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COUNTRY THAILAND/USSR REPORT NO. CS - 3/359,987

SUBJECT COMMENTS BY ALEKSEY ADZHUBEY TO THAI AND SOVIET BLOC OFFICIALS. DATE DISTR. 15 JANUARY 1964

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REFERENCES

DATE OF INFO. 24 NOVEMBER 1963

PLACE & DATE ACQ. THAILAND, BANGKOK (LATE DECEMBER 1963 - EARLY JANUARY 1964)

THIS IS UNEVALUATED INFORMATION. SOURCE GRADINGS ARE DEFINITIVE. APPRAISAL OF CONTENT IS TENTATIVE.

SOURCE: PARA 1 - A EUROPEAN BUSINESSMAN (B) WHO HAS OCCASIONAL CLOSE CONTACT WITH SOVIET BLOC TRADE AND GOVERNMENT OFFICIALS.

PARA 2 - [REDACTED]

APPRAISAL OF CONTENT: ADZHUBEY PROBABLY MADE THE COMMENTS AS REPORTED.

DURING A RECEPTION AT THE SOVIET EMBASSY, ALEKSEY ADZHUBEY HIS GOVERNMENT'S ERROR IN OVEREMPHASIZING INDUSTRY AT THE EXPENSE OF AGRICULTURE. HE URGED THE SOVIET DIPLOMATIC COMMUNITY TO INCREASE ITS CONTACT WITH THE THAI PEOPLE IN ORDER TO IMPROVE REPORTING ON LOCAL CONDITIONS. ADZHUBEY FELT THE THAIS SHOULD KNOW THE SOVIETS BETTER TOO. ADZHUBEY SAID SEATO, CENTO AND NATO ARE USELESS, THAT THERE IS TROUBLE IN THAILAND AS WELL AS LAOS, AND THAT THAILAND SHOULD LEAVE THE CHINA PROBLEM TO THE USSR. LATER COMMENTS BY ADZHUBEY TO PRIME MINISTER THANOM AND FOREIGN MINISTER THANAT ON POOR PRESS COVERAGE OF SOVIET EVENTS ARE MENTIONED IN CS-3/567,770.

AFTER A RECEPTION GIVEN IN HIS HONOR AT THE SOVIET EMBASSY, BANGKOK NOVEMBER 1963, ALEKSEY ADZHUBEY, IZVESTIYA EDITOR AND KHRUSHCHEV'S SON-IN-LAW, DELIVERED A SPEECH TO SOVIET BLOC REPRESENTATIVES WHO HAD BEEN INVITED TO STAY AFTER THE RECEPTION. ADZHUBEY EXPRESSED DEEP PERSONAL AND NATIONAL REGRET AT THE DEATH OF PRESIDENT KENNEDY AND EULOGIZED HIS EFFORTS TO LESSEN WORLD TENSION. CONCERNING THE SOVIET UNION, ADZHUBEY EXPLAINED THAT THE GOVERNMENT HAD ERRED IN PLACING TOO GREAT AN EMPHASIS ON INDUSTRIAL DEVELOPMENT WITH TOO LITTLE THOUGHT OR EFFORT FOR THE AGRICULTURAL WELL-BEING OF THE POPULATION. THIS LED TO THE SHORTAGE OF WHEAT IN PART OF THE COUNTRY IN GENERAL. ADZHUBEY EMPHASIZED THAT MEMBERS OF THE SOVIET DIPLOMATIC COMMUNITY IN THAILAND SHOULD MAKE GREATER EFFORTS TO CONTACT THAI OFFICIALS TO LEARN MORE ABOUT THAILAND AND ITS PEOPLE. THIS WOULD FACILITATE BETTER AND MORE COMPREHENSIVE REPORTING ON LOCAL CONDITIONS. ON THE OTHER HAND, HE STATED, THAT SOME CONTACTS MAY NOT AGREE WITH THE SOVIET DIPLOMATIC PHILOSOPHY - THERE ARE MANY OTHER AREAS ON WHICH REPORTING IS NEEDED. THE SOVIETS SHOULD LEARN MORE ABOUT THAILAND, BUT IT IS THE RESPONSIBILITY OF THE THAI TO KNOW THE SOVIETS BETTER.

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