

I.T.T. Subsidiary Based Out of Thailand

by David A. Andelman

Bangkok, Thailand, Aug. 31 - A subsidiary of [.I.T.T.] responsible for operating and maintaining the entire American military communications system in Thailand, including top-secret monitoring stations, has been eased out of the country, its operations here terminating today.

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[The subsidiary,] the Federal Electric Company, which has its headquarters in Paramus, N.J., has operated the entire communications network that links the various American bases in Thailand, the sophisticated radar networks, the satellite ground stations and a secret monitoring station at Ramusun in northeastern Thailand, that has for years intercepted and monitored Communist military and civilian radio traffic in this region.

In fact, Federal Electric has been in Indochina almost from the first days of American involvement in Southeast Asia. It was this company that, unknown to most outsiders, operated the entire military communications network in South Vietnam - one of the most sophisticated ever established in a war zone.

The company's troubles in Thailand began more than a year ago when the Thai Government suddenly announced that it wanted Thai companies to take over the functions being performed by F.E.C., clearly in preparation for what the Thais hoped would be a complete turnover of the whole communications network to them by next March 19. That is the deadline the Government set for the complete withdrawal of the American military from Thailand.

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