

Thailand 76/437/41

See Vol. 6 RO.
at 438.



AIDE-MEMOIRE

According to reports received from the American Legation at Bangkok, Thailand was invaded early on the morning of December 8, 1941, by Japanese military and naval forces. Thai forces resisted, but a few hours later the Thai Government ordered cessation of resistance. Negotiations then took place between the Thai Government and the Japanese. On December 12, 1941, the Thai Minister, Mom Rajawongse Seni Pramoj, informed the Department of State that he had received a telegram from the Thai Ministry of Foreign Affairs at Bangkok, stating that Thailand had entered into an offensive and defensive alliance with Japan.

The Thai Minister has informed the Department that on December 11, 1941, he telegraphed the Thai Ministry of Foreign Affairs as follows:

"I announced at press conference 4:50 p.m. today my intention to work for re-establishment of independent Thailand. I shall henceforth carry out only orders which in my opinion are of His Majesty's Government's free will."

The

INDEXED

MS

The Thai Minister has informed the Department that he repudiates the recent alliance concluded between the Thai Government and Japan.

The offensive and defensive alliance between Japan and Thailand was, on the part of the latter, obviously part of a gesture of surrender to an invading force, but as the conclusion of that alliance was an affirmative act on the part of the Thai Government, the Government of the United States, being in a state of war with the other party to the alliance, must of necessity regard the action of the Thai Government as unfriendly to the United States.

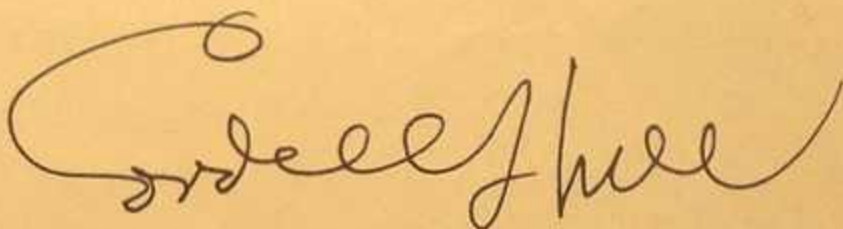
The Thai Minister to the United States having repudiated the Thai-Japanese alliance and having expressed the opinion that the alliance does not represent the true will of the Thai people, the Government of the United States has instructed the American Minister to withdraw from Bangkok as soon as he has done what is possible in regard to the withdrawal of American citizens from Thailand.

The Department has under consideration the question of issuing to the press a statement along the lines mentioned

above,

above, in which it is proposed to include a statement that the Government of the United States will continue to deal with the Thai Minister in Washington as the representative in the United States of the free people of Thailand. Before releasing the statement, however, the Department would appreciate receiving the views of the British Government on this question.

It may be added that the Thai Minister in Washington has informed the Department that he believes that he can, if given the support of the Government of the United States, establish a rallying point for large groups of Thai people (in the Philippines, Malaya Peninsula and elsewhere) who he states are chagrined and humiliated by the action of the Thai Government in entering into an alliance with Japan. Before informing the Thai Minister of the attitude of this Government toward the proposed "Free Thai" movement, the Department would be pleased to receive the views of the British Government in regard thereto.



Department of State,

Washington, December 18, 1941.