

Thais Consider Ban or Curb on the C.I.A.

By JAMES F. CLARIFY

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BANGKOK, Thailand, Jan. 15 —Members of the Government met today and considered specific proposals to eliminate or sharply reduce the espionage and other activities of the United States Central Intelligence Agency in Thailand.

A well-placed Government source that the cabinet of Premier Sanya Dharmasakti would act on the proposals later this week or early next week. Privately, however, some Government officials say that a categorical ban of the C.I.A. would be impractical, as the agents could continue to operate in varied groups.

At issue before the Cabinet was the scandal that erupted here 11 days ago involving the activities of the agency in Thailand, the United States Ambassador, William R. Kintner, admitted that an agency officer had written a letter to the Sanya Government, purportedly from an insurgent leader, offering to open peace talks with the premier. The Ambassador apologized for the letter and said that he had ordered American officials here to do nothing that might be interpreted as interference in internal Thai affairs.

Mr. Kintner, who became Ambassador in November, discussed the incident today in an interview with some Western correspondents. An American Embassy official present at the interview said the Ambassador recalled that he was "madder than hell" when he learned of the letter. He said that he had personally apologized for it to Premier Sanya and to King

Phumiphol Aduldet, according to the Embassy official.

The Ambassador also said, according to the Embassy official, that it was up to the Thai Government to decide whether it wanted the C.I.A. there to curtail or suspend the assistance it gives the government on counterinsurgency and counterintelligence work.

The Ambassador was also said to have stated that he wanted to end the "gung ho attitude" of the American agents here. In the future, the Ambassador said, plots such as the one involving the fake letter would be left for the Thais themselves to carry out or reject.

The Government officials discussing the scandal today were said to include Premier Sanya and the Foreign Minister, Charoonphan Issarangun Na Ayutthaya. The Foreign Minister was said to have drawn up alternate proposals for dealing with the situation. One of them, according to the Government source, would order a total suspension of all C.I.A. activities in the country. Another would

spell out in detail permissible activity.

Department officials, the source said, have been ordered to tell the Cabinet what services the agency might be providing and if the services should be continued.

Cabinet members were also discussing, the source said, the possibility of declaring Ambassador Kintner an unwelcome person. A demand for the ambassador's recall was made last week by student organizations, which constitute the country's most influential political force since they overthrew the military government here in October.

Knowledgeable Western diplomats said here today, however, that they would be surprised if the Thai Government took such severe action.

The American Embassy also confirmed reports that Mr. Kintner planned to go to Washington in the next several weeks, but said the trip had been planned before the C.I.A. incident and was not stimulated by it.