

Protests in Thailand

Jeers for Tanaka, U.S. Ambassador

Bangkok

Shouting, jeering Thai students demanded the ouster of the U.S. ambassador and angrily protested a visit by the Japanese prime minister yesterday in a new show of their political muscle.

More than 4000 students, professors and other Thais massed outside the U.S. embassy here demanding that Ambassador William R. Kintner and the U.S. Central Intelligence Agency get out of the country.

Student marshals kept order and the demonstration, organized by the People for Democratic Action group, broke up after about two hours.

Kintner was visiting Chienghai in northern Thailand.

The demonstrations were some of the strongest since students toppled the former military regime in October and became the country's only significant organized political forces.

Japanese Prime Minister Kakuei Tanaka, on a five-country Southeast Asia tour, gave a hastily revised speech at a dinner in his honor given by Prime Minister Sanya Thammasak after being delayed by a crowd of 2000 students who had barricaded exits to his hotel.

Tanaka said the demonstrations, in which thousands of students jeered his arrival and thumped on his limousine, made him aware of "the concern of the Thai people about the role of Japanese influence."

The protests against Kintner and the CIA were touched off by reports Saturday that an American CIA agent sent a phony letter to Sanya purporting to be a Communist insurgent offer for a cease-fire in exchange for autonomy in rebel areas in northwest Thailand.

Kintner, who served with the CIA in Washington in 1950-52, told Thai newsmen in Chienghai Tuesday that the agent in question had been sent out of Thailand and "appropriate disciplinary action had been taken."

For the second straight day, he faced student demonstrations. A U.S. embassy spokesman said about 70 students gathered at Chienghai University where Kintner was talking with faculty members and one student broke into the room and burned a paper American flag.

Speakers at the Bangkok demonstration accused the CIA of interference in the internal affairs of countries around the world.

Thai students, who have been treated gingerly by Sanya, fear that Japan, which occupied their country in World War II, is now going to dominate the Thai economy.

Sanya told newsmen the demonstration violated Thai traditional hospitality and he was disappointed. However he did nothing to rebuke the students, to whom he is something of a father figure.

Associated Press