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23 SEP 1976
In reply refer to:
I-24363/76

MEMORANDUM FOR ME SECRETARY OF DEFENSE

SUBJECT: **Resignation of the Thai Prime Minister (U) -- INFORMATION MEMORANDUM**

~~(C)~~ Thai Prime Minister Seni Pramoet announced that he would resign today. His announcement followed expression of "lack of confidence" by his own party in the House of Representatives. Seni was under pressure for his government's handling of the return of former strongman Thanom Kittikachom. If the King accepts his resignation, which is uncertain, the coalition in power would be dissolved. Despite military unhappiness with the relative weakness of the Seni Government there are no indications of a possible military take-over. Additionally, the inability of the Seni Government to deal with the sudden and un-invited return of the former Prime Minister Thanom could lead to student rioting which could endanger the whole civilian government effort.

~~(S)~~ Since USG/Thai agreements require review and approval by the Prime Minister's Office, a sudden and unpredicted fall of the Seni Government may hamper completion of our negotiations concerning residual activities. Barring substantial violence the elements of our policy, including P-3 flights, are safe and will be accepted by any successor government.

(Signed)
Eugene V. McAuliffe
Assistant Secretary of Defense
International Security Affairs

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Prep'd by: CDR Julian/AD/57981/
23 Sep 76/hb

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Classified by ASD/ISA
SUBJECT TO GENERAL DECLASSIFICATION SCHEDULE OF
EXECUTIVE ORDER 11652, AUTHORITY FOR
AT TWO YEAR INTERVALS. DECLASSIFIED ON 31 Dec 89

Sec Def Cont Nr. X-

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