

Thailand Officially Chides U.S. Over C.I.A. Interference There

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By JAMES F. CLARITY JAN 18 1974

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BANGKOK, Thailand, Jan. 17 — Thailand expressed official dissatisfaction to the United States today over the admitted interference by the Central Intelligence Agency in Thai affairs.

A Foreign Ministry statement was the first official reaction to the scandal, which erupted here nearly two weeks ago after it was disclosed that a C.I.A. agent had sent Premier Sanya Dharmasakti a letter purporting to be from an insurgent leader seeking peace with the Government. The incident caused vigorous protests from student organizations, the most influential political force here since the ouster of the military government in November.

The Foreign Ministry said that Ambassador William R. Kintner, at his request, met with Premier Sanya and was told of "the dissatisfaction of students and the people with the event that had happened as well as the dissatisfaction of the Thai people in general with the general behavior of C.I.A. units inside Thailand and their demand that the United States stop all actions of interference in the internal affairs of Thailand."

Dr. Kintner, who admitted the C.I.A. plot and apologized for it last week, was said by the ministry to have assured the Premier again today that "he would do everything to

prevent any action of interference in Thailand's internal affairs from happening again."

The statement said Thailand was examining the American agency's connections with Thai agencies, but it did not indicate whether the Government planned any further action. There was a widespread opinion among Western diplomats that unless the student organizations refused to accept the Government's handling of the issue in the statement today, the matter would be allowed to fade away.

Ambassador Kintner, in an interview after he visited the Premier and the Foreign Minister, Charunphan Issarangkun na Ayuthaya, said that the letter had caused chagrin among Thai officials but that senior officials had assured him that they wanted relations to remain cordial.

The ministry statement said Dr. Kintner had assured the Premier that the agent responsible for the plot had been sent back to the United States and that the C.I.A. office in the northern town of Sakon Nakhon, where the plot was born, had been closed.

In the interview Dr. Kintner, a one-time C.I.A. employe who became Ambassador two months ago, said that the plot had been stupidly conceived and executed. Its purpose, he said, was to produce dissension among the leaders of insurgent groups.

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