

4,000 THAIS ARRESTED SINCE MILITARY COUP

Two-Thirds Still Held on Suspicion
of Subversion, Junta Says

NYTimes

OCT 21 1976

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Special to The New York Times

BANGKOK, Thailand, Oct. 20—Thailand's military rulers disclosed today that more than 4,000 people had been arrested since the coup of Oct. 6 on suspicion of being Communist subversives. Nearly two-thirds of them are still in custody, a spokesman for the junta said.

Meanwhile, the junta continued to tighten curbs on civil liberties throughout the country.

Among its recent actions, disclosed in a series of edicts and public statements by senior members of the junta, was an extension of the period of detention without trial and without charges from one month to six months.

List of Journalists Published

Areas called "Communist-infested zones" were created in which all civil liberties may be suspended and which may be declared out of bounds for residence. In addition the teaching of any political theory "including democratic concepts" was banned in the nation's schools.

At the same time, two right-wing newspapers believed close to the junta published a list of 57 editors, columnists and reporters, among them some of Thailand's most prominent journalists, who reportedly were going to be arrested. The newspapers said at least 70 percent of them were Communists.

Later a spokesman for the junta, known as the Administrative Reform Committee, said that the lists were not official and

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that those appearing on them "need have no fear."

Nevertheless, it was clear today that a nationwide roundup was continuing of people described as Communist suspects or as leftists, among them large numbers of intellectuals, professors and moderate politicians.

In a briefing this afternoon, Col. Karoon Kengradomying, the junta's chief spokesman for the foreign press, said that since the coup, 4,287 people "were captured" and some 2,647 still were in custody.

705 Termed Public Enemies

Of these he said 705 were declared to be public enemies and none of these have been released.

There were, however, some discrepancies in these figures that Colonel Karoon said he was unable to clear up—particularly the fate of 3,070 students, many of whom were arrested during the bloody clashes at Thammasat University on Oct. 6 before the junta took power.

Last week the police said they still held only about 500 such students, having released the rest on bail. Today, Colonel Karoon said all 3,070 were included in the overall figure of those arrested, but added that in all, only 1,640 had been released. That would leave more than 1,400 students still in prisons in the Bangkok area.

Other Government sources said the figures seemed far too low, given the scope of the roundups throughout the country. Late today, the ninth-ranking member of the junta and the senior police general, Gen. Srisuk Mahinthorathep, said he would discuss the question at a news conference tomorrow.

Other junta officials conceded today that 200 leftist students had fled to Laos since the crackdowns began.

Series of New Regulations

The new regulations and edicts that were made public today will take effect immediately. They provided:

¶All those seized under martial law in the last two weeks may be held for six months without trial and without charges instead of one month.

¶All cases are to be decided by military tribunals with no right of appeal.

¶Wide areas of the country may be designated by the junta as "Communist-

infested areas" and Thais may be forbidden to enter or live in them. In these zones, all civil liberties may be suspended, authorities will be allowed to carry out searches without warrants "at any time," and all residents in such areas may be ordered out "within a set period."

¶In each area of Thailand, a "director of anti-Communist suppression" may be appointed with the authority to order "anyone to give information," as well as the right to "impose a curfew or ask anyone to report to the official," with a violator of any such order liable for imprisonment for up to two years.

In addition, the under secretary for education, Charoon Wongsayant, told school principals and educators that teaching of all forms of political theory, including "democratic concepts" will be banned as soon as schools reopen, probably early next month.

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