

Message Text

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53

ACTION SS-30

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 SSO-00 NSCE-00 /031 W

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O P 031429Z DEC 73

FM AMEMBASSY BANGKOK

TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 8688

INFO AMEMBASSY CANBERRA PRIORITY

S E C R E T BANGKOK 18756

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PGOV, PINS, TH

SUBJECT: KING SUDDENLY CHANGES HIS PLANS

EXDIS

1. A CONFIDANT OF THE KING TOLD THE DCM LATE DECEMBER 3 THAT THE KING HAD CANCELLED ALL HIS BIRTHDAY FESTIVITIES AND WAS DEPARTING PRECIPITOUSLY FOR A REMOTE IMMIGRATION DEPARTMENT REST HOUSE IN KANCHANABURI PROVINCE. THE ROYAL DOMESTIC STAFF WAS SCRAMBLING TO SET THE PLACE IN ORDER. KANCHANABURI IS THE OUTBACK OF WEST THAILAND.
2. THE SAME INFORMANT MENTIONED THAT HIS MAJESTY'S PRINCIPAL PRIVATE SECRETARY HAD LEFT ABRUPTLY FOR AUSTRALIA. THE CROWN PRINCE IS STUDYING THERE, AND HAD PLANNED A TRIP TO THAILAND FOR HIS FATHER'S BIRTHDAY.
3. WE HAVE NO WAY OF KNOWING AT THIS JUNCTURE WHETHER THE KING'S ASTOLOGERS, IF HE CONSULTS THEM, HAVE ADVISED HIM TO GET OUT OF TOWN, OR WHETHER SOMETHING MORE SERIOUS IS BREWING. IF THE THAI MILITARY ARE PLANNING TO FIX SOME ORDER AMID THE CURRENT RASH OF LABOR STRIKES AND STUDENT STRIDENCY, THEY WOULD MOST LIKELY INFORM THE KING IN ADVANCE AND RECEIVE HIS BLESSING. ON THE OTHER HAND, HIS MAJESTY, GIVEN THE MIASMA OF RUMORS CURRENTLY FLOATING IN THE BANGKOK ATMOSPHERE, MAY JUST BE EXERCISING UNUSUAL PRUDENCE.
4. COME DAWN, WE'LL CONSULT MORE TRADITIONAL SOURCES THAN THE
SECRET

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CRYSTAL BALL FOR A CLEARER READING, AND INFORM WASHINGTON.
KINTNER

SECRET

<< END OF DOCUMENT >>

Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: Z
Capture Date: 10 MAY 1999
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: POLITICAL SITUATION, PROPOSALS (BID), CONGRATULATORY MESSAGES
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 03 DEC 1973
Decaption Date: 28 MAY 2004
Decaption Note: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Authority: smithrj
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 28 MAY 2004
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1973BANGKO18756
Document Source: ADS
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: 11652 GDS
Errors: n/a
Film Number: P750029-2056
From: BANGKOK
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1973/newtext/t19731256/abqcefdnd.tel
Line Count: 55
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, TEXT ON MICROFILM
Office: ACTION SS
Original Classification: SECRET
Original Handling Restrictions: EXDIS
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 2
Previous Channel Indicators:
Previous Classification: SECRET
Previous Handling Restrictions: EXDIS
Reference: n/a
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Authority: smithrj
Review Comment: n/a
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 17 OCT 2001
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review History: RELEASED <17-Oct-2001 by kelleyw0>; APPROVED <13-Dec-2001 by smithrj>
Review Markings:

Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
30 JUN 2005

Review Media Identifier:
Review Referrals: n/a
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: KING SUDDENLY CHANGES HIS PLANS
TAGS: PEPR, PINS, US, TH
To: STATE INFO CANBERRA
Type: TE
Markings: Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 30 JUN 2005