

Thailand Premier Defends the Coup

Field Marshal athanom Kittikachorn said yesterday that one reason for his coup was fear that China's entry into the United Nations would spur Chinese in Thailand to support the nation's insurrections.

The military strong man, who traded his title of premier for that of leader of the new Revolutionary party, said the times called for "quick, drastic and absolute action."

As other justifications for the coup Wednesday that ousted the cabinet, dismissed parliament, and suspended the constitution, Thanom cited rising crime and terrorism. He threatened to use almost dictatorial powers, including firing squads, to maintain internal security.

In a briefing for government officials, Thanom said that if Thailand's three million Chinese supported Communist ideology in great numbers, the result would be turmoil for Thailand, he declared.

Thanom promised that his new regime would adhere to the United Nations charter, abide by its treaty obligations and try to promote friendlier relations "with all those countries which mani-

fest no ill will toward it."

This interpreted by many to mean that the regime will try and keep China at arms length. Thanom said last week that no trade or diplomatic relations with China were likely as long as Peking supported subversion and terrorism in northeastern Thailand.

Thanom also named the eight leading members of his new regime, which has been described in official English-language statements as both the Revolutionary party and the National Executive Council.

The leaders, apart from Thanom are: General Praphas Charusathien, deputy leader and director of military affairs; Pote Sarasin, assistant leader; police General Prasert Ruchirawongese, director of civilian affairs; Air Chief Marshal Dawee Chullasapya, deputy director of military affairs; Air Chief Marshall Boochoo Chandrubeksa, deputy director of military affairs; Admiral Thawil Raiyanond, deputy director of military affairs; Thawil Sunthornsarathul, deputy director of civilian affairs, and General Kris Sivara, secretary-general of the council.