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THE WHITE HOUSE
WASHINGTON

4500
Add-On

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MEMORANDUM OF CONVERSATION

SUBJECT: Meeting with Chatichai Chunchawan of Thailand (S)

PARTICIPANTS: The President
Karl D. Jackson, Senior Director for Asian
Affairs (Notetaker)

Chatichai Chunchawan, Prime Minister
Sathianthai Surakait, International Law Advisor to
the Prime Minister

DATE, TIME June 14, 1990, 11:00 - 12:00pm, One-on-One Meeting
AND PLACE: Oval Office

The President welcomed the Prime Minister and held a brief meeting in the Oval Office. (U)

The President: Welcome, Prime Minister Chatichai. We view this as an important visit and are very pleased to have this distinguished visit from the Prime Minister of Thailand. I thought we would spend a minute in here before we move into the Cabinet Room. Afterwards we will go to White House for a working lunch. I am very pleased you are here. (U)

On Cambodia, we have worked closely to achieve our immediate strategic objective, the withdrawal of Vietnamese forces. But we continue to worry about a longer term threat of Vietnamese domination and, therefore, a comprehensive political settlement is necessary. We want to see Cambodia as an independent buffer. In the U.S. there is great dread of the Khmer Rouge. Just for working with ASEAN, I am being accused of favoring the Khmer Rouge. (S)

We welcome your own commitment to a comprehensive political settlement. We welcome what Thailand has done to keep the process going forward. However, we believe it is very important to maintain links between short-term proposals and progress toward an overall political solution. Unless there is a comprehensive political settlement, steps, such as a ceasefire, will not bring lasting peace to Cambodia. Vietnam and Hun Sen must show some flexibility to get to the comprehensive settlement we all want. (S)

We remain concerned about Rabta and the chemical plant. The fact that Thai's have been involved has caused heartburn. If you need anymore information on Thai involvement, we will provide help. Qadhafi has lied about this chemical weapons facility. We do not want to be at cross purposes with Thailand about this. (S)

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We have strongly suggested to the PRC that they halt weapons to Khmer Rouge. At the last Perm Five meeting we brought this up with China. I want to know how you feel about all of this, especially the question of how weapons reach the Khmer Rouge.

(S)

Prime Minister Chatichai: Thank you for your time. The last time I planned to come I had to postpone the visit because we had a typhoon in Thailand. I have a few things to raise with you. In April I met with Prime Minister Kaifu. He is a big change for Japan. (S)

The President: I like the man. He is a different, more modern Japanese political leader. (S)

Prime Minister Chatichai: When I spoke with Prime Minister Kaifu I said that now that peace is coming to Cambodia, Japan should participate in the peace process. If you do not, you will be blamed. He agreed. I suggested that he host the Hun Sen-Sihanouk meeting and an agreement was achieved. This is a good sign; Japan is talking about something other than just trade.

(S)

With regard to the Tokyo agreement, it is a good thing that the Khmer Rouge did not sign. Sihanouk represents all three factions. If the PRC stops supplying the KR, the war will end. We would like the U.S. to ask the Chinese to halt arms shipments to the Khmer Rouge. (S)

The President: We are in a tough position. If we extend MFN to China, and all we get is blame. The New York Times is slugging us on this issue. China should give us a break; Fang should be released. (S)

Prime Minister Chatichai: We cannot allow the China-gate to be closed. It took 20 years to open it. (S)

The President: The politicians do not have your long-range view. Regarding China and the KR, I don't think we have as much leverage with China now, but I like your suggestion and we will talk to them about it. (S)

Prime Minister Chatichai: We have learned that the amount of narcotics being produced is increasing. Burmese producers are now producing ten times more than in the past, mostly in Shan states. We are going to put more pressure on the Thai-Burma border. (S)

The President: The more that you can crack down and close the border--and crack down on corruption, the better. We have the same problem here. We are trying to cut down on the demand here and are trying to do better on interdiction and corruption. (S)

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Are young Thai's using narcotics? Is this becoming a problem?
(S)

Mr. Surakait: Not many. (S)

Prime Minister Chatichai: We are strengthening our anti-narcotics capabilities, but we need assistance, such as helicopters. (S)

The President: Let's review this with our top staff people. (S)

Prime Minister Chatichai: You gave us a group of helicopters 18 years ago but they are now worn out. (S)

On Burma, we should have close contact with Burmese military forces; I have many close friends there. I worked to repatriate the Kuo Min Tang from Burma. We need to sandwich Khum Sa between the Burmese army and the Thai. (S)

The President: Does the political change bode well for Thai-Burma cooperation. Will it be possible to coordinate more closely with the new group, or not? (S)

Prime Minister Chatichai: Only some of them. We need to talk to Burmese forces. (S)

The President: We want to give you maximum cooperation in the area of narcotics. (S)

Prime Minister Chatichai: The demand must come down. (S)

The President: There has been some decline in cocaine use. I feel the same way that you do; the demand must come down. (S)

Prime Minister Chatichai: When we caught people before they might have 1-2 kilos, but not 100-200 kilos like now. (S)

The President: You can tell your associates, we are making a serious effort to control demand in the United States. (S)

Prime Minister Chatichai: We have strengthened the narcotics unit and we passed a new bill on assets seizure. (S)

Mr. Surakait: Mr. President, these are copies of the draft bill. This bill has passed the first reading in parliament. (S)

Prime Minister Chatichai: You should not move your bases from the Philippines. (S)

The President: We do not have a limitless pocketbook. When we see anti-Americanism and killings -- combined with this Foreign Minister who blasts my country all the time. I have instructed my staff to look for other locations. If it becomes clear that

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we are not wanted, we will go elsewhere. If the government engages in anti-bases rhetoric, we will leave. We have a good tough negotiator. This is not so much a matter of dollars but of the attitude of the government, which is not strong. (S)

However, regardless of what happens in the Philippine negotiations, we are not going to leave Asia. I know some of our friends are concerned that we may neglect Asia. We won't. We have strong security and financial interests. (S)

Prime Minister Chatichai: In 1992 we will host the APEC meeting. This is very important. This is our way to prevent the Japanese from dominating the area completely. (S)

The President: We will stay involved in Asia. We do not want Japan alone to dominate. (S)

Prime Minister Chatichai: On Libya, do not forget we are Buddhists. The Moslems do not let us know what is going on. They have not informed us. (S)

The President: If you want more information on Rabta, I will personally get it to you. (S)

Prime Minister Chatichai: I hear you will be decommissioning many units in Europe. (S)

The President: We have a proposal for CFE. We do not know yet exactly how it will turn out. (S)

Prime Minister Chatichai: We would like to buy tanks and APCs. (S)

The President: You should get to Secretary Cheney on this. (S)

-- End of Conversation --

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