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February 26, 1954

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NATIONAL SECURITY COUNCIL

PROGRESS REPORT

on

U. S. PSYCHOLOGICAL STRATEGY BASED ON THAILAND
(PSB D-23)

by

THE OPERATIONS COORDINATING BOARD

ATTENTION

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Washington

February 26, 1954

MEMORANDUM FOR: Mr. James S. Lay, Jr.
Executive Secretary
National Security Council

SUBJECT: PSB D-23, Thailand*

Reference: NSC Action No. 900

The OCB at its February 17th meeting noted the attached progress report and directed that it be forwarded to the National Security Council for information.

The OCB requests that the NSC rescind Action No. 900 on the understanding that the OCB will coordinate implementation of PSB D-23 as an operational plan contributing to the implementation of NSC 5405.

/s/ ELMER B. STAATS

Elmer B. Staats
Executive Officer

* See memos for NSC from Executive Secretary, subject, "U. S. Psychological Strategy Based on Thailand," dated September 4 and 11, 1953.

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January 27, 1954

PROGRESS REPORT ON PSD D-23,
"U.S. PSYCHOLOGICAL STRATEGY BASED ON THAILAND"A. SUMMARY

1. Actions taken: Substantially all actions assigned in PSD D-23 are in process of being carried out by the responsible agencies. Ambassador Donovan has made arrangements with the Thai Government on both policy and working levels to coordinate U.S. and Thai efforts to achieve the objective of "increasing its stability and making its frontiers more defensible".
2. Additional actions: The several proposals made by Ambassador Donovan in his report with recommendations presented before the NSC Planning Board for military, economic and technical assistance will further strengthen the overall U.S. program in Thailand. All are considered to be in accordance with the policy in D-23 and NSC 5405 (Southeast Asia).
3. Actions incomplete or not undertaken: The various projects described in more detail in D. below and in Annex A are at different stages of development:
 - a. Some are still in the exploratory stage, for example, the placing of a Thai-controlled mobile transmitter at or near the Thai-Laos frontier.
 - b. Legal and budgetary restrictions have limited the scope of the exchange program set forth in D-23.
 - c. Discussion continues on the most advantageous means of implementing the requirement of strengthened, obligatory educational courses for all U.S. official personnel assigned to Thailand, Laos and Cambodia.
4. Evaluation of policy: In the opinion of the working group, PSD D-23 remains effective, timely, and capable of continuing implementation.

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D. PROGRESS BY AGENCY RESPONSIBILITIESDepartment of State

Basic Tasks:

1. Induce the Thai Government to carry out measures to reduce vulnerabilities to communist subversion, and combat communist influence on former opposition leaders (V, 2, b., (3)).

Action: This task is carried out under the guidance of the Ambassador and is followed by US officials in consulting and advising the Thai Government in its military, economic and related programs. The Thai Government is cooperating to the best of its ability.

2. Strengthen and make obligatory educational courses for official personnel (V, 2, b., (7)).

Action: The Foreign Service Institute of State has put forward a proposal including training in Washington and continuing field study. Discussion continues on the best means of operating such a program within the limits of personnel management and budgetary restrictions. There is agreement that there should be preliminary orientation in Washington. However, the consensus is that language and area training should be primarily conducted in the field. The Foreign Service Institute will be requested to consult with training divisions of the other agencies to work out the details.

Special Undertakings:

1. Provide for more IES grants and staff if required, for this and Di-National Institute (V, 2, c., (1)(a)),

Action: IES grants have been held at the 1953 level by transfers from other resources. Another transfer has provided for three special-ists grants for Thai to come to the United States.

2. Assign the best qualified officer for a Thai survey (V, 2, c., (1)(b)).

Action: Mr. Landon, Officer in Charge, Thai and Malayan Affairs, traveled for five weeks in Thailand and conducted the survey required. The substance of his report was utilized by Ambassador Donovan in his recommendations and by the working group in preparing this report.

3. Request if appropriate a new NGRG representative in Bangkok (V, 2, c., (1)(c)).

Action: Embassy Bangkok has been queried and as no reply has been received, a further query is being sent.

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4. Promote regional inter-Asian exchange of persons (V, 2, c., (1)(d)).

Action: This action cannot be carried out because there is currently no enabling legislation. Embassy Bangkok has been instructed to discuss inter-Asian exchanges with Mr. Luther Evans, the new Director General for UNESCO, in the hope that such exchanges might be arranged under UN auspices.

5. (Transferred from USIA) Explore the feasibility and desirability of a Thai-controlled mobile transmitter at or near the Thai-Laos frontier (V, 2, c., (4)(b)).

Action: State will instruct the US Ambassador to explore with the Thai Government, as required. The nature of the request by the Thai Government will determine how the request will be handled by the U.S. Government.

Department of Defense

Basic Tasks:

1. Strengthen and make obligatory educational courses for official personnel (V, 2, b., (7)).

Action: For inter-agency consultation, see State, Basic Tasks 2. The Services are examining their current efforts but see substantial practical difficulties in reprogramming. In the meantime, MAAG Bangkok has arranged with the Thai Ministry of Defense for MAAG personnel to receive from Thai sources a grounding in the history, culture, customs, and problems of Thailand.

2. Encourage the Thai Government to strengthen orientation programs for their military personnel (V, 2, b., (8)).

Action: MAAG and USIS Bangkok are jointly encouraging the Thai Government but as of this date no report from MAAG has been received concerning results obtained.

Special Undertakings:

1. Stage an air show in Bangkok after consultation with Embassy, Bangkok (V, 2, c., (2)(a)).

Action: A show of air strength was conducted on the King's birthday and routine air and naval visits are continuing on an increased scale.

2. Attach to MAAG a suitably qualified psywar officer (V, 2, c., (2)(b)).

Action: The Chief of Staff, US Army has initiated the necessary action to comply.

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3. Effect coordination of military visits with FW agencies (V, 2, c., (2)(c)).

Action: This is accomplished routinely on the initiative of Embassy Bangkok.

Foreign Operations Administration

Basic Tasks:

1. Maintain economic aid and technical assistance program, with emphasis as in V, 2, b., (1).

Action: The regular and supplemental FOA programs for Thailand for FY 1954 have been approved totalling \$5,540,000. The program is in various stages of implementation with emphasis on the northeastern section of the country and on projects which demonstrate US interest in the welfare of the people.

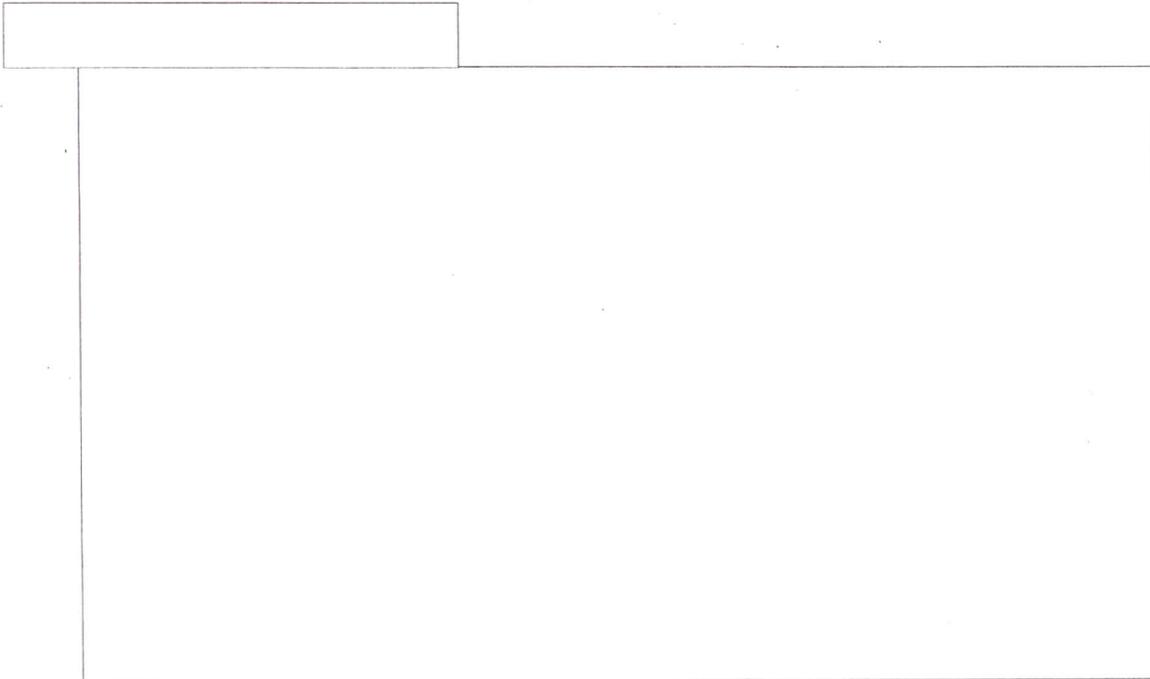
2. Strengthen and make obligatory educational courses for official personnel (V, 2, b., (7)).

Action: FOA has submitted a proposal to the working group and pending inter-agency decisions is continuing its existing arrangements.

Special Undertakings:

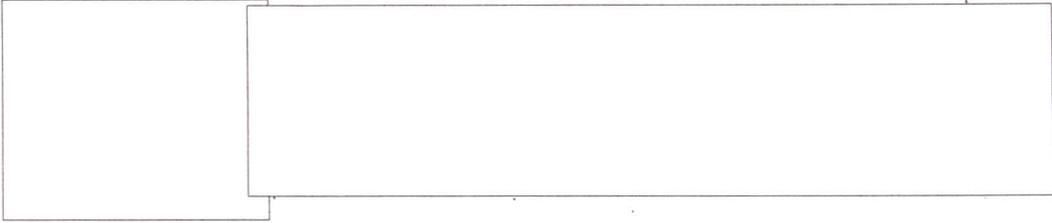
1. Continue with a high priority economic programs in support of the objectives of this strategy (V, 2, c., (4)).

Action: This is being done as in 1. above.

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United States Information Agency

In accordance with PSB D-23, USIA has strengthened its program in Thailand. \$280,000 additional funds have been made available to Thailand and adjacent areas for the remainder of fiscal year 1954. Of this total, \$155,000 will be available for Thailand (\$110,000 is available for Vietnam, Laos and Cambodia and \$15,000 for Burma). The personnel complement for Thailand is being increased from 17 to 30. A new PAO has been assigned to Thailand (Mr. Meader, more recently PAO in Singapore). A qualified Information Officer has been transferred directly from Manila to Bangkok and a Press Officer has been transferred from Tokyo. The program expansion provides for three additional offices (Korat, Ubon, Nong Khai) in Northeast Thailand and increased program activities will emphasize press, publications, and motion pictures. There will be an increased distribution of publications through Buddhist organizations. Motion picture activity will include production of documentaries, newsreels, and shorts. A moderate expansion in radio programming will be supplemented by the distribution of community receiving sets.

Basic Tasks:

1. Develop or expand overt programs, wherever possible in cooperation with local governments, with objectives in V, 2, b., (2).

Action: See introductory paragraph.

2. Stimulate and support overt Thai information activities (V, 2, b., (5)).

Action: See introductory paragraph.

3. Strengthen and make obligatory educational courses for official personnel (V, 2, b., (7)).

Action: For inter-agency consultation, see State, Basic Tasks 2., meanwhile, USIA is continuing its program.

4. Encourage the Thai Government to strengthen suitable information programs for the general public, as in V, 2, b., (8).

Action: USIS, Bangkok is undertaking this task in cooperation with other agencies.

Special Undertakings:

1. Strengthen the existing USIS program in Thailand as in V, 2, c., (4)(a).

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Action: See introductory paragraph.

2. Intensify information activities in northeast Thailand (V, 2, c., (4)(c)).

Action: See introductory paragraph.

3. Continue VOA Thai language broadcasts, unless better use can be made of personnel and organization (V, 2, c., (4)(d)).

Action: VOA Thai language broadcasts are being continued.

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ANNEX A - Summary of Recommendations by Ambassador Donovan

Military

1. Doubling the number of personnel in a new joint US military advisory group.

Action: Agreed; 140 additional officers and men are being assigned to JUSMAG.

2. Furnishing a squadron of jet planes to Thailand.

Action: Not yet agreed.

Economic:

1. \$2,500,000 in soft goods.

Action: Under consideration; awaiting justification from JUSMAG.

2. Northeast highway.

Action: FOA and State are awaiting the Defense reply to State's communication approving it in principle for planning purposes.

3. Supply of isotopes and training two Thai technicians in their use.

Action: Agreed by AEC, pending completion of formalities by Thai Government.

Political-Psychological

1. Ambassador Donovan recommended and the Thai cabinet adopted a proposal to establish a board under the chairmanship of the Prime Minister to develop a political-psychological program carried out by Thai in liaison with the U.S. Ambassador and selected members of the U.S. Mission in Thailand.

2. Reorganization of USIS program in Thailand.

Action: This has been done. See Progress Report, page 5.