopter at the school. Later, I learned that they had come to get the weapons," said Mr Duang Phayom, the headman of Village 4 in Nam Kam Subdistrict, Thatu Phanom District, to KHAO PHISET about the charge that people from Ban Khap Phuang had once participated with the CPT and that someone from his village had led the officials to the weapons cache.

The seizure of these weapons by the Border Patrol Police had a great effect on officials in the area, particularly the guard team in Ban Khap Phuang to which Regional Security Volunteers are attached. They knew nothing at all about this. That day, the BPP helicopter landed in the field in front of the school, which is located right next to the base of the guard team. But intelligence agents from every unit suspect that this was the work of villagers from Dong Mu. Since that day, large numbers of intelligence agents have been going to Dong Mu to obtain information.

"The villagers here have been greatly alarmed by what has happened. We were already under suspicion even before this happened. It's unbelievable that people from Ban Khap Phuang hid these weapons when they were in the jungle. I can state categorically that no one from Bab Khap Phuang went into the jungle. They are intentionally trying to smear the villagers of Dong Mu Village," said Mr Khemphon Chuatumun, the village headman of Ban Dong Mu.

A news source in Thatu Phanom District told KHAO PHISET that ISOC [Internal Security Operations Command] intelligence agents had learned that a villager from a village in Um Mao Subdistrict had tried to sell these 10 rifles to BPP officials stationed in Ban Um Mao for 30,000 baht. Prior to that, he had tried to sell them to ISOC officials, but he couldn't get a good price and so he didn't sell them. These were weapons that the CPT in the Phu Phan zone had given to the village militia to fight government officials. When the forces in the mountains surrendered, they did not retrieve the weapons from the village militia.

The same news source took KHAO PHISET to see the spot where the weapons had been discovered. The area there was light jungle. The weapons had been hidden in a 200-liter oil barrel, which had been buried about 30 meters away from the aterite road. The news source observed that if the weapons had been hidden there a long time ago, tree roots would be coming up at the bottom of the hole. But this hole looked as if it had been dug just recently.

Although the Region 4 BPP Precinct says that these weapons belonged to former communists and the people who live in the area say that this is just a game, the fact is that the participants in the development of Thailand at Ban Dong Mu are afraid that something else will happen.

Charges That He Is Paid By the Soviet Union and Vietnam

The role played by Mr Ramphoei Unchai, or Comrade Som, in his capacity as head or leader of the participants in the development of Thailand, has increased greatly during the past 3 years. The villagers in several villages in Nam Kam and Um Mao subdistricts have placed their trust in him. When he ran for the provincial council during the last election, Mr Ramphoei campaigned in only three of the eight subdistricts in Thatu Phanom District, but he still managed to place 10th in a field of more than 20 candidates. He has been the object of attention of intelligence units in the area ever since he ran for a seat on the provincial council, and there have been rumors periodically.

"The villagers here have many problems. When they come for help, I don't know what to do. If I provide help, there are immediately rumors to the effect that I am carrying on activities and mobilizing people. I know that people have concluded that I am a Soviet agent and a member of the Green Star group," said Mr Ramphoei Unchai.

In the past, Dong Mu was a transit point for CPT forces traveling from the Phu Phan mountains to Laos. At that time, the crossing point was at Kaeng Kabao, which is about 5-6 km from Dong Mu. A news source in Mukdahan said that today, Kaeng Kabao is used as a crossing point by Lao liberation forces who have jungle bases along the Mekong River near the border between Thatu Phanom District and Wan Yai Branch District in Mukdahan. This crossing point is also used by villagers who go to trade with people on the Lao side. Thus, it is difficult to determine whether these are Green Star or White Star groups. There is no clear evidence.

"There were once reports that I had gone and obtained weapons from the Lao side at Keng Kabao. When villagers here purchased a small rice mill to mill rice in the village, rumors appeared stating that they had obtained the money from the Green Star group. Today, I can't improve my economic position. Because if there is any small change at all, there will be rumors that I am being paid by people on the Lao side. Even though I am very poor, there are rumors that I am working for the Soviet Union," said Mr Ramphoei.

Other villagers in Dong Mu Village said the same thing. They said that ever since the village was established, many rumors have been spread about the

village by government officials and by those still in the jungle. They wonder when they will be able to lead normal, happy lives. This year there are rumors about this weapons cache and so they are very alarmed.

A Voice From Dong Luang, "We Warned You"

The dispute about the felling of trees in Dong Luang District, Mukdahan Province has become more and more complicated. This matter is entering the "lock" of one side that wants this factor. It's like the story of Ta In and Ta Na, who cooked a fish. But then Ta Yu came and ate the fish. The "fish" are the people in Dong Luang who are being pulled one way by the police and another way by administrative officials. The newspapers have been full of stories about this. But they don't know that "Ta Yu" [the CPT], who has been waiting for a long time, is involved, too.

A news source in Thatu Phanom District said that the Nakhon Phanom ISOC recently sent a document stamped "top secret" to the districts in order to inform them about CPT activities along the boundary between Nakhon Phanom and Mukdahan. The document warned them to be particularly careful, because the CPT in the Phu Phan mountains are preparing to take military action again. The 73 men left are under the command of Comrade Khachat and Comrade Suthi. They have carried on mass activities and achieved results. They have already succeeded in having the village militia eliminate secret agents in some villages. They are carrying on their activities in greater secrecy. They are also acting more quickly by relying on the roads built by the government to link the villages (they use trucks and motorcycles as means of transportation).

The same news source also talked about the destruction of the forest at Dong Luang. He said that financiers are cooperating with forestry and land officials. The officials have issued land use certificates to villagers in tens of villages in Dong Luang District. These villages are located in the mountains. They are "old state power villages" of the CPT. Among these are Ban Na Lak, Ban Phon Hai, and Ban Nong Manao. The villagers have had land to work for a long time, but they haven't had land use certificates. Because people have wanted to do things according to the law, they have been willing to cooperate, without realizing that they have become "victims" of those who are destroying the forests and concealing their activities using "land use certificates." Previously, when a road was built through the heart of the "Phu Phan base" from Dong Luang to Khao Wong, trees on both sides of the road were felled. A total of 3,750 rai of trees was destroyed.

Among those arrested by police officials from the provincial police station in Dong Luang District at the end of February were Mrs Suthin Koksi, a well-known MP from Uthai Thani, a former Zone 777 (Udon Thani) leader who was acting as an "agent" for a financier, and villagers who owned the land where the trees had been felled. A number of the villagers who were arrested were charged with having fake land use certificates in their possession. A KHAO PHISSET news source in Dong Luang said that after the arrest of these villagers, about 60 other villagers who had land use certificates that they had obtained from these financiers and officials became alarmed and fled into the jungle. There have been rumors that people are planning to burn down the Dong Luang police station.

"The situation in Dong Luang has improved. The villagers who fled have begun to return. I don't know if anything else will happen. But in any event, it is not the police, the administrative officials, or the financiers who have benefited from this. It is the communists in the jungle who have benefited. They may regain influence over their former base villages. Who knows? There are now many factors that they can use to attack government officials," said the new source.

An ISOC file noted that "Comrade Poti" is the leader in Dong Luang who is mobilizing the masses. He is a member of the So tribe. He joined the CPT a long time ago. An intelligence agent in Dong Luang observed that around the beginning of this year, the communist forces in the jungle were unusually active. They had been inactive for several years.

It will not be possible to solve this problem as long as the "big shots" behind the felling of the trees in Dong Luang remain free and villagers fall "victim." An attempt was even made to conceal the fact that villagers had fled into the jungle as a result of this. This was done for the political benefit of officials. But local officials and people know the truth. This cannot be ignored. Past lessons have been discussed over and over again at security seminars. Who has created the conditions forcing the people into the jungle and who is responsible for the injustices in society are questions that have been discussed very often. But before anyone comes up with an answer, it may be too late. The Thai people are tired of such talk.

11943

CSO: 4207/265

FOREIGN MINISTER 'HARASSED' BY PHONE THREATS

BK151017 Bangkok BANGKOK WORLD in English 15 Jul 86 p 1

[Text] Deputy Premier and Foreign Minister Sitthi Sawetsila, leader of the Social Action Party [SAP], is being harassed by an anonymous caller but says he is "not afraid of his threats."

Air Chief Marshal [ACM] Sitthi said he had been pestered all last week by a man who rang late at night and threatened to take his life if he did not stop attacking candidates of other parties.

But ACM Sitthi said he had not accused any individual or attacked any political parties in his election campaign.

The SAP leader said he had taken some of the calls from the anonymous man but let others handle some when he kept calling late at night.

Catching on to this, the caller then changed his time and began ringing between 7 and 8 p.m. he said.

ACM Sitthis said he had to pick up the phone sometimes because they might be from friends or calls from overseas.

But he maintained that he did not take the threats seriously.

"Mom (Khukrit) didn't take it seriously but instead connected the phone to speakers and amplified the calls for all the people in his house to hear," Sitthi said.

At the same time ACM Sitthi noted that accusations had become rampant as polling day drew near.

He gave the example of the reshuffle in the Commerce Ministry as a case that was exploited for political reasons.

"On the reshuffle proposed by Mr Surat (Osathanukro), the minister of commerce, I can assure you once and for all that there is no reshuffle as fanned by ill-intentioned people." He said that he had lost almost six kilogrammes in weight during the election campaign period.

/6662

CSO: 4200/1246

NEW TRAVEL RESTRICTIONS ON DIPLOMATS IMPOSED

BK190152 Bangkok THE NATION in English 19 Jul 86 p 1

[Excerpt] Thailand will impose new travel restrictions on diplomats from 10 socialist and Muslim countries as "reciprocity" and for "security reasons," Foreign Ministry sources said yesterday.

The sources said that Prime Minister Prem Tinsulanon on Tuesday agreed to the recommendations made by a special committee, which was set up three months ago.

The new measures to monitor the movement of diplomats will apply to Iran, Soviet Union, China, Bangladesh, Burma and Pakistan. The regulation will be effective beginning August 1.

The diplomats of these countries, the sources said, will have to ask Foreign Ministry's Protocol Department for permission three days in advance to travel outside Bangkok area. They have to identify their destinations, purposes, places of stay, detail of vehicles used, and accompanying persons.

Furthermore, they also must provide details of day to day programme during their proposed trips outside Bangkok.

THE NATION has learned that the new restriction was originally aimed at Vietnam as the result of the frequent unauthorized visits by Hanoi diplomats based here to the Northeast. Most of the Vietnamese refugees from the Dien Bien Phu era live in Udon Thani, Nakhon Phanom, Yasothorn and Nong Khai.

But the committee agreed to include nine other countries which also limited the movement of Thai diplomats in their countries. "It is based on the principle of reciprocity," the sources said.

A Western diplomat said that the new regulation will certainly draw strong reactions from China, which has maintained excellent relations with Thailand.

It is known among the diplomatic community here that proper notification to the Foreign Ministry are required for trips outside Bangkok. Countries like the U.S., Australia, Canada do inform the ministry of their trips and purposes.

The committee, which is responsible for the more stringent measures, comprises senior officials from various intelligence agencies including National Security Council, Special Branch Division, National Intelligence Agency, Internal Security Operation Command, Armed Forces Intelligence Directorate and Foreign Ministry's Political Affairs Department.

An intelligence source said that some Vietnamese refugees living in the Northeast have sneaked into other parts of Thailand without permission. They were detected in Petchbun, Phattalung and Songkhla, according to the source.

The source added security officials suspect that some of them could be subversive elements for Hanoi.

/6662

CSO: 4200/1245

POLITICAL PARTIES' ECONOMIC PLATFORMS VIEWED

BK230351 Bangkok THE NATION in English 23 Jul 86 (Supplement) pp 8, 9

[Text] Some of the parties contesting the election have drawn up highly detailed and comprehensive policies, with various aspects of the economy given prominence. Agricultural issues are given priority, with many of them promising one way or another to boost prices.

But, as the Thai Farmers Bank's economic research unit has found, the policies are often optimistic, sometimes self-contradictory, and usually lack specific action plans for implementing the policies or for achieving the policy targets.

"The various parties' policies differ in the extent to which they are complete. Those parties that have been in existence for a long time and have relatively complete political foundations, such as the Democrat Party and the Social Action Party, have the advantage when drawing up policies because they have taken part in many previous elections," the bank's research unit says in its analysis of the 16 parties' platforms.

"This has enabled these parties to prepare policies that cover every branch of the economy and to do it from every angle.

"However, these parties' policies are broad policies. Some parties have sufficiently clear policies, but the scope of their policies is limited. For example policies to revive the economy as drawn up by some parties emphasize the revival of the economy and the creation of employment, but they do not cover other economic problems such as the way to solve the country's foreign debt burden. The main points of policies for developing the economy are skimmed over as well, such as trade and investment policies."

The bank's analysis also points out that most of the policies are immediate ones for dealing with immediate problems rather than for the longer term development of the country.

Among the contradictions spotted by the Thai Farmers Bank are the intention to stimulate the economy so that it can grow fast, while professing a desire to cut the trade deficit. Some parties say they are going to introduce a host of projects using government money, while at the same time saying they are going to reduce the government's budget deficit.

Others are more interested in forming the new government or being part of the government coalition than in drawing up credible and practicable policies, the bank's research unit says.

There will be some who disagree with the Thai Farmers Bank's comments. It could be argued that a good election platform is not one that goes into the details of how a party proposes to implement various policies. For one thing politicians, let alone the electorate, are not always the best people to draw up the technical means of achieving targets. For another, in the months and years after the election, conditions can change, making a detailed platform out of date.

Where these commentators agree with the Thai Farmers Bank's analysis is in the conclusion that none of the parties have set out where their priorities lie. Economists regard economic policy as a matter of trade-offs: Whether the government should be willing to hurt the urban public by increasing food prices in order to allow the rural public to have higher incomes, whether the government should allow most of its permitted U.S.\$1,000 million ceiling on this year's foreign borrowing or whether the government should let future generations pay for this generation's spending.

It is also noticeable that even though the approval of the next five-year development plan will be one of the first economic issues that the new cabinet will have to consider, none of the parties has made any pronouncements on where they stand.

In all these respects, then, it could be said that none of the parties has been brave enough to provide the electorate with a genuine choice. And yet, when they are in power, the decisions they make will implicitly or explicitly affect the conflicting interests of different sectors of the economy, just as has happened in the past. For example, over the decades the government's rice policy has consistently favoured urban consumers by preventing high prices on international markets from seeping through to the domestic market. Farmers were prevented from enjoying the full benefit of the good prices.

In some respects, too, the policies do not inspire interest because they are little different from the policies and methods that the government's own technocrats and bureaucrats are already pursuing. The announced intention of many parties to reduce interest rates further, for example, is of little significance when that is already the intention of all government departments involved and all commercial banks, not to mention that market pressures are headed that way, too.

What would be more interesting is whether the government should allow some badly-run commercial banks to collapse provided small depositors are protected. Some politicians have commented on this, complaining that the government has been prepared to fork out billions of baht to shore up inefficient--and sometimes unscrupulous--banks and their bankers, while refusing to do the same for farmers suffering from declining world prices.

In one respect the timing of the present election is fortunate for the parties. With Thailand's oil import bill heading for a healthy cut and interest rates still on a downward trend, the economy is already looking brighter, and some of the optimistic policies such as increased government spending could be accommodated by the improvement. But then, the present government is already speaking in those terms too.

Some commentators will also dispute the Thai Farmers Bank's assertion that electoral experience helps parties to draw up good policies. With 40 per cent of the last House of Representatives switching parties this time there are some very old and experienced hands in some very new parties.

Moreover, some of the new candidates also have a wealth of experience on which to draw when preparing policies. Since it is part of a bank, the research unit mentions, without naming them, former central banker Suphachai Phanitchaphal, former Krung Thai Bank President Tamchai Khamphato, and others from financial circles. There are other similar candidates from a number of fields.

The bank also notes that among the 230 candidates from the military and police, 44 have the rank of general. If they are all elected and appointed to ministerial positions the next government will be a "government of commanders," the bank says.

This is there the parties stand on some of the major economic issues:

Agriculture

Almost all, if not all, the parties discuss raising agricultural prices. Only two--Ratsadon and the Liberal parties--specify that they will guarantee minimum prices, although they do not spell out the guarantee mechanism or what the guarantee prices will be. At least one Ratsadon candidate has named 2,500 baht per tonne as his personal minimum price for paddy.

Other parties prefer to use other means to boost prices often in conjunction with cost cutting and improving yields. Most of them propose the development of marketing, irrigation and agricultural technology, and agroindustry, some of them describing the methods in greater detail than others. Land reform is mentioned by the Progressive Party, Democrat Party, and Chat Thai.

The fashionable buzz-word in agricultural development circles, "integrated" or "complete" development (in other words, developing all stages of agriculture from inputs to marketing) is used by the Democrats, Social Action Party, and Ruan Thai. Muan Chon places emphasis on the development of the transportation infrastructure.

The Democrats propose an agricultural council representing farmers, traders, exporters and the government. The council would determine pricing and marketing policies for fertilizer and other inputs as well as for produce. But the Democrat strategy for boosting prices relies more on the free flow of trade than on legal price limits.

The Community Action Party is proposing a 10,000 million baht per year budget for irrigation. The party's leader, Bunchu Rotchanasathian, was one of the architects of the Social Action Party's "ngoeng phan" tambon budgets. The CAP says this budget should revert to its original form rather than the present dry season rural employment creation schemes. It also emphasizes the construction of local barns and other storage facilities for crops. Nakhon Sawa, where Bunchu is standing, is also designated the site for marketing and transshipment from land to water transport.

The Social Action Party maintains "ngoeng phan" as a central feature of its platform with the idea that the tambon budgets will increase the power of locally elected tambon officers. Crop price support is also stressed and although the details are not spelt out, the party would seem to be leaning more towards the liberal policies of Commerce Minister Surat Osathanukhro than the stockholding policies of his predecessor and former SAP colleague Koson Krairoek.

The United Democracy Party places emphasis on transferring farmers' private sector debts to cooperatives or the Bank for Agriculture and Agricultural Cooperatives. Ruam Thai wants farmers to form strong solidarity organizations, Rasadon stresses long-term development, and the Liberals and Progressives want to promote cooperatives. Prachakon Thai candidates are campaigning by claiming success in raising paddy prices while keeping milled prices low for the consumer, which they say they achieved through their own private marketing scheme.

Industry

The link between agriculture and industry is through agroindustry and almost all of the parties attach importance to this. Many also stress export industries.

The Democrats say they want to stimulate small, medium and export industries and that they will increase the budget for the development of science and technology.

The Community Action Party singles out the construction industry as a prime mover for the economy. It plans to set up a housing credit scheme involving small instalment repayments which will then be used as a revolving fund for further credit. The party says it has a target to construct more than 300,000 units of housing in the first year which will create jobs for more than 20,000 people per year.

The Social Action Party, too, mentions the construction industry, along with other labour-intensive industries. Chat Thai speaks of primary industries and labour-intensive industries, and the use of domestic resources.

None of the parties is specifically opposed to the Eastern Seaboard development programme. If they mention it, such as the Democrats and the Social

Action Party, they tend to be in favour. These two cover themselves with cautious statements about postponing projects that can be postponed although they are both committed to the Laem Chabang port.

Monetary and Fiscal Policies

This is where the government has come in for some of the most bitter criticism from politicians, even from some of the coalition members. Finance Minister Sommai Huntrakun has been criticized by most--from the Social Action Party to the Progressive--for his cautious policies, including restraints on government spending, the credit squeeze of 1984 and the baht devaluation.

The Democrats probably have the policy closest to the present government's, although they too would like to increase some spending. They say the government's budget should not continue to show cuts in investment or capital spending, but they advocate more effective tax collection and continued caution in foreign borrowing. They plan to halve the government's budget deficit in four years. They also advocate interest rate cuts.

The Community Action Party has a number of construction and development schemes which involve government expenditure. They aim to mobilize more credit, and to reschedule the government's debt in order to reduce the debt servicing burden. They advocate concentrating on direct taxes.

The Social Action Party wants to abolish taxes on dividends and to reform the tax system, the latter point being taken up by other parties as well, such as the United Democracy Party, the Rasadon Party and the Progressives.

Ruam Thai wants to direct credit towards farmers, as do the Liberals who want to decentralize budgeting to the regions leaving 30 percent to be centrally allocated for defence and foreign policy.

That Thai say they will prevent the baht from fluctuating excessively and reform tax and government spending.

Labour

The Democrats probably have the most comprehensive labour policy since it covers both job creation and the support of trade unions. They are also proposing a social security scheme.

The Community Action Party has a six-month target for cutting unemployment, while the Social Action Party tacks on to its policy of job creation through the stimulation of the economy, the effective export of labour.

Ratsadon advocates a national manpower plan to synchronize labour supply and demand, and the liberals propose a reformed minimum wage system based on hourly rates and paid fortnightly. They want to increase the working week from 40 hours to 48 hours.

Others

The Democrats, CAP, SAP, Progressives and Muan Chon all attach importance to the development of tourism, although there is very little controversial in anything they say. The Democrats advocate a plan for the conservation of historic monuments and other similar sites.

The Democrats and the Liberals are in favour of privatization of state enterprises, although the Democrats' spokesmen on labour affairs have been at pains to point out that they would not let workers suffer as a result of privatization.

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CSO: 4200/1246

NEW FORCE CHIEF DISCUSSES 'LEFTIST' IMAGE, ECONOMICS

Bangkok SIAM RAT in Thai 18 Jun 86 p 2

[Interview with Dr Prasan Tangchai, the leader of the New Force Party; date and place not specified]

[Text] [Question] What problems has the New Force Party encountered in fielding candidates?

[Answer] We have encountered many problems, including the two election laws, the dissolution of parliament, and the limited amount of time available. These three things have made it difficult for us to field the required number of candidates. It requires a huge amount of money to field the 174 candidates required by law. Our party stands by its ideals and has constructive ideas in working for the country. But the party is not wealthy. We are a small party and so we don't have enough money to do things in stages.

We would like to protest against this constitution because it gives the advantage to the bigger parties. The people don't have a chance to vote for parties that have different ideas and policies. Four or five parties have had to disband.

[Question] When it was first founded, the New Force Party was very well known. Do those who founded the party still support the party?

[Answer] Thirteen years ago, the people had great awareness following the administrative change in 1974. Thus, we were able to carry on political activities with great success. Our party grew very quickly. As a result, other parties that were afraid that their interests would be affected used smear tactics against us. They accused us of being communists. This confused the people, who began to view us as leftists. But that was not the case at all.

[Question] What was done to correct this image?

[Answer] We were beseiged in order to prevent us from expanding and posing a political threat. We were not able to correct this image in time and so the party's fortunes gradually declined. Some people became discouraged, but we

did not lose heart. None of our members ever fled into the jungle to take up arms. We have struggled using proper methods in accord with the country's laws and our wonderful customs and traditions. The people will understand.

All those who founded the party are still members of the party. These people still hold to the ideals. Although some may have become discouraged, several have served as ministers, as advisors to the government, and as senior administrators in banking circles. Recently, we asked for help and received money from members, even if the amount was rather small. The party has to find a large sum of money in a short period of time. We have asked for donations, and people sympathetic to us have made donations.

This is just the first round. There are eight to go. I would like to ask those people who love justice and democracy to give us their support in order to help bring about a perfect democracy. If the people are sympathetic and have confidence in us, they can donate 5 or 10 baht. That would be fine. They can contact the party or any party member.

[Question] Why did some members leave the party?

[Answer] Very few have left the party. Some have felt that we are not prepared, and some have personal problems. We advised them to go join some other party with similar ideals. The fact that they have left the party does not mean that their ideas or ideals have changed. We will probably have a chance to work together again some day even though we belong to different parties.

[Question] In brief, what is the party's economic policy?

[Answer] An important problem confronting people throughout the country is the problem of making a living. In particular, the farmers, who comprise 70 percent of the population, are facing great difficulties. Urgent action must be taken to eliminate the debt. At the same time, farmland must be provided, and yields must be increased using technology. Besides this, the government, in cooperation with the cooperatives, should establish centers to help the farmers concerning tools and communications and to build barns. This doesn't have to be expensive.

At present, the middlemen enjoy the advantage in making purchases. The government isn't doing the right thing. There should be a central government unit to make purchases and forge links with the farmers. As for the unemployment problem, this requires both short-term and long-term solutions. In the short-term, jobs must be created in their native areas. The government could cooperate with international organizations. Wages might not be very high. Data on the number of unemployed must be obtained in order to find jobs for these people as quickly as possible. Intellectuals could pass on their skills and knowledge and help develop the locality. In the long-term, a national education plan must be formulated. Thought must be given to what the economy will be like in 3 years. The local economic councils should submit data so that education plans can be formulated in accord with the increase in the population. It must be realized that an increase in the population will lead to social changes.

Besides this, in crop cultivation, the government should formulate plans stipulating what crops are to be grown in which areas based on market demand. The government must assure the farmers that they will be able to sell their crops if they grow the crops stipulated. On the labor front, more laborers should be dispersed to the provinces. Many of the labor laws are unfair. Studies should be done to find ways to solve this problem. When growth is dispersed to the provinces, fewer people will migrate to the cities. Laborers will earn higher wages. Labor-intensive industries should be promoted.

[Question] During the filing period, there were rumors that the party would not be able to field the required number of candidates.

[Answer] We had problems during that period. That's true. Those rumors were spread by certain members. But we denied that and said that we would make a stand. And today, we are doing just that.

[Question] There have been rumors about uniting with another party. Is there any truth to this rumor?

[Answer] It's true that we talked with the Progressive Party and the Social Democracy Party. But the time is too short and so we have not able to work together.

If we have people in parliament, we may join with other parties whose line is similar to ours. This will be studied very carefully. This will be discussed in order to stipulate work forms. Time will tell what lines can be used if we are to be able to work together.

[Question] How many seats do you expect to win this time?

[Answer] About 10. If more money comes in soon, we should be able to win even more seats than that. Our financial situation and the limited amount of time have hurt us. The party wants to assure people that it will fulfill its promises. If we don't we will resign. Whether we win depends on the people's confidence in us.

[Question] Most of the party's candidates are new faces. How much hope can be placed in them?

[Answer] The New Force Party is constantly trying to move forward. Young people have joined to carry on political activities and further our aims. There are both young people and old people in society. Thus, parliament should be composed of both older and newer members who have creative ideas and who are courageous and willing to make sacrifices. We need good people who can lead the country.

[Question] The party was founded a long time ago. But how much interest do the people have in the party?

[Answer] The people haven't forgotten us. We have been quiet for a long time because we haven't had any members in parliament since 1983. But even so, the people haven't forgotten that we fought for democracy and held to our ideals. Today, we have a good reputation, and the people have confidence in us.

[Question] When will you start making speeches?

[Answer] That is a matter of planning. That may have to wait. It may be another week or so before our campaign gets underway in Bangkok. We are waiting to see what our budget is. Right now we are down to our last baht.

[Question] What are the party's plans after the election?

[Answer] The New Force Party does not have any seats in parliament. But the party has worked constantly for 13 years now. Party branches have been established in order to work for the people. We have established New Force enterprises to carry on activities similar to those of savings cooperatives. These are located in various places, such as in Roi Et, Chiang Mai, Chiang Rai, Nakhon Sithammarat, and Khon Kaen provinces. These enterprises function like cooperatives and sell goods at low prices. The people can own shares. Dividends are paid at the end of each month. The people benefit from this. We have worked constantly even though things have been done slowly because of the lack of equipment and personnel.

In some places, such as in one village with a population of approximately 500 people, the people have said that if the New Force Party does not field candidates, they won't vote for anyone. We have told them that we will run in accord with the democratic system. In other spheres, people have been allowed to work land provided by the party. The cooperatives, which are branches of the party, purchase their produce. No other party is engaged in such activities. We are not jealous if someone else wants to use this idea, because this benefits the people. Democracy does not depend on political administration but on the way of life in society.

[Question] How many former MPs are members of the party?

[Answer] About three or four. Most of our members are young. There are a few older people who have much prestige. The provinces where we feel very confident include constituency 2 in Nong Khai, Roi Et, constituencies 1 and 2 in Udon Thani, and constituency 4 in Khon Kaen in the northeast. In the north, there is Chiang Rai and Phayao. In the central region, we are strong in Lopburi. In the south, there is Surat Thani, Phuket, and Nakhon Sithammarat.

[Question] What do you think about the election law?

[Answer] This is a good law for developed countries. But the fact is, this is impossible to implement at this time. If we are elected to parliament, we will try to have this changed. It would be good if people could run as independents. This needs the support of at least 10 senators and of representatives of professional groups.

Besides this, it isn't necessary that candidates be highly educated. It's enough if they can read and write. Even though such people may not be highly educated, they may have a wealth of experience. I know this because I have met and talked with such people.

PRASONG ON PLANS TO CLOSE CAMBODIAN REFUGEE CAMP

Closing Reaffirmed

BK110735 Bangkok BANGKOK WORLD in English 11 Jul 86 p 1

[Text] Thailand will transfer to border camps displaced Kampuchians now at Khao I-Dang who are not accepted by third countries by the end of this year, National Security Council [NSC] Secretary General Prasong Sunsiiri said this morning.

Addressing the annual conference on Indochinese displaced persons at the Naari Hotel, Squadron Leader Prasong reaffirmed plans to close by that date the United Nations-run holding centre at Khao I-Dang.

He deplored what he called an "insignificant and slow" movement of refugees for resettlement abroad and made clear that displaced Kampuchians who are turned down by their countries would await in border camps the return to their homeland "when the situation there permits. [No closing quotation]

The NSC chief was addressing a conference that convened representatives from the UN, international voluntary agencies, resettlement countries and concerned government officials.

Sqn Ldr Prasong noted that an estimated 17,700 displaced Kampuchians now at Khao I-Dang were "least likely" to be accepted for resettlement by third countries due to lack of qualifications "or to their being abhorred for whatever reason."

The total population of Khao I-Dang is placed at 25,000, of whom about 18,000 have been registered as eligible for resettlement.

The NSC announced plans to close Khao I-Dang last June 13 Following a meeting with representatives of main resettlement countries during which he expressed deep concern over the drop in their intakes of displaced Indochinese from camps in Thailand.

Sqn Ldr Prasong said the closure of Khao I-Dang and transfer of all remaining Kampuchians to border camps was also prompted by a need to deal with the problem of illegal entries into the UN holding center.

Various "difficulties" had arisen from this problem caused by an "understanding" among refugees at the border that entry into Khao I-Dang meant a chance for resettlement, he added.

At the same time, he pointed out that the influx of Indochinese refugees had continued "without let up" and that the total population in camps at the end of last year was 130,413, against 128,439 in 1984.

NATION: Best Solution

BK120215 Bangkok THE NATION in English 12 Jul 86 p 4

[Editoria: "Move To Close Khao I-Dang Is Only Recourse"]

[Text] The closure of the Kampuchean refugee camp at Khao I-Dang, run by the United Nations, has been debated for a long time and we sincerely hope that what National Security Council Secretary General Prasong Sunsiri said yesterday is the last word on it. He reaffirmed the plans to close that camp by the end of the year and to move those refugees who have not been taken by third countries to border camps.

It is common knowledge that "compassion fatigue" set in quite a few years ago among countries like the U.S., France, and Australia who have been taking refugees. There are about 25,000 Kampuchean refugees in Khao I-Dang and, according to Prason, 17,700 of them are least likely to be accepted by third countries for various reason. These, he said, would be moved to border camps awaiting resettlement in their own countries at the appropriate time.

The refugees in Thailand are completely different from those in other countries. The Afghan refugees in Pakistan and Iran want to return to their countries and do not want to go to a third country. It is the same with Ethiopian and Uganda refugees in Sudan. But refugees in Thailand are unwilling to return to their own countries.

The trouble with the Khao I-Dang refugee camp is that it is widely thought of in refugee circles as the one to enter if there is to be settlement in a third country. This, Prason says, has caused various difficulties, the main one being that there are numerous illegal entries into the UN holding center. This is a totally erroneous idea because Khao I-Dang residence does not insure resettlement in a third country.

Perhaps the closing down of this camp is not an ideal situation but, unfortunately, there can be no ideal solution to any refugee problem. The solution that has been devised is the best of a bad bargain. There is the possibility of Vietnamese troops making cross-border raids against the refugees but if the last dry season is any indication, the possibility is remote.

Prasong Bars Amnesty International

BK120203 Bangkok BANGKOK POST in English 12 Jul 86 p 1

[Text] Two Thai Amnesty International workers may be arrested and the representatives of the human rights organisations will be barred from entering the Khao I-Dang holding centre, National Security Council chief Prasong Sunsiri said yesterday.

Speaking at the annual conference on Indochinese refugees, Squadron Leader Prasong denied charges by Amnesty International that Thai military officers tortured three Kampuchean refugees arrested on robbery charges in March.

He questioned the credibility of the two Thai Amnesty workers, saying they were captured during the bloody riot on October 6, 1976, subsequently released and then joined the Communist Party of Thailand.

After the granting of amnesty for communist defectors as pronounced in Order No 66/23, the two Amnesty workers returned to the town but did not report to government authorities, said Sqn Ldr Prasong.

The NSC secretary-general did not identify the Amnesty workers but said they still maintain contacts with the communists. "We know who they are," he said. "I think I will ask the police to get them."

Amnesty International claims it has evidence that the three Kampuchean were tortured with a hot iron and burning firewood while held in military custody at Khao I-Dang.

"I don't think the allegations are true. I don't know who is right or who is wrong. After they were captured we did not treat them like 'are you tired son, are you hungry?'" said the NSC chief.

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CSO: 4200/1246

PRASONG SAYS CPT WORKERS IN HUMAN RIGHTS GROUPS

'Infiltrated by Communists'

BK140135 Bangkok BANGKOK POST in English 14 Jul 86 p 3

[Text] Several human rights organisations operating in Thailand have been infiltrated and manipulated by Communists, National Security Council [NSC] chief Sqn-Ldr Prasong Sunsiri alleged yesterday.

Sqn-Ldr Prasong said he had ordered an investigation to determine the number of former Communist Party of Thailand [CPT] members working with such organisations.

The NSC chief's remarks came after the Group Convenor of Amnesty International-Thailand, Santi Itsarowutthakun, said local members had not provided the London-based organisation with material accusing Thai security officials of torturing three Khmers.

Task Force 80 officials have been accused of torturing three Khmers in Khao I-Dang holding centre in late March.

Sqn-Ldr Prasong said on Friday that he may order police to arrest two "workers" of Amnesty International, whom he accused of being Communists who had left the jungle but had not informed police.

The NSC chief said yesterday that even members of human rights organisations in Thailand did not really know who they were dealing with.

People should be careful when dealing with such organisations, he said.

Sqn-Ldr Prasong said he did not say that the two Thai Amnesty "workers," whom he identified as a husband and wife, were the ones providing information to the international organisation.

He said, however, that the government's policy is to welcome CPT defectors who now wanted to resume a normal life in the cities.

The law requires, however, that these Communists inform police that they want to resume life in the city.

Sqn-Ldr Prasong said the two Thais involved with Amnesty International had not informed police that they wanted to return.

Whatever they do, he said, they should remember that they are violating the law.

They should ask themselves whether their action in discrediting the government is proper, Sqn-Ldr Prasong added.

The NSC chief said Amnesty knows who is giving them information and that the press should contact Steve Header, who has been in contact with the government over the torture allegations.

Mr Santi said on Saturday that because of the way Amnesty International is structured, local members in Thailand, of whom they are about 30, could not lobby or become involved in human rights issues concerning Thailand.

The role of Thai members, he said, is only to respond to calls by London to write letters to other countries urging action where human rights violations occur.

Mr Santi said the organisation's research section is in charge of investigating human rights violations.

This section, he said, had its own sources in each particular country and did not contact local members.

The reason for this setup, Mr Santi said, is to maintain the neutrality of local members in their particular country.

BANGKOK POST: On Credibility

BK170130 Bangkok BANGKOK POST in English 17 Jul 86 p 1

[Editorial: "Amnesty and the Credibility Gap"]

[Text] Amnesty International does have fine ideals to defend human rights around the world but its practices and methods often defeat its objectives. It is possible that Amnesty has contributed to the freedom of certain deserving political prisoners in countries run by dictators.

However, the accusation by Amnesty about Thai soldiers "torturing" three refugees when these persons were actually criminals pillaging real refugees under the protection of these soldiers makes the motives of the people who run Amnesty questionable. The allegation was denied by the Secretary-General of the National Security Council, Squadron Leader Prasong Sunsiri, after investigation proved Amnesty wrong but Amnesty still came out with what it described as "confirmation" of its charge.

The strange point is that Amnesty failed to notice or, rather, chose to ignore the fact that the same soldiers accused of "torturing" these three had been taking good care of the tens of thousands of refugees who have flocked to the border areas. Nor has Amnesty taken up with the Vietnamese Government the matter of the violation by the Hanoi leadership of the human rights of its own citizens--the reason for their exodus by land to seek safety under the hospitable Thai umbrella and by sea where efforts have been successfully made to save them from pirates in Thai territorial waters.

This kind of humanitarianism is unique in a world where selfish national interests obstruct the resettlement of these refugees who cannot be fed and supported by Thailand with its limited resources for lengthy periods of time. Despite all this evidence of the Thai Government's respect for human rights--not only for its own people but also for those of other peoples, like the Vietnamese, the Khmers and the Laotians, Amnesty chose to make an issue of the case of three Kampuchians who had robbed and wounded their own compatriots.

The suspicion that Amnesty has been infiltrated by communists has been caused mainly by the observation that it has hardly done anything about the blatant acts against human rights by the communist regimes in the Indochina states and that it seems to concentrate on accusations against anti-communist governments. It has been noted by Thai officials that whenever the representative from the Amnesty head office in London visits Thailand he talks to communist suspects like people who have come out of the jungle where they had been operating with the communist insurgents but declined to report themselves to the authorities.

Thai officials who have been watching the activities of Amnesty representatives note that these representatives fail to hold discussions with responsible authorities and other sources to arrive at objective conclusions before making their allegations. Amnesty will find that it serve to improve its image and credibility if it conducts its investigations with objectivity--and also takes up the very serious problem of violations of human rights in the Indochina states. These states have not only restricted the rights and freedoms of their own citizens but also encroached upon the rights, lives and property of Thai citizens by incursions across the border, the shooting of artillery into Thai soil and the laying of land mines.

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CSO: 4200/1246

MINISTER ON RESCUING AILING FINANCE COMPANIES

BK150149 Bangkok BANGKOK POST in English 15 Jul 86 p 3

[Text] The Finance Ministry and the Bank of Thailand yesterday agreed to support 14 finance companies whose financial status are listed as in critical condition and to continue helping 11 companies in less serious trouble.

The decision to help the 25 finance companies which joined the Government's Lifeboat Scheme two years ago was reached at a meeting of the Supervision Committee on the Lifeboat Scheme chaired by the deputy director of the ministry's Fiscal Policy Office Niphat Phukkanasut.

Emerging from the meeting yesterday, Finance Minister Sommai Huntrakun said the delay in the support for the companies under the scheme was due mainly to the time it took to study their problems on a case by case basis.

But according to the conclusion of the study, Mr Sommai said 11 companies are self-sufficient if they are supported by the government with soft loans and increased registered capital and that they could restore their financial positions within five years.

However, the 14 financial companies listed as in critical condition must be specially taken care of by the government. But this would have to be decided by the next government, he said.

Mr Sommai said the earlier fixed increased registered capital of 2,400 million baht and another 6,400 million baht soft loan would be sufficient to shore up their financial position.

Meanwhile, a Finance Ministry source told the POST that in principle the government should not interfere in the execution of the finance companies but should allow them to operate independently.

However, for the time being after the supervision, some companies are making profits and others losses, the source said.

The losses were mainly due to too many non-performing assets amounting to between 60 and 70 percent of total assets of 18,000 million baht, he said.

The source said this was caused by three factors which are over-evaluation of assets, accumulated interest and high off-record debts.

He said the government had set up a center asking all ailing finance companies to propose clear-cut management plans to solve their own problems for consideration.

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CSO: 4200/1246

CENTRAL BANK SAID WARY IN RESCUING AILING BANKS

BK140255 Bangkok THE NATION in English 14 Jul 86 p 17

[Article by Wachira C. Santikun]

[Excerpt] The Bank of Thailand is wary about possible impact on the financial system after it introduced measures to rescue two ailing commercial banks by providing funds for capital increase and soft loans to partly write off their bad debts. The move was inevitably increased money supply in the market which is already experiencing excess liquidity problems.

The measures were also inevitable for the monetary authorities to shore up the position of Sayam Bank Ltd and First Bangkok City Bank Ltd. A huge sum would be needed for rescuing 24 ailing finance and credit finance companies. The rescue involves billions of baht.

The money market is facing excess liquidity after a brief tight situation early this month when there was a higher demand for funds. But the excess liquidity has returned with a surplus of 3,000-3,600 million baht in the repurchase market.

Director of the central bank's Banking Department Wichit Suphinit admitted that the liquidity is very high in the market but the Bank of Thailand is still capable of absorbing the excess liquidity during the next two months up to 13-14 billion baht.

He pointed out that despite the excess liquidity, the country's financial and monetary system remains stable.

The central bank has undertaken a series of measures to rescue Sayam Bank Ltd once privately-owned and called Asia Trust Bank. The measures included an injection of 500 million baht for capital increase, a soft loan of 1,900 million baht and the latest action was an absorption of 1,500 million baht of bad debts through supply of fresh funds.

The crisis engulfing the First Bangkok City Bank Ltd led to a capital reduction from 1,365 million baht to only 68.25 million baht to partly wipe out bad debts which amounted to 2,790.8 million baht as uncovered so far.

The bank needs to boost its capital by 2,000 million baht with 500 million baht from the Fund for Rehabilitation and Development of Financial Institutions. It has earmarked a soft loan of between 3,300-3,800 million baht.

Central bank officials feel the need to review the measures as they are cautious about further increase in money supply and excess liquidity.

Well-informed sources said that the injection of funds for capital increase will have immediate impact but adverse effects from the provision of soft loans would be late. Another point feared by the banking and financial community is that the magnitude of this problem might lead to further reduction of interest rates when the excess liquidity becomes more formidable.

"The central bank will closely monitor the situation to prevent a possible chain impact on other commercial banks," said the sources.

Wichit, however, explained that the current money supply situation is not worrisome though with the injection of funds from the Bank of Thailand into the financial system. This is because lending by commercial banks is lower than deposits they have mobilized by half.

Commercial banks have not been able to achieve a high growth in lending due to the slow recovery in domestic investment and public consumption. Another reason is that commercial banks are waiting for the formation of a new government after the general election scheduled July 27.

Sources said the government is likely to set a clear policy to stimulate the economy. Despite the lower interest rates and oil prices, they were not sufficient as economic recovery also depends on external factors such as export earnings.

The country's export performance in the first half of this year showed a growth of 14-15 percent in baht terms but in dollar terms, the growth marked a hefty 17 percent rise. Other factors include the ability of the country to spend less on oil imports. The overall trade situation has improved much while it is believed that the country's current account deficit would be less than 20,000 million baht this year.

"We cannot expect any more windfall benefits from lower oil prices which have somewhat stabilized. What we can hope for is the contribution from exports," said Wichit.

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CSO: 4200/1246

BANKER ON CURRENT ACCOUNT SURPLUS, DEFICIT

BK170355 Bangkok BANGKOK POST in English 17 Jul 86 p 13

[Excerpt] The country's current account in the first half of this year is expected to be 4,000 million baht in surplus, the first in 20 years, a leading banker-cum-economist said yesterday.

Speaking on "Factors in Stimulating the Thai Economy in 1986" during the seminar on "Mid-Year Economic Review" organised by the Association of Thai Industries at the Asia Hotel, Siam Commercial Bank Senior Executive Vice President Dr Olan Chaiprawat said the current account surplus will be due to the depreciation of the U.S. dollar and the lower oil prices in the world market.

"The surplus is very favourable, especially when compared to the deficit of 24,768 million baht in the same period of last year," he said.

But he forecast that the current account would suffer a deficit of 6,000 million baht in the second half, resulting in a 2,000-million-baht for the whole of 1987, down sharply from last year's deficit of 30,671 million baht.

"The projected deficit in the second half of the year will result from the higher import of non-oil products. The increasing rate of non-oil product imports has been lowered from 13 percent in the first half of last year to 2.4 percent, 2.3 percent and 1.2 percent in the next three quarters.

"But the recovery in the economy will cause imports to rise again in the second half of this year," he said.

Dr Olan said that there were three external factors that benefited the Thai economy. They are the depreciation of the greenback by 30 percent when compared to Japanese yen, 20 percent when compared to the deutschmark and 5 percent against the pound sterling; the reduction of oil prices from U.S.\$28 to \$12 a barrel; and the drop in the interest rate by about 1-2 percent the past six months from 8-9 percent per annum to about 6-7 percent a year.

He said as a result of the external factors, the Thai economy had gained at least two benefits.

The first one is that the income earned from export and service was higher than expected.

Dr Olan said that it was earlier predicted that the growth rate in incomes from export would be about 6-7 percent this year, but that in the first half of this year, the actual growth rate was 11 percent in term of the baht and 15 percent in term of the dollar.

The second benefit was that the Thai Government had adjusted its fiscal and monetary policies to be in line with the global change, he said.

"The new policies, including the reduction in local interest rate and local oil prices, and the income tax adjustment, have helped stimulate the country's economy," he said.

He also said that the general election on July 27, in which more than 3,000 candidates are running, would greatly stimulate the Thai economy.

In the first half of this year, income from exports and services amounted to 154,000 million baht--an increase of 15,500 million baht or 11.4 percent in term of the baht and 15.4 percent in term of the dollar.

"Let's say in other words, the value of export in the first six months of this year was higher by 2,500 million baht a month than the same period of last year," he said.

Regarding the prices, he said that the price slump of agricultural and mining products had still not recovered. Prices of rice, rubber, maize, tin and sugar have dropped by 24 percent, 6 percent, 24 percent, 41 percent and 16 percent, respectively.

However, the bigger export volume had helped boost income.

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CSO: 4200/1246

SITTHI TO PERSUADE INDONESIA TO BUY RICE

BK150139 Bangkok BANGKOK POST in English 15 Jul 86 pp 1, 3

[Text] Foreign Minister Sitthi Sawetsila yesterday promised that if he remains in office after July 27, he would try to persuade Indonesia to buy at least 500,000 tons of Thai rice.

In an interview with the BANGKOK POST, ACM [Air Chief Marshal] Sitthi said he agreed to the undertaking after meeting members of the Thai Rice Exporters Association yesterday.

ACM Sitthi said the exporters had told him that Indonesia is expected to face a production shortage of about one million tons next year because of bad harvest is expected this year.

"They asked me if I could speak to Indonesian officials about buying rice from Thailand," the deputy premier said. He "promised" to do so if he was returned to the same post after the general election.

"I told them that this should not be a problem because we will be holding an ASEAN summit in July next year where we hope to have better economic cooperation and easier market access," ACM Sitthi said.

"I promised (if he returns as foreign minister) them that I would speak with (Indonesian Foreign Minister) Mokhtar and (President) Suharto about the one million tons.

"I will try to urge them to buy at least 500,000 tons."

An Indonesian Government official said on Wednesday that the country would produce less rice because a drought had led to a decline in the area of rice planted.

Junior Minister for Food Planting Wardoyo said the planted area had declined from 1.46 million hectares last year to 1.26 million hectares.

Indonesia produced 26.5 million tons of rice last year.

The minister said Indonesia still had about 2.6 million tons, which was enough to remain self-sufficient.

Although he promised to try and convince the Indonesians to buy Thai rice, ACM Sitthi also urged the exporters not to compete and slash their prices in order to obtain markets.

He said Thailand had been able to seal several rice deals with countries such as Iran and Brazil and needed to export more rice.

In yesterday's interview ACM Sitthi also spoke of the Social Action Party's [SAP] hopes for election.

With less than two weeks to go, the SAP party leader said he is satisfied with the overall campaign coordination with the party and its candidates.

Although he admitted that the SAP is still behind the Democrat Party led by Phichai Rattakun as far as popularity is concerned, he said the SAP's popularity has increased.

"We have made our surveys and I think we are better now than when we started," he said.

He said the SAP's popularity had increased in Bangkok from 19 percent to about 23 percent.

"The Democrats are leading us but not by much," the SAP leader said, claiming that Democrat popularity had increased by three percent compared to the SAP's 4.5 percent.

ACM Sitthi said that with less than two weeks to go before polling day, about 30 percent of the voters have yet to decide who to support.

The deputy premier expressed confidence that in Constituency 2, where he faces the Democrat team led by Health Minister Marut Bunnak, his team could win two seats.

"One can't really say what will happen in the next 10 days but at present we are doing fairly well in other constituencies as well," said ACM Sitthi, who says he has lost seven kilos since he started campaigning.

A conservative estimate by the party says that it will win three seats in Bangkok, but ACM Sitthi says he expects the number to be around six to nine.

In the North the SAP hoped to gain eight seats at the start of the campaign, but now thinks it can gain 10 seats.

ACM Sitthi said that in the Central Plains, the party hopes to gain 13 seats, but this figure depends on how the party fares in Bangkok.

The party hopes to make its strongest showing in the Northeast, where ACM Sitthi quoted party estimates as predicting a gain of 30 seats.

ACM Sitthi said that at this stage the party thinks it will win five seats in the South, a slight increase from initial estimates of just two seats.

Overall, the party estimates it will win at least 61 seats nationwide, but ACM Sitthie said he is more confident and expects to gain more than 70 seats in the next parliament.

Asked if he would campaign in the provinces before election day, ACM Sitthi said: "At this time I have only been upcountry once. There are now calls for me to go North. But if I go North, then I also have to go South, to the Northeast and the Central Plains.

"But I don't have the time because even during the campaign I am tied up with government work," he said.

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CSO: 4200/1246

RICE EXPORT EARNINGS DROP IN FIRST HALF OF 1986

BK170155 Bangkok BANGKOK POST in English 17 Jul 86 p 17

[Text] Thailand's income from rice--the largest foreign exchange earner in the first half of this year dropped considerably by 1,912.6 million baht or about 14.33 percent, despite the fact that the cereal exported has increased by 271,584.45 tons or 11.70 percent compared to that of the same period last year.

Thailand exported a total of 2,592,023.07 tons of rice worth 11,426.9 million baht in the January-June period this year against 2,320,438.62 tons worth 13,339.5 million baht of the same period last year.

The sharp drop in income was due mainly to the declining price of the cereal in world market which has resulted in a sharper drop in export price of Thai rice in the period under review to an average of 4,409 baht per ton, down 1,340 baht or 23.30 percent over the same period of last year's average of 5,749 baht per ton.

According to a report of the chairman of the Board of Trade's Rice Committee, Mr Sman Ophatwong, the other reason for the sharp reduction in earning was that the amount of medium grade and broken rice exported in the January-June period this year was greater than that of the same period last year, of which more high grades rice were exported.

Mr Sman noted that a total of 540,855.67 tons of 100 percent grade white rice and 19,267 tons of cargo rice were exported in the January-June period this year against 702,345.76 tons and 67,601.84 tons, respectively shipped out in the same period last year.

The 100 percent grade white rice and cargo rice are high-grade cereal.

European and Middle East buyers of Thai rice turned to buy more rice from the United States this year as American exporters have been selling their rice at a cheaper price than in the past, aided by the Farm Act.

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CSO: 4200/1246

BRIEFS

LAO, CAMBODIAN REFUGEE RELOCATION--Nong Khai--More than 300 Laotian people who have illegally entered this northeastern province since June 7 will be moved to a new site this week. Governor Sakda O-phong said the Laotians would be moved to the Karunyathep Detention Centre in Non Sawan Village in the town district. The relocation would make it easier to control them, he said. The Laotians have entered Nong Khai on different occasions and are detained at police stations at places where they arrived. Governor Sakda also said that the Laotians would be given a daily food allowance of 10 baht a day each while awaiting repatriation or other screening procedures under the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees programme. Meanwhile, a relief source said that the Khao LanKhmer Refugee Camp in Trat Province was closed this week and about 150 Kampuchean were moved to Khao I-Dang camp in Ta Phraya District of Prachin Buri Province. Other smaller refugee camps will also be closed in the near future, the source said. [Text] [Bangkok BANGKOK WORLD in English 9 Jul 86 p 3 BK] /6662

JENKINS BILL 'IMPACT'--The U.S. Thermond-Jenkins Bill, which will be considered by the U.S. Congress on August 6, is likely to have less impact on Thailand's textile exports, because of the success in negotiations between U.S. and Hong Kong, Oranut Osathanon, director-general of the Foreign Trade Department, said yesterday. Mrs Oranut said that the U.S. representatives recently held talks with Hong Kong representatives on the export of textiles to the U.S., and both sides ended their meeting with a "pleasurable conclusion." The U.S. and Hong Kong, she said, decided to have a bilateral textile trade agreement, which should soften the trade problem between the two countries. She said further that the U.S. is going to negotiate with South Korea and Taiwan, which are both major textile exporters, within this week. However, Mrs Oranut warned that although the U.S. may have been successful in negotiations with those three major exporting countries, Thailand needs to watch the Multi-Fiber Arrangement (MFA) meeting in Geneva during July 21-24. The U.S., she said, has to change as many items as possible from non-quota to quota control, because it thinks that the export of non-quota items to the U.S. has increased too rapidly in recent years. [Text] [Bangkok BANGKOK POST in English 10 Jul 86 p 13 BK] /6662

ARRESTED UDP CANDIDATE 'CLAIMS'--Chiang Mai--Police arrested a United Democratic Party candidate here last night on charges of encouraging officials to engage in corruption. Mr Sayom Rammasut was arrested as he disembarked from a plane on his arrival in the North from Bangkok at 9 p.m. He was taken to the provincial special police suppression centre near the airport

where he was told about the charge mentioned in an arrest warrant issued by CSD police in Bangkok. Mr Sayom was arrested a day after another UDP candidate was detained in Sakon Nakhon Province on a fraud charge. He said the police action against him was an attempt by the government to subvert his party in the general election. He said the government was taking action against several UDP candidates to gain revenge on the party whose members played a major role in defeating a government bill in parliament in May which led to the dissolution of the house. Insisting on his innocence, Mr Sayom said he would request bail so he could continue his election campaign. Mr Sayom has been accused by the CSD of having collaborated with people in the Marketing Organisation for Farmers in swindling 3.8 million baht granted by the agency to boost the price of soybeans in 1984. [Text] [Bangkok BANGKOK POST in English 18 Jul 86 p 1 BK] /6662

EC AID TO REFUGEES--The European Community has granted 34 million baht in aid for Khmer refugees along the Thai border, the EC announced yesterday. The aid will be administered by the United Nations Border Relief Organisation and will be used to improve water supplies as well as the supply of fruit, vegetables and small livestock in Khmer camps. Dr Endymion Wilkinson, charge d'affairs of the EC delegation said the 34 million baht grant would in part go directly to Khmer people like the Khmer Women's Association in the camps who have been trying to improve living conditions and morale through activities like weaving and sewing and production of fruit and vegetables. [Text] [Bangkok BANGKOK POST in English 16 Jul 86 p 3 BK] /6662

ANTIPIRACY PROGRAM EXTENDED--Songkhla--The government yesterday officially extended the anti-piracy programme for another year in an out-door ceremony at the navy station of this southern province. The programme, which is in its fifth-year stage, will receive a total of U.S.\$2,573,387 (about 66.8 million baht) this year from the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR). The government has already been provided the first lot of \$1.5 million. [Excerpt] [Bangkok THE NATION in English 16 Jul 86 p 1 BK] /6662

GOVERNMENT RECEIPTS, EXPENDITURE--The government's receipts during the first nine months of fiscal 1986, beginning last October, amounted to 153,674.2 million baht while the expenditure was 129,245.7 million baht. The receipts, however, included 118,201.9 million baht of revenue and 35,472.3 million baht in loans. The revenue accounted for 76.6 percent of the target set for the fiscal year. The revenue, however, was higher than the amount in the same period of last year by 1,401.2 million baht or 1.2 percent. The expenditure included 121,901.3 million baht for administration and 7,344.4 million baht of debt servicing. It means that the government's net borrowing during the period amounted to 28.127.9 million baht. [Excerpt] [Bangkok THE NATION in English 17 Jul 86 p 21 BK] /6662

BANK RISK ASSETS RECLASSIFIED--The Bank of Thailand yesterday reclassified the risk assets held by commercial banks to be more realistic and, thus, has enabled the banking system to extend additional loans of about 42,000 million baht. Meanwhile, bankers praised the reclassification saying that it would greatly benefit the banking system. Central bank spokeswoman Prapaphim Sakuntaphai said that the reclassification, approved by Finance Minister Sommai Huntrakun, was also aimed at encouraging commercial banks to extend more loans to priority sectors. The new classification, effective as of August 1, will count only 80 percent of the loans extended to priority sectors, except export, as risk assets. At present, all loans to the priority sectors, except export, are counted as risk assets. [Excerpt] [Bangkok BANGKOK POST in English 17 Jul 86 p 11 BK] /6662

OIL SERVICE, SUPPLY INDUSTRY--The marked slowdown in petroleum exploration and development activities in Thailand, partly resulting from the depressed oil prices, has caused big trouble for the country's oil service and supply industry. At least half of the about 50 foreign oil supply/service companies which came to Thailand in the past few years to cash in on the country's mini-boom in oil/gas exploration and production activities have been forced out of service as work available for them is rapidly drying up. A total oil price drop of more than 50 percent since late last year, the biggest ever, caused a record drop in activities, mainly of the country's two largest oil/gas prospectors--Unocal Thailand and Thai Shell Exploration and Production--and other foreign concessionaires who are now reluctant to invest more money in more exploration work. Already 24 of the 47 oil supply/service firms which had worked for Unocal Thailand's vast gas production project in the Gulf of Thailand have recently been driven out of service. [Excerpt] [Bangkok BANGKOK POST in English 15 Jul 86 p 13 BK] /6662

FIFTH BANGKOK-LONDON AIR SERVICE--Thai Airways International Limited has reached an agreement with British Airways for it to operate its fifth air service between Bangkok and London beginning in October this year. Thai International will operate its fifth flight every Tuesday on the Bangkok-Copenhagen-London route and vice versa. In exchange, British Airways will be allowed to maintain its fifth flight on a permanent basis as of this winter season. [Summary] [Bangkok Domestic Service in English 0000 GMT 14 Jul 86 BK] /6662

UK LOAN FOR RUBBER REPLANTATION--A 400 million baht loan has been made by the UK to help finance the rubber tree replanting program. The loan agreement was signed recently between the Thai finance minister and the chairman of the Commonwealth Development Cooperation. The loan is the fourth given by the Commonwealth Development Cooperation to the program, administered by the rubber replanting aid fund office and brings its total contribution to 1,130 million baht. [Excerpts] [Bangkok Domestic Service in English 0000 GMT 14 Jul 86 BK] /6662

DIPLOMATIC TIES WITH COMOROS--The announcement on the establishment of diplomatic relations between the Kingdom of Thailand and the Federal Islamic Republic of Comoros: Being desirous of promoting the existing friendly relations between the Kingdom of Thailand and the Federal Islamic Republic of Comoros, the Government of the Kingdom of Thailand and the Government of the Federal Islamic Republic of Comoros have agreed to establish formal diplomatic relations as from 15 July B.E. 2529 or 1986 and to exchange diplomatic representatives at the ambassadorial level. Signed by General Prem Tinsulanon, prime minister of Thailand, 15 July 1986. [Text] [Bangkok Domestic Service in English 0000 GMT 11 Jul 86 BK] /6662

PRC HUMIC ACID--China agreed yesterday to exchange 408,000 litres of humic acid, which improves soil conditions, for 12,500 tons of Thai rice. The acid is seen as the key to improving agricultural output and restoring large areas of farmland which have been over-utilised. According to a land development department survey, 191 million rai--59.6 percent of Thailand's estimated 320 million rai of farmland--are critically short of organic matter, resulting in low yields of poor-quality crops. Research has found that as little as one litre per rai of humic acid and its derivatives can bring about a substantial improvement in soil quality and cut production costs. [Excerpt] [Bangkok BANGKOK POST in English 11 Jul 86 p 3 BK] /6662

AID AGREEMENT WITH JAPAN--Thai and Japanese aviation authorities have initiated a record of discussion to allow both Thai International and Japan Air Lines to operate one additional direct flight between Bangkok and Tokyo or Osaka. The agreement was signed after Thai and Japanese aviation authorities held talks in Tokyo 9-10 July. [Summary] [Bangkok Domestic Service in English 0000 GMT 16 Jul 86 BK] /6662

FRG TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE--Thailand has received a West German technical assistance worth 157 million baht for five development projects. The assistance is in the forms of experts, equipment, fellowships, and scholarships. This was effected by an exchange of notes between Director General of the Department of Technical and Economic Cooperation Wanchai Sirirat and West German Ambassador Helmut Rueckriegel early this week. The projects include the establishment of a feed laboratory at Chiang Mai University's Faculty of Agriculture, the development of the Faculty of Engineering of the King Mongkut's Institute of Technology, the animal health project in the north-eastern region, and the replenishment of the short-term expert fund. [Text] [Bangkok Domestic Service in English 0000 GMT 17 Jul 86 BK] /6662

NEW PERMANENT SECRETARY--Former Secretary-General of the Counter-Corruption Commission Suthi Akatsarook was yesterday appointed permanent secretary of the Office of the Prime Minister. Suthi will replace Chuchat Pramunphon, who has resigned for health reasons. The resignation will take effect on August 1. A graduate of Thammasat University, Suthi was named deputy permanent secretary of the PM's Office in 1984 after serving as secretary-general of the Counter-Corruption Commission for several years. [Text] [Bangkok BANGKOK WORLD in English 23 Jul 86 p 3 BK] /6662

CAMPAIGN AGAINST CPM IN YALA--Soldiers [number unspecified as heard], including two army officers, were wounded in an operation which began on 12 July to capture jungle camps of the Communist Party of Malaya [CPM] in the southern province of Yala. Deputy Commander of the 4th Army Region Lieutenant General Wisit Atkhumwong said the operation, code-named "Thaksin-2903," was aimed at searching and destroying CPM jungle camps in the areas bordering three districts of Yala--Betong, Than To, and Bannang Sata. About 150 guerrillas of the CPM 12th Regiment were reported to be operating in the said area, while 100 CPM insurgents have their hideouts nearby. According to Lt Gen Wisit, government troops managed to capture two satellite bases of the CPM in the area and seized a large quantity of food supply and two (?wooden boats). [Text] [Bangkok Domestic Service in English 0000 GMT 23 Jul 86 BK] /6662

'HEAVILY-ARMED' PIRATES ARRESTED--Bangkok, Jul 9 (AFP)--Five heavily armed Thais, including two policemen, were arrested Tuesday and charged with piracy on the high sea, a marine police officer here said Wednesday. Police Major Warawut Wongpridie said five M-16 assault rifles, a shotgun and 131 rounds of ammunition had been seized from the suspects' boat near Puket Island, 564 kilometers (338 miles) south of here. Maj Warawut said the arrests had been made after marine police mounted an anti-piracy operation in the area following complaints by fishermen. Piracy in the Gulf of Thailand emerged as a major problem for Vietnamese "boat people" fleeing their country after the communist takeover of South Vietnam in 1975. [Text] [Hong Kong AFP in English 1228 GMT 9 Jul 86 BK] /6662

CSO: 4200/1246

COALITION GOVERNMENT OF DEMOCRATIC KAMPUCHEA

BRIEFS

KHMER ROUGE-SRV 21 JUL CLASH--Aranyaprathet--Fighting broke out inside Kampuchea between Khmer Rouge and Vietnamese forces yesterday, Thai military sources reported. The sources said the 3:00 p.m. flareup occurred when about 250 Khmer Rouge troopers of the 320th Division attacked Vietnamese positions in the Phnum Malai and Phnum Mak Hoen highlands, about five kilometres from the Thai border. The Vietnamese retaliated with artillery fire. No details of the half-hour battle were available. Meanwhile, leaflets believed scattered by Vietnamese intruders were found by several villagers in Ta Phraya District. The leaflets, printed in Thai, demanded Thailand stop providing sanctuary and support to the Khmer resistance forces and call on Thailand to join the Phnom Penh regime in creating a peaceful zone along the Thai-Kampuchean border. A Thai military officer said yesterday the leaflets were insignificant because many of them were previously scattered along the border by the Vietnamese [Text] [Bangkok BANGKOK POST in English 22 Jul 86 p 2 BK] /6662

CSO: 4200/1246

SRV ASSISTS CAMBODIA IN POSTS AND TELECOMMUNICATIONS FIELD

Hanoi NHAN DAN in Vietnamese 23 May 86 pp 2, 4

[Article by Dang Van Than, director, Posts & Telecommunications General Department: Vietnam-Laos-Cambodia Fraternal Solidarity--The Lines of Affection Between Vietnam and Cambodia"]

[Excerpt] In early February 1979, teams of Vietnamese postal technicians and workers already were present in the friendly land (of Cambodia) and, along with our friends, began to rebuild the posts and telecommunications (P&T) sector from central to local level, from the management machinery and production structure to its cadres and workers. Within only a short time, in the capital city of Pnom Penh and 19 provinces and municipalities a P&T organization and network was set up to provide timely services. The P&T network that served the Front for National Salvation and People's Republic of Cambodia was organized and became operational first. From October 1979 on, the general P&T network that served the various sectors and the people was restored and gradually entered normal operations. The friendly country (with assistance from Vietnamese technicians) did a lot of work, such as surveying, studying, and organizing mail routes going from the central level to provinces and municipalities, among provinces and municipalities, and between Pnom Penh and Hanoi and Ho Chi Minh City, to ensure regular exchanges of letters, packages, newspapers, and so on. When our friends restored their currency, Vietnamese P&T assisted them in a timely manner in printing and issuing four sets of postage stamps; widely serving the people; and providing them with postal means, such as postmarks, bags and packets of all kinds, printed matters, and so on. At the present time, a network of mail routes covers the entire country, from the central level to districts, cities, and towns, and combines the use of various means, such as automobiles, speedboats, trains, and so on, with two mail services a week between Pnom Penh and Ho Chi Minh City (by automobiles) and between Pnom Penh and Hanoi (by air), which have been strengthened on a regular basis to ensure P&T contact through Vietnam with the socialist and many other countries.

Telephone and telegraph communications were also restored and quickly developed. Starting in late 1979, Vietnam had been sending people, equipment, and materials over and, along with our friends, organized many field telephone and telegraph networks, with small-capacity switchboards, to serve on a timely basis Pnom Penh and many provinces; built and put to use a coastal two-way

radio station in Kompong Som to serve the coming and going ships; and urgently restored the 4,000-channel automatic telephone network in Pnom Penh, which was put back to normal operations soon afterwards. In 1980, the Vietnamese P&T sent equipment, materials, and cadres over to assist our friends in restoring two-way short-wave radio stations and telegraphic stations in order to ensure communications between Pnom Penh and many Cambodian provinces and Ho Chi Minh City. In 1981, with Vietnamese equipment, we and our friends urgently surveyed, planned, and built the Pnom Penh-Ho Chi Minh City microwave information line, which had enough receivers and transmitters, power sources, antennas, midsection cables, and so on and was quite uniform and improved; provided early direct telephone and telegraph connections between Pnom Penh and Ho Chi Minh City and some friendly provinces; assisted our friends in quickly managing and operating the equipment; and at the same time joined with our friends in building a large-power receiving-transmitting station that provided direct short-wave links between Pnom Penh and Hanoi and Vientiane. With the above-mentioned microwave information network and receiving-transmitting station, our friends' international information capacity has been greatly strengthened, with their telephone and telegraph links, through Ho Chi Minh City and Hanoi, being possibly extended to socialist and other countries. So far all provinces and municipalities and almost all districts and cities in the friendly country have had P&T offices that ensure communications with hamlets and villages; 20 provinces and municipalities now have local telephone networks, 13 provinces microwave and open line networks, and some provinces two-way radio stations.

Proper attention has been paid to training through on-the-job learning and opening schools and classes in Cambodia and Vietnam, and letting our friends visit and learn in Vietnam's P&T installations. Since 1979, the Vietnam P&T School in Ho Chi Minh City has trained in short-term courses 94 specialized technical cadres and workers for our friends. At the same time, with teachers, equipment, and teaching tools provided by Vietnam, the Pnom Penh National P&T School was established early--in 1980--and has held 6 classes to train a total of 40 management cadres and 700 workers, including nearly 500 who have graduated, and to satisfy our friends' needs in the last 7 years for organizing, building, managing, operating, and using P&T information networks.

Also since 1979 Vietnam's P&T has sent 83 groups of technicians to the friendly country to assist it for short and long periods (they did not include hundreds of P&T cadres sent by Vietnamese provinces and municipalities to their brotherhood counterparts and hundreds of workers' groups sent over to help build and restore information networks). Vietnam's P&T technicians and workers, unafraid of difficulties and obstacles, have fulfilled their tasks in the spirit of socialist internationalism. For many years the P&T protocols between the two countries have continued to be signed and have further strengthened their cooperation in terms of training, materials and equipment aids, economic management, and so on. At the end of April 1986, the P&T protocol between the two countries was again signed as a new important step to further consolidate the Vietnamese-Cambodian P&T relations and to promote in-depth cooperation in P&T management and training of cadres and workers.

5598

CSO: 4209/649

HAU GIANG GIVES AID TO CAMBODIAN BROTHERHOOD PROVINCE

Hanoi NHAN DAN in Vietnamese 6 Jun 86 p 3

[Article: "Vietnam-Laos-Cambodia Fraternal Solidarity--Hau Giang-Kompong Chhnang Cooperation"]

[Text] Right after the day of liberation (7 January 1979), the people of Kompong Chhnang Province began receiving wholehearted assistance based on brotherly love from the people of Hau Giang. For the last more than 7 years the relations of friendship and cooperation between the two brotherhood provinces have been further developed and grown in depth everyday.

In the 1979-1983 period, Hau Giang gave to the friendly province a considerable quantity of aid of various kinds. In the agricultural field, it sent to it a total of more than 3,500 metric tons of rice seeds, 55 tons of corn, 240 kilograms of vegetable seeds of various kinds, 66 tons of sweet potato, 80 tons of fertilizers, 110 hogs, and rather large quantities of insecticide, sprays, and other tools. In the industrial field, it gave as gifts to Kompong Chhnang two 20-ton motorboats and many varieties of industrial materials and equipment, and installed for the friendly province nearly 7,000 meters of pipeline. The Hau Giang educational sector gave to its friends more than 100,000 books and large quantities of learning tools and sport equipment for their schools. In the public health, information, cultural, and capital construction fields, Kompong Chhnang also received timely aid and assistance from Hau Giang.

Since mid-1984 the cooperation relations between the two brotherhood provinces have entered a new stage. On 16 June 1984, the two sides signed a cooperation memorandum for 2 years, 1984-1985. Complying with that agreement, Hau Giang later sent to the friendly province tons of rice seeds and tens of tons of cement, iron, and steel, as well as 17 agricultural technical cadres to assist it in applying intensive cultivation to rice growing. With the IR-42 rice seeds sent over by Hau Giang, the experimental growing of that rice variety in 30 hectares in District 12 later brought about a record yield. The province also sent many specialized cadres in such fields as education, information, culture, public health, and capital construction to Kompong Chhnang. Carrying out the plans for exchanging goods on the basis of mutual interests, Hau Giang sent to Kompong Chhnang large quantities of goods valued at hundreds of thousands of riels and including cement, bicycles, canvas shoes, and other items. Kompong Chhnang sent to Hau Giang lotus seeds, bags, and other items.

On 16 November 1985, Hau Giang and Kompong Chhnang signed an agreement for aid and economic, cultural, and technical cooperation in 1986. Implementing this

agreement, in the last 4 months, Hau Giang gave to its friends nonrepayable aid contained in 6 bales, valued at 36,000 riels, and consisting of testing tools and chemicals to be used in general and middle school laboratories. It also sent them tools and chemicals enough to equip two plant protection stations and one veterinary station. The friendly province received those aid items and have already put them to use. In February 1986, Hau Giang sent 15 cadres from 9 sectors over to assist in drafting plans for attaining the goals of cooperation and to sign actual contracts between the 2 provinces' sectors. These cadres' work brought about good results and was highly evaluated by the friendly province. In March 1986, 3 of Hau Giang's water conservancy cadres assisted in the building of 2 reinforced concrete dam gates and 3 sluices made of earth and wood, which would regulate water for an intensive-cultivation area of 170 hectares. Also in March, 10 cadres from the Hau Giang Agriculture Service went to Kompong Chhnang to draft agricultural plans for the outskirts of the city and the entire District 12. Vietnam's agriculture cadres provided guidance for rice growing in the 170-hectare experimental area, which included a 28-hectare farm where two crops were grown per year, and at the same time opened courses to train primary-level veterinary and crop-growing cadres, with 30-40 students in each course.

The Hau Giang Public Health Service sent over its experienced cadres who worked for a year treating malaria cases and opening training courses to raise the professional capabilities of the friendly province's public health cadres.

In coordination with its friends, Hau Giang opened two courses to train agricultural-transformation cadres. The first course was attended by 127 provincial, district, village, and hamlet cadres. The second was for district, village, and hamlet cadres, and leaders and deputy leaders of production solidarity teams of District 12, a total of 122 people. In addition, by the friendly province's request, Hau Giang's agriculture cadres organized an additional course of training for the key cadres of District 12 and of the Kompong Chhnang Agricultural Service offices and committees to learn about management.

In addition to properly carrying out the agreement it has signed, Hau Giang has always remained ready to respond to any unexpected needs the friendly province might have. Early this year it bought for it 50 tons of new rice seeds and a thresher, which were promptly delivered to the friendly province. In February 1986, by a proposal from Kompong Chhnang, it sold for the latter 1,200 tons of lotus seeds, 150 tons of mung bean, and a quantity of bicycle tires and tubes, which brought earnings of about 10 million riels to the friendly province.

This year, along with other projects, Hau Giang will draft construction plans and get materials ready for construction in early 1987 for a 100-bed child-care center and a kindergarten.

The cooperation and mutual assistance relations between Hau Giang and Kompong Chhnang are bringing about more and more results everyday.

5598

CSO: 4209/649

MORE READERS OFFER IDEAS FOR FORTHCOMING PARTY CONGRESS

Ho Chi Minh City SAIGON GIAI PHONG in Vietnamese 20 May 86 pp 1, 4

[Contributing Ideas to Party Congress column]

[Excerpts] Do Not Limit Telling the Truth

It is difficult to get hold of the truth, but to tell the truth sometimes is more difficult.

In our country, the truth that is contained in many reports is known for some time to be not totally true, for good things have been mentioned excessively, if not exaggerated, and bad things and shortcomings have been mentioned only vaguely and very little.

The reasons for talking too much about good things and blowing up figures are the bureaucratic behavior of superior echelons and the pursuit of "achievements" and false reputation of subordinate echelons. To talk about good things is aimed at winning commendation and emulation points, which in turn lead to promotions, rewards, material gains, and so on. Once we have talked about good things, it is only natural that we do not want to talk about bad things and that we are afraid of contrary results--being criticized, losing emulation points, and so on; if we cannot avoid talking about bad things, we will mention them vaguely or talk only about what we cannot hide. A wrong idea that has existed for some time is to avoid openly and widely dissecting any shortcomings, for it is thought that to do so will not be beneficial in terms of mass propaganda and proselyting, harm the prestige of the party and state, and play into the hands of the enemy, and thus to "close the doors and teach one another behind them," or to handle things privately, and so on. It is because of this fear and reluctance that some "opportunistic" party members take advantage of the whole situation to obtain personal gains, to violate discipline and the law. In many cases, party members in high positions were only transferred to other localities as punishment for some wrongdoings and even got more important positions in the process.

We should not think that everything is a national secret, or has to do with economic secrets and political security, and thus limit telling the truth.

Signed: Vo Truong of Phuoc Long, Thu Duc.

Commenting on Production, Business Installations

At the present time our social product in general, including its quantities, qualities, and prices, is incapable of responding to the relationship between supply and demand. The fact that shortages and high prices lead to regrettable negative aspects gives no indications that it will either stop or decline, particularly following the adjustments of prices, wages, and money, because of reasons coming from higher levels; however, we cannot ignore the reasons that come from production and business installations. Next to the installations that are doing a good job we have many that are less effective. A final review of several years has shown that excessively high production costs resulting from the management machinery of enterprises being too cumbersome and unrealistic, and from poor work efficiency and false economic accounting, eventually had to be borne by consumers. Our country's economy has thus encountered unending difficulties.

We think that many leading cadres do not have the right organizing and managing capabilities but deliberately occupy the key jobs and positions in their enterprises in order to obtain personal gains. They use every trick and maneuver to establish connections at all levels, flatter and try to please their superiors, cheat their subordinates, and abuse and harass those who are not on their side and those who have revealed and criticized their wrongdoings. They are afraid of those cadres who are honest and just, work effectively, and are more professionally capable. They use those people who flatter them, are incapable, and have things in their past and present that do not go along with the criteria set by the party and state for cadres. They bring relatives and members of their families into key positions in their enterprises in order to lend them support.

In their work, they are very superficial: They make reports on completion of their plans but do not show any poor results or mention the fact that completion has been premature or forced just because they wanted to score achievements to get bonuses; in some localities, they even make false reports by failing to point out that they will have to make up for the following year's volume of production and that they have allowed damages and losses of properties and wasteful use of materials to occur, hence excessive increases of production costs. The way they do business is against the socialist principles: They use intermediaries to serve state organs, get fuels from both the state and customers for production, receive materials from the state but resell them to divide the differences among themselves, and always report proper fulfillment of any political tasks assigned by their superiors while they actually sustain increasing losses year after year.

In internal management the tendency is to go after achievements, to hide shortcomings, to suppress struggle, to let decadent and degraded cadres and party members destroy the rest of party and state cadres. In some localities

hundreds of cadres and party members who had been allowed to steal and to smuggle were punished and jailed, some for life, but they have remained calm and quiet and have still received commendations, promotions and pay raises. To handle management and regular work that way can never move production and the living standard forward. We have the following suggestions we offer to the party congress:

1. To reorganize production of enterprises in conformity with the tasks assigned by superior echelons; to avoid anything superficial, showy, and cumbersome, and false economic accounting (to use tasks to build organization, but not the other way around).

2. To check and reevaluate the capabilities of management cadres, to replace those who have committed the above-mentioned acts. The reason is that such cadres are no longer suitable for the task of national economic construction.

3. To control the leadership of party organizations, mostly the party committee echelons. There can be no "clean and strong" party chapters and organizations as long as we still have within our units many signs of negative action and cheating, nor can we have strong leadership of party committee echelons while numerous matters having to do with cadre views and policies, negative incidents, and serious violations of law continue to occur.

Realities show that wherever leaders lie to their superiors, cheat their subordinates, and strengthen their positions of power for selfish purposes, production and the living standard cannot be improved and the confidence and trust of honest and righteous people will also decline.

4. To launch a real mass movement to promote the ownership right of workers and civil servants. To restore and achieve democracy inside party organizations in order to fight opportunism, factionalism, and such negative aspects as corruption, smuggling, bribery in various forms, and so on.

5. We believe that self-criticisms and criticisms can attain their goals only when the masses are really proselytized; the standards of conscience, morality, and reason are emphasized; and the negative forces are repulsed, when we really have strong and large participation by the masses.

Signed: Engineer Thai Van Uy, Ministry of Communications and Transportation Committee of Reforms

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YOUTH UNION CHAPTERS DEAL WITH SELF-CRITICISMS, CRITICISMS

Ho Chi Minh City SAIGON GIAI PHONG in Vietnamese 21 May 86 pp 1, 4

[Article by V.K.-Tuan Linh: "Many Precinct, District Youth Union Chapters Remain Confused About Self-Criticisms, Criticisms--Activities of Youth Union Chapter in Union of Communications Enterprises of Area 6 Are Poor and Dull"]

[Text] Until now more than 10 precinct and district youth union chapters and basic-level youth union organizations in the light and food industries and the Union of Communications Enterprises of Area 6 have held reviewing sessions among members. The organizations that held relatively good self-criticism sessions were the youth union chapters of the 4th Precinct, the 6th Precinct, the Union of Communications Enterprises of Area 6, and so on.

In these installations, in reviewing sessions their youth union cadres boldly criticized against and offered ideas to the youth union organizations at all levels about shortcomings in their leadership and in the movement among youths and teenagers. The youth union cadres of the 3rd and 4th Precincts, Binh Thanh District, and other precincts and districts cited the urgent needs for planning and improving the capacity of cadres to carry out youth union work and mentioned the irrational aspects of the work mechanism at the basic level. The youth union members and youths in the Saigon Brewery, through many self-reviewing sessions, pointed to a rather common phenomenon in the youth union organizations--the system used to carry out the youth union work was divided into too many levels and thus had adverse effects on the quality of this work and the emulation movement at the basic level. The youth union members and youths in the Tan Binh Export Food Processing Plant made observations about the "aging" process in youth union activities and about recruiting new youth union members without linking it with the results of production, i.e., the youths who have scored many achievements in production and have good political understanding were not recruited, while the youth union continued to recruit unqualified youths.

Beside the units that organized quite successfully the self-criticism and criticism sessions, many precinct and district youth union chapters, due to a lack of experience and a failure to fully grasp the actual requirements of these sessions, remained confused as to what they had to do in order to develop and organize the self-reviewing sessions.

During a self-reviewing session held on 13 May with the presence of youth union chapters, the Standing Committee of the Youth Union Chapter in the Union of Communications Enterprises of Area 6 sternly criticized itself and made this conclusion: One of the main reasons that led to that situation was the fact that the youth union activities here were poor and dull, the working method was bureaucratic, and the norms and documents being assigned to the basic level were handed down without any attempt to study the work conditions of each installation, nor were any guidelines given to assist the latter. With nearly 50 percent of the executive committee members being 35-37 years of age and having in some cases 15 years of youth union work, the executive committee itself did not have any plans for training the next group of young cadres. Some executive committee members, such as Truong Quoc Son, secretary, youth union chapter in Machine Works 622, regularly failed to participate in its activities but were not criticized. Other members, such as Mai Xuan Dua, secretary, youth union chapter in Bridge Enterprise 63, were subjected to disciplinary action of the administration but still escaped any punishment within the youth union chapters.

During the same session, the cadres from the basic-level youth union chapters criticized the municipal chapter for failing to work closely with the basic level and pointed to the fact that the conferences the municipal chapter had convened did not as yet resolve the issues that the basic level was deeply concerned about.

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CSO: 4209/654

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