

Message Text

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44

ACTION EA-06

INFO OCT-01 SS-14 ISO-00 NSC-05 NSCE-00 SP-02 PM-03 DODE-00

PRS-01 INR-05 CIAE-00 /037 W
----- 119988

R 301137Z MAY 75
FM AMEMBASSY BANGKOK
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 4889

C O N F I D E N T I A L BANGKOK 9933

LIMDIS

DEPT PASS CINCPAC

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PFOR, TH, US

SUBJ: REMARKS OF KING OF THAILAND

1. AFTER PRESENTING MY LETTERS TO THE KING OF THAILAND TODAY, HE ADDRESSED ME PERSONALLY ALONG THE FOLLOWING LINES. THE KING WELCOMED ME TO HIS COUNTRY AND SAID THAT I WAS ARRIVING AT A PARTICULARLY DIFFICULT AND DANGEROUS MOMENT NOT ONLY IN THE HISTORY OF THAILAND BUT IN THE BROADER CONTEXT OF WORLD AFFAIRS. IN THIS DIFFICULT PERIOD, HE WAS CONFIDENT THAT RELATIONS BETWEEN OUR COUNTRIES WOULD BE CARRIED ON IN THE SPIRIT OF FRIENDSHIP AND CLOSE COOPERATION WHICH HAD EXISTED IN THE PAST. HE SAID HE HOPED THAT THE "RECENT EVENTS" TO WHICH I ALLUDED IN MY PREPARED TEXT WOULD NOT BE TAKEN BY ME AS REPRESENTING THE ATTITUDE OF THE PEOPLE OF THAILAND. THERE WAS A SMALL BUT VERY VOCAL MINORITY WHICH CONSIDERED PEOPLE LIKE HIMSELF TO BE DINOSAURS BUT THEY HAD NO REAL APPRECIATION OF THE NEEDS OF THE KINGDOM.

2. THE KING WENT ON TO SAY THAT "WE" WERE DOING OUR UTMOST FOR THE POOR AND THAT THAILAND WAS A COUNTRY
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WITH A LONG HISTORY OF FREEDOM AND INDEPENDENCE.

3. THE KING SAID HE KNEW THAT I HAD HAD A GREAT DEAL OF PREVIOUS EXPERIENCE IN THIS AREA BUT THAT AS I PROBABLY KNEW CONDITIONS WERE DIFFERENT IN EACH COUNTRY AND ALTHOUGH THAILAND AND LAOS HAD MANY CLOSE TIES, THE SITUATION THERE WAS ENTIRELY DIFFERENT.

4. THE KING SAID THAT HE WAS CONFIDENT THAT I WOULD ENJOY THE COOPERATION AND GOOD-WILL OF HIS GOVERNMENT AND OF THE THAI PEOPLE.

5. AFTER I HAD INTRODUCED THE SENIOR OFFICERS WHO HAD ACCOMPANIED ME, THE KING REPEATED HIS EXPRESSIONS OF GOOD-WILL AND EXPRESSED THE HOPE THAT HE WOULD SEE ME IN THE NEAR FUTURE.

6. THE KING'S PREPARED REMARKS WERE ANODYNE AND WILL BE POUCHED TO THE DEPARTMENT.

7. COMMENT: I GAINED THE IMPRESSION FROM THE KING'S MANNER, AS WELL AS FROM HIS REMARKS, THAT HE IS PROFOUNDLY CONCERNED OVER THE EXTERNAL/ INTERNAL EMNACE HE PERCEIVES TO THE SECURITY OF THE KINGDOM.
WHITEHOUSE

NOTE BY OC/T: NOT PASSED CINCPAC.

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NNN

Message Attributes

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Margaret P. Grafeld
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