

U.S. Regrets CIA Agent's False Letter

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From News Dispatches

BANGKOK, Jan. 5—The U.S. embassy admitted today that an agent for the Central Intelligence Agency sent the Thai government a letter last month proposing a cease-fire in return for guerrilla autonomy in the northeastern region of the country near the Laos border.

The embassy apologized to the Thai government.

The letter, addressed to Premier Sanya Dharmasakti, was supposed to have come from an insurgent leader, but the offer was never taken seriously by the Thais because it was so inconsistent with known Communist policy.

The embassy, which admitted the affair after three Bangkok newspapers broke the story, said, "The incident of the cease-fire letter . . . was a regrettable, unauthorized initiative."

It added that U.S. Ambassador William R. Kintner, who presented his credentials only Nov. 29, "has directed categorically that no American official be involved in any activity which could be interpreted as interference in Thai internal

affairs."

The incident was especially embarrassing since Kintner has been trying to play down his former career as a U.S. Army officer, including two years with the Central Intelligence Agency in Washington as a planning specialist on paramilitary activities in 1950-1952.

The Bangkok newspaper The Nation cited "an unimpeachable source" as saying that the CIA had apologized to Thai authorities for the affair and that the agent who sent the letter—code-named "Lion"—actually had contacted insurgents in the northeast jungles and had sent the hoax letter with good intentions, hoping to gain more Communist defections by indicating a soft attitude on the part of their leaders.

The letter was signed "Chamras"—the code name of a central committee member of the Communist Party of Thailand in the northeast, The Nation reported.

The newspaper said that whoever mailed the letter had made the mistake of having it registered, and it was traced back to the CIA office in Sakon Nakhon by Thai police.

JW(HR), re today's Post's "U.S. Regrets CIA Agent's False Letter." If you see anything else I'd be interested. How closely this fits what Segretti did after Hunt was put up to watching him! And for those who think experienced spooks do not make stupid mistakes, as at the Watergate, this guy in Thailand actually registered his fake letter, which made tracing it back to him child's play. Why register it to begin with? And would the guy he pretended wrote the letter have registered it? I wonder about this Mintner, if he could be related to Bob Mintner, who was Alsop's column partner until WWII, when he entered the service? He was later, I think, president of NBC or of NBC News. Failed there. HR: The column began as Alsop and Mintner and began as reactionary as it is under Alsop. Note how early CIA was in paramilitary activities, 1950-2, Mintner was, as planning specialist. HW 1/6/74