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RTHIT DAILY re-
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"Since Thailand has offered Vietnam a credit loan of 100 million baht, Thai commercial should then exercise its role in handling the transportation of goods between the two countries.

Calling the proposed negotiations a beneficial move for mutual marine transportation, Sanong said that the Economic Division of the ministry is now working on the details of Thailand's proposal.

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From Page One

CABINET AGREES

worthwhile to detain the 18 defendants further since the trial could drag on for several more years.

"If the trial continues, who knows what secrets during the Thammasat incident would be divulged and chaos would again erupt," sources pointed out.

Cabinet, sources said, preferred that a bill pardoning all those involved be enacted.

"Dropping charges against the 18 is one of the alternatives but Cabinet was afraid that the 18 might reject the proposal," they said.

Sources also revealed that the Amnesty Bill will be tabled to the National Legislative Assembly for deliberation as soon as possible. It is expected that the legislation will be defeated in the NLA's weekly meeting tomorrow.

Gen Kriangsak will also fly to the Southern province of Narathiwat to seek an audience with His Majesty the King for consultation on the matter, sources said.

The 18 defendants were arrested before the military takeover on Oct 6, 1976 and were slapped various charges including communist activities, treason, inciting riot, murder and attempted murder of government officials, intrusion and illegal possession of weapons.

Six of them were also charged with insulting the Crown Prince. They are Sutham Saengprathum, former leader of the now-defunct National Student Centre of Thailand, Anupong Pongswan, Apinand Buahapakdee, Surachart Bumrungrak Praphon

Wangsiripitak, and Viroj Tangvanich.

The 12 other persons also include two coeds - Miss Suchila Tanchainand and Miss Sa-ngiam Chaemduang.

The 18 were formally charged in the Military Court on August 25, 1977 and 35 trials had so far been conducted. Eleven of the total 84 state witnesses testified in court.

TALKS

ality" in contrast to Malaysia's proposed Zone of Peace, Freedom and Neutrality.

ASEAN has collectively endorsed the Malaysian version of the zone of peace. In the joint statement issued in Bangkok to mark the visit of Pham Van Dong, Thailand avoided wordings which could be interpreted as having discussed at length the Vietnamese version of the zone of peace.

Prime Minister Kriangsak Chomanan insisted throughout his talks with the Vietnamese leader that any issues related to ASEAN would require prior

consultations between land and the ASEAN members. Indonesian Foreign Minister Mochtar Kusumaatmaja informed Foreign Minister Upadit Pachariyar his brief stopover last month that he had an ASEAN meeting to discuss the mat

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GEN KRIANGSAK

PRIME MINISTER Kriangsak Chomanan who is due to retire from his concurrent post of Supreme Commander on Oct 1, bade farewell to military personnel at various military units in Bangkok yesterday.

Gen Kriangsak, accompanied by several senior military officers including Adm Amorn Sirigaya and Gen Yos Thephadin, visited the Chulachomklao Royal Military Academy, the First Infantry Division of the Royal Guard, the Military Cavalry Division and the Anti-Aircraft Division.

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THE

NATION

Vol 3 No. 585

BANGKOK, Friday Morning, September 15, 1978

Nobody wants to stay in jail

"I am going back to school."

"I am going back to my kids and my job at the Metropolitan Water Works Authority."

"I am going out to thank the people."

For some of the "Thammasat 18," news of the imminent amnesty came amidst mixed feelings. But none of them was too sad to leave their cells in Bangkok. Lard Yao and Bangkok after more than two years of detention.

They were being marched to the 36th hearing at a special military courtroom in Pakkred yesterday. The tenth state witness, Police Lt Col Saprang Chullapa-

torn, was testifying. There were to be a total of 84 state witnesses in the case.

Sutham Saengprathum, former secretary general of the National Student Centre of Thailand, and a key defendant, said he had heard the news about the proposed amnesty from newspapers given to him by friends yesterday morning.

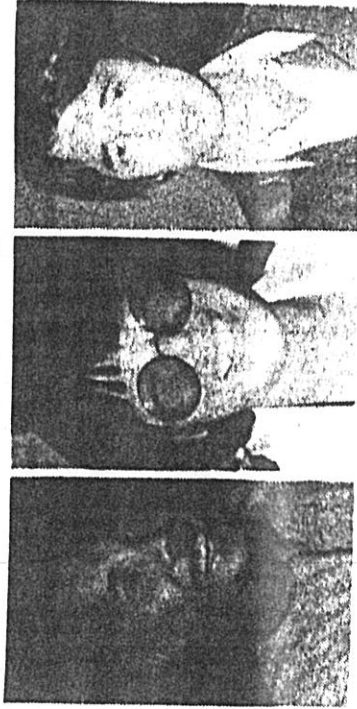
"I have heard this kind of rumours many times. If it's true, I would be very happy. Nobody wants to stay in jail. Every

minute is valuable and I would have done much more for the society if I had not been behind bars for the past two years," he said.

"I plan to go back to continue my study at the law faculty of Chulalongkorn," he said, adding: "I feel grateful to the people and once I am free, I will thank the people."

Arom Pongpa-ngan, another defendant who worked as a labour leader before being arrested

Continued Page 12



Sutham
Saengprathum

Suchila
Tanchainand

Arom
Pongpa-ngan

Amnesty bill:

INSIDE

SUMMIT
ENTERS

Above
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Sutham
Saengprathum

Suchila
Tanchainand

Arom
Pongpa-ngan

special military courtroom
in Pakkred yesterday. The
tenth state witness, Police
Lt Col Saprang Chullapa-

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The Nation Review, Sept. 15, 1978, p. 1

Amnesty bill: Closed session debate today

STAMPED "very urgent" and "very confidential," a government-sponsored amnesty bill to absolve all parties concerned in the Oct 6, 1976 riots and release the "Thammasat 18" immediately will be debated in a closed session of the National Legislative Assembly today.

Most of the 340 lawmakers interviewed yesterday said they favour Prime Minister Kriangsak Chomanan's initiative towards national reconciliation.

"This is my own initiative. I think the 18 persons standing trial now have been in jail for two years and that should be suffi-

by NATION REPORTERS

(Editorial: P. 2; Related stories: P. 3)

cient. If the trial is allowed to continue, it may take four to five more years," Prime Minister Kriangsak said yesterday.

The premier had cancel-

led his planned three-day visit to the South to personally explain the reasons behind the amnesty bill.

The brief six-article bill, received by the Parliament's Secretariat at 11.10 am on Wednesday, will become effective once it is published in the Royal Gazette, expected almost immediately after approval from the legislative body.

The Government has requested the NLA to approve all three readings of the bill in one sitting today.

"The amnesty is aimed at all parties concerned in the incidents from Oct 4 to 6, 1976, including those who have fled into the jungle, the village scouts, the policemen and officials involved in the operations at Thammasat University on that day," the premier said.

The bill, signed and submitted by Deputy Prime Minister Sompob Hotrakit, says in its preamble that the academic and professional future of the

"Thammasat 18," mostly students, could be further affected if the present trial continues.

"The trial, which has progressed for quite some time, has a tendency to be prolonged much further," the bill says in part.

It also says that actions during the Oct 6 riots had been caused by "misunderstanding of the real situa-

Continued Page 12

Most lawmakers vote in favour

MOST lawmakers yesterday said they sponsored amnesty bill to end the "long continuing trials of accused in connection with 1976.

Judge Advocate-General, Lt Gen Sakha, who is also a member of the legislature, was in favour of the move.

"After all, they have been in jail for two years. You think it is a good thing to set them free," he asked.

Chana Rungsaeng praised Prime Minister Chomanan for his "let bygones be bygones."

"The fact that the prime minister pardons his own children is a good thing. He has chosen to choose the right way out of national unity," he said.

Konti Supakorn is also an advisor to the premier, said there was no reason why he would not support the bill today.

Asked about the earlier statement that would grant amnesty to the Thammasat 18, Konti Supakorn said

Upadit on refugee problem

FOREIGN Minister Upadit Pachariyangkun said yesterday in Vienna that more countries should accept Indochinese refugees now streaming into Thailand.

Mr Upadit told a press conference at the end of a two-day visit that refugees were "a very big problem."

"We already have about 120,000 and they are still coming in at the rate of 1,000 a month," he said.

"We would be very happy if more third countries would take in refugees. This problem is not our responsibility, we did not create it."

Austria could not help because it was still absorbing refugees from neighbouring communist countries who came in the last two decades, he said.

Continued Page 12

Narai Luncheon

The place where Thai, European, Chinese and Japanese dishes are best served. Khun Supawat and his singers will entertain you while you enjoy your meal

VN demands compensation

VIETNAM has demanded China punish those responsible for the death of a Vietnamese crewman in a recent border incident and pay compensation to the victim's family, Radio Peking reported yesterday. The radio, monitored in Hong Kong by Reuter, said a

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as demanded China punish those re-
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incident and pay compensation to the
Radio Peking reported yesterday.
onitored in Hong Kong by Reuter, said a
gn Ministry official lodged a strong verbal
sday with Chinese Charge d'Affaires, Mr Lu
over the incident on September 12 when
re reported to have fired on a Vietnamese
killed the crewman in Vietnamese territorial
ficial condemned what he called "a new
d by the Chinese side against the Vietnamese
nded "the Chinese side punish the culprit or
ate the family of the victim, and refrain im-
ilar acts."-Reuter

ugh new Immigration l passed in principle

al Legislative Assembly yesterday unanimously passed in principle
Bill which stipulates stiffer punishment for illegal aliens and

affected if the present
trial continues.
"The trial, which has
progressed for quite
some time, has a tendency
to be prolonged much
further," the bill says
in part.
It also says that actions
during the Oct 6 riots had
been caused by "misunder-
standing of the real situa-
Continued Page 12

SPOTLIGHTS
Your weekly
entertainment
special

The Nation Review Sept. 15, 1978 101

Most lawmakers will vote in favour of bill

MOST lawmakers yesterday said they would vote in favour of the government-sponsored amnesty bill to end the "long agony" and "divisiveness" caused by the continuing trials of accused in connection with the Thammasat riots on Oct 6, 1976.

Judge Advocate-General, Lt Gen Saming Tailangkha, who is also a member of the legislative body, said he was in favour of the move.
"After all, they have been in jail for two years. Don't you think it is a good thing to set them free?" he asked.

Chana Rungsaeng praised Prime Minister Kriangsak Chomanan for his "let bygones be bygones" attitude.
"The fact that the prime minister considers the defendants his own children is a good indication that he has chosen to choose the right way out for the sake of national unity," he said.

Konti Supamongkol, who is also an advisor to the premier, said there was no reason why he would not vote for the bill today.
Asked about Gen Kriangsak's earlier statement that he would grant amnesty to the Thammasat 18 after the court procedures were completed, Konti said: "He thought then that the trial would be finished soon. But now, it has gone on for more than two years. If you think of the future of these people in jail, it has been too long."
Labour leader Sunthorn Kaewnetr, also a lawmaker,
Continued Page 12

yesterday when a Philippine Air Force plane to President Ferdinand E Marcos cut a swathe row of low-income houses and crashed in a fishpond as it tried to land in a thunderstorm last week.
Government spokesmen said neither Marcos nor his wife Imelda was aboard the plane, which was bringing members of Marcos' security staff and newsmen to Manila from the Northern Philippines, where the president had celebrated his 61st birthday this week.
Brigadier General Francisco Bueno, Vice Chief of the Air Force, said 15 bodies, many of them dismembered, were taken from the wreckage of the Fokker aircraft, said Lu, an official in the military where the plane crashed.
One survivor, General Francisco's special assistant Minister Juan Marcos, said he was not "when asked where he was abroad."
An air force spokesman asked not to be identified.
Continued

Midas
NOW! PACKED
POLYPROPYLENE
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out at dawn yesterday after his request for clemency was rejected by President Suharto. Umar was the first man to be executed on murder charges in Indonesia. Umar was found guilty and sentenced to death by the Surabaya District court in 1967 of the premeditated murder of six people in 1964, the spokesman said. — Reuter

RED NETWORK

KUALA LUMPUR, Malay-

significant. — Reuter

PROTESTORS MOURN

TEHERAN, Iran — Thousands of demonstrators yesterday surged through Behesht Zahra cemetery on the outskirts of Teheran to mourn and pay homage to people killed by government troops last week during bloody street rioting which rocked the Iranian capital.

armoured cars and water cannons guarded Tokyo's new international airport at Narita yesterday in preparation for an expected resurgence of radical violence.

Visitors have been banned from entering the 2.6 billion-dollar airport until next Wednesday.

Police fear that a rally next Sunday by about 20,000 radicals, supporting local farmers and environmentalists, could flare into a pitched battle similar to the one in March which resulted in vital control tower equipment being smashed.

During recent weeks, leftist radicals determined to close the airport have increased their campaign of violence with petrol bomb attacks on police facilities. They have also cut telephone and telex links and tried to sabotage rail services between Narita and the coast.—Reuter

From Page One

AMNESTY BILL

tion" and "the lack of far-sightedness and experience on the part of the guilty parties."

The Government, the bill adds, is determined to create unity within the country and to open the opportunities for the guilty parties, including those who are standing trials and those who have fled, to return to help in the nation-building task.

Article 4 of the bill authorizes the Bangkok Military Court to release all accused charged in Case No 253 A/2520 and the Bangkok Criminal Court to free all accused charged in Case No 4418/2520.

The bill states that release of the defendants does not entitle them to obtain special benefits for themselves.

The defence, interior and justice ministers will be in charge of implementing the bill when it is passed.

IMMIGRATION BILL

Vinij Sripojanart pointed out that relatives and servants brought into Thailand by foreign diplomats and embassy officials should be treated as aliens for "the country's security."

He also recommended the Government to order hotel owners to inform the authorities when foreign diplomats check in at their hotels.

Mr Damri replied that the proposal to strictly control relatives and servants of foreign diplomats was against diplomatic courtesy.

Lawmaker Panja Kesornthong proposed that Article

40 of the bill which imposes the annual quota of immigrants entering Thailand at 200 persons should be abolished since "they will take the jobs of Thai people."

Mr Damri said the Government had, however, mapped out tough measures in screening qualified immigrants into the country.

IN JAIL

after Oct 6, 1976, said: "My son asks me to come home every day. When I am freed, I will go back to my family and back to work at the Metropolitan Water Works Authority to earning a living."

He said his family had suffered serious financial plight since he was jailed.

Miss Suchila Tanchaiyand, former deputy secretary general of the NSCT, said she was very delighted to hear the news.

"Two years of life in prison means a lot in terms of loss of freedom. I will go out and thank the people for their help," she said.

PLANE CRASHES

it was possible that more bodies might be found beneath the wreckage once the split-apart fuselage is moved.

Witnesses said the plane apparently struck a coconut tree after a bright flash of lightning, then plowed through the houses and stopped in a shallow fishpond. One of the Fokker's two propellers was inside one of the

houses, at least 50 metres from where the fuselage lay in pieces after exploding. The tail of the plane, showing the presidential seal and the Philippine flag, was intact.

One air force spokesman said 21 persons were aboard the plane, but Bueno said there were six survivors including Romualdez. Added to the 17 fatalities, that would mean at least 23 were aboard. The air force often keeps inaccurate manifests on such flights, as civilians often climb aboard at the last moment.

The military were last night siphoning water from the fishpond to find other possible bodies, some still trapped in the twisted wreckage.

Presidential palace sources said that it was unlikely that either president or Mrs Marcos would have used the plane, except in an emergency, as it was strictly a security backup.

They are due back in the capital today to prepare for the arrival on Saturday of Vietnamese Prime Minister Pham Van Dong on an official visit.

The incident revived memories of the 1957 crash in the central Philippines jungle of another presidential plane

in which popular president Ramon Magsaysay was killed. The only survivor of more than 20 people aboard was a prominent newsman.

—AP, Reuter

LAWMAKERS

said all House members would vote for the bill today.

"The whole of the Thai nation will applaud this government," he said.

A word of warning, however, has come from leader of the Red Gaur rightist group, Maj Gen Sudsai Hasdin, who said the Thammasat 18, after their release, should continue their education or live a peaceful life.

"They will certainly face me if they start giving trouble," he said.

PETCHPIMARN

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The theatre's cashier, Mrs Pannee Noranim, said she saw the fire in the manager's room which was directly over the pinball machine room.

Over 40 pinball machines in the room belonged to a Mr Surachai Thepchuay who had leased a room in the theatre to operate his pinball machine business.

REFUGEE PROBLEM

Thailand's relations with neighbouring Cambodia and Vietnam were improving. Phnom Penh and Bangkok would soon exchange ambassadors, he said.

"Three years ago communism was spreading everywhere. But three years later we have stabilised and made many friends. We are optimistic about the future," he said.

During his visit here the Thai minister had talks with his Austrian counterpart, Willibald Pahr, and President Rudolf Kirchschlaeger.

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Sept. 15, 1978, p. 12

32 among 50 charged with Oct 6 riots are at large

FIFTY persons have been formally charged in the Military Court in connection with the Oct. 6, 1976 riots which includes the "Thammasat 18" currently on trial.

Thirty two of them including a girl are still at large. The 32 fugitives include several well known former student activists such as Thirayuth Boonmee, Kriangkamol Laohapairoj, Seksan Prasertkul and Pinit Charusombat.

Followings are the 18 arrested who will be released after the enactment of the Government-sponsored amnesty bill.

Sutham Saengprathum, Apinand Buahapakdee, Anupong Pongsuwan, Surachart Bumrungsuk, Prapon Wangsiripitak, Viroj Tangvanich, Mahin Tanbunperm, Arom Pongpa-ngan, Prayoon Akkrabavorn, Miss Suchila Tanchainand, Attakorn Uppathampakul, Suchart Pacharasaravuth, Thongchai Vinijjakul, Kongsak Asapak, Somsak Jiamjirasakul, Orissa Irawanwat, Miss Sa-ngiam Jaemduang and Seri Sirinupong.

The 32 other persons are Kriangkamol Laohapairoj, Charoenchai sae Lee, Jarupong Thongsin, Jatunong Bunyarattanasunthorn, Kongkiat Kongka, Chusak Kuakul, Narong Jaipetch, Ta Pien-apitham, Thirayuth Boonmee, Thirachai Marukkapitak, Chatchaval Pathumvit, Somkard Suebtrakul, Prin-ya Virothai, Prasarn Sinsawat, Pichien Amnartvora-prasert, Pirapol Triyakasem, Palakom Palakulmonthon or Jirasophon, Pinit Jarusombat, Boonsong Chaletorn or Chalothorn, Vichit Srisang, Vichien Rajanawan, Virat Sakjirapapong, Sanguan Nittayarampong, Surathep Rohitkul, Seksan Prasertkul, Samarn Luadwonghad, Anond Assanatham, Anek Laothammathad, Anuj Apapirom, Sawai Udomcharoenchaikij, Miss Sanguan Bengjancharu and Weng Tojirakarn.

The 51st person, Bunchart Sathienthammanee, is being tried in the Criminal Court on charges of lese majesty.

Bunchart, a Thammasat University student, was also arrested during the Thammasat incident.

that the project also depends on several other aspects including the country's political situation and the government's foreign policy.

Premier Kriangsak told a group of reporters early this week that the Government will withdraw the licence granted to the company unless it makes a concrete move to implement its project.

According to the project's blueprint, the arms plant will produce ammunition for small arms explosives for commercial use, double base ball powder and shotguns.

years to complete the construction of the plant and it would also take more than two months to finance the negotiations with foreign firms, he said.

He said he will seek an interview to discuss the matter with the premier next week and also to seek a clarification on his statements.

The company's project is to build the most modern weapon plant in Asia with an investment

STILL AT LARGE



Seksan Prasertkul



Virat Sakjirapapong



Thirayuth Boonmee



Kriangkamol Laohapairoj

TO BE RELEASED



Apinand Buahapakdee



Sa-ngiam Jaemduang



Surachart Bumrungsuk



Viroj Tangvanich

Gen Lek invited to China

INTERIOR Minister Lek Naemali yesterday accepted an invitation from the Chinese Government to visit China.

The invitation was presented to him by Chinese Ambassador Chang Wei-lieh who

called on him at the ministry.

Gen Lek said he was busy with his work at the moment but that he would definitely visit China even after relinquishing from his interior portfolio.

15 SEP

Amnesty Bill is another step toward consensus

PRIME MINISTER Kriangsak Chomanan chalked up another public relations coup when he carefully leaked out a 'surprise' on Tuesday and dramatically made it known the following day that an Amnesty Bill, covering all those who were involved in the Oct 6, 1976, debacle, will be presented to the National Assembly today. From the time he became prime minister in October last year, Gen Kriangsak has been successfully trying to bring about national reconciliation but the ongoing trial of the "Thammasat 18" — a matter that cannot be discussed because it is *sub judice* — has been keeping the ugly happenings of two years ago in the limelight.

That one year period from October 1976 to the following October had best be forgotten now and left to historians to evaluate and pass judgement from a distance of some years. This seems to be the objective of the Amnesty Bill and there is a consensus among all concerned that this bill is rather overdue and everybody seems to heave a sigh of relief.

Full credit must go to Gen Kriangsak, however, because there is no deep cleavage now between rightists and leftists or, if one prefers, between conservatives and liberals. The amnesty move has been very well-received by all, immaterial on which side of the political spectrum anyone is. Gen Kriangsak, before the permanent constitution is promulgated and even before the lifting of martial law, seems to be moving towards a government-by-consensus and he seems to be succeeding very well.

As matters stand now, Thailand has everything to gain by this move. We do expect the constitution to be promulgated in one form or another in the very near future and elections to be held. There is always some worry in some quarters in this country about elections being held since there is possibly political instability — something which both the military and big business hate.

A move towards consensus at this time augurs well since the confidence of the two big pressure groups in the country will not be shaken when the time comes to face up to the democratic processes which may bring a government of a different colour. But the working of a democracy means that the government is run according to the wishes of the people which, in turn, means that the work of the government will be easier if some consensus exists among the people.

The Amnesty Bill goes before the National Assembly today and we cannot see any difficulty in its passage swiftly. Although the assemblymen have been cocky about the draft constitution, they should be able to see that the Amnesty Bill is for the overall good of Thailand. Its passage will close one ugly chapter in current history.

behind the news

Beirut Chr to hold on

THE YOUNG BEARDED Christian militia commander unhitched his artificial leg and rested it against the wall.

"I did not have to come back here to fight again after losing my leg, but this land is very precious to us and we are ready to die defending it," he said, scratching the stump of his leg, amputated just above the knee.

He was speaking in the middle of the night, seated in the basement shelter of his headquarters in the Ein Rummaneh quarter, in the Christian, eastern sector, of the Lebanese capital.

On 'side, Syrian rockets and mortars thudded into the multi-storeyed apartment buildings of the low-income neighbourhood.

The darkened rubble-strewn streets echoed with the sound of the explosions and the rattle of heavy machine gun and small arms fire as the Christian militias and the Syrian troops of the Arab League peace force in Lebanon began another of their almost nightly engagements of the past two months.

The one-legged commander in charge of the Christian militias in Ein Rummaneh, code-named "Kojak" by his men, said he lost his leg two years ago, during the Lebanese civil war between right-wing Christians and an alliance of leftist Muslims and Palestinian guerrillas.

He charged that the Syrians, who had come to Lebanon to end the civil war, were now trying to dominate the country and crush the Christians who resist them.

The Syrians say the Christians are provoking the clashes at the instigation of Israel, which keeps them supplied with weapons, as part of an effort to partition Lebanon into Christian and Muslim states.

Although Lebanon once had a regular army, since the civil war each segment of fragmented Lebanese society maintains its own armed groups or militias. The Muslim factions have not been involved in active fighting since the Syrians moved in.

Christian militia casualties are only ten dead and 30 wounded since the Syrian shelling of Beirut's Christian sector started last July. But 600 Christian civilians have been killed and 1,300 have been wounded in the same period, according to an official tally by the Christian leadership.

"We feel the Syrians are out to massacre all the Christians," complained Mrs Georgette Girgeos, one of about 30 civilians sheltering in another basement near Kojak's headquarters.

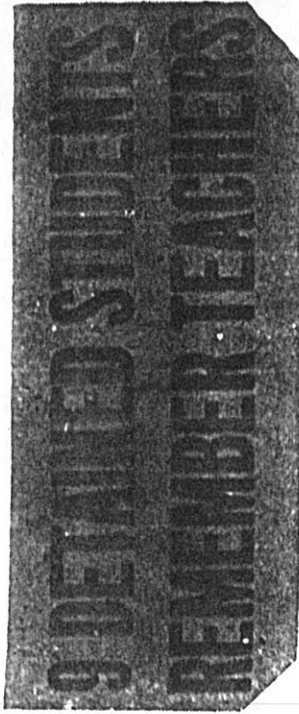
"The more they hit us the more determined we are to resist, we hate the Syrians for

Waldheim: fight for s

SECRETARY GENERAL Kurt Waldheim of the UN said Wednesday in his annual report that he thought "the major potential threat to world peace" was the possibility that big nuclear powers involved in regional conflicts would strain their own relations "to the breaking point."

He urged that the big powers "to turn away from the struggle for spheres of

LOCAL NEWS



NINE OF the student defendants charged with the October 6 riots sent a floral tray and a message to their teachers to pay homage on the occasion of Teachers' Day of Thammasat University yesterday.

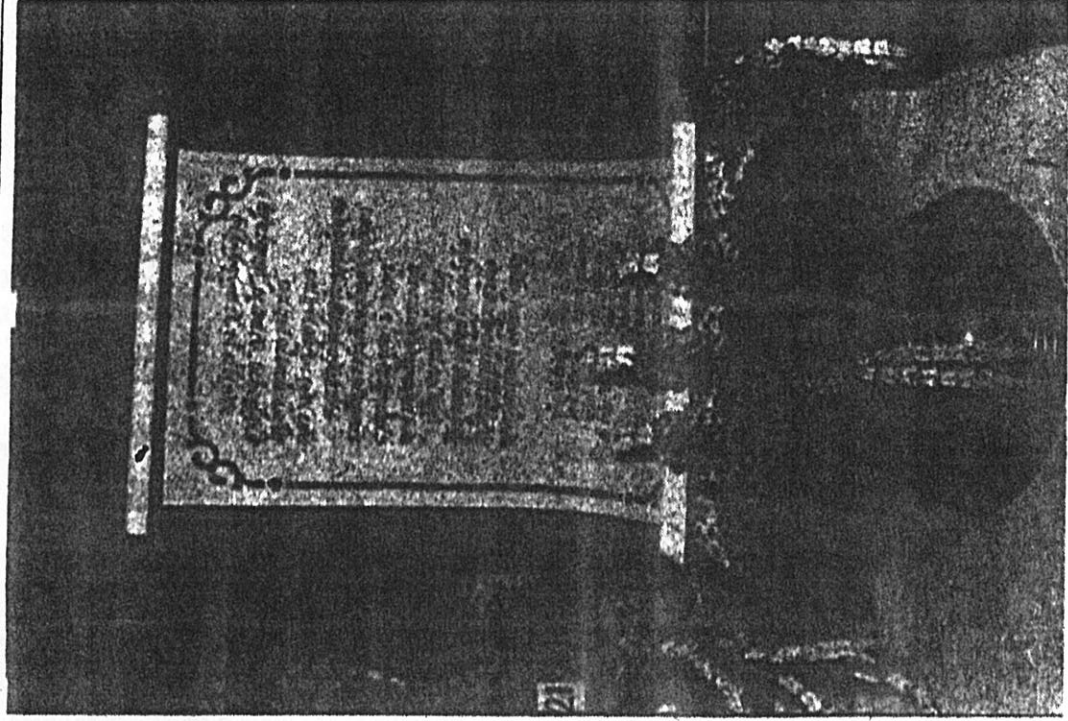
The tray and the message, in Thai calligraphy, were placed among others in the ceremony hall at the university after being presented by a group of students to the teachers.

The nine Thammasat students, Miss Suchila Tanchainand, Suchart Pacharasavuth, Apinand Buahapakdee, Thongchai Vinijakul, Viroj Tangvanich, Attakarn Uppathampakul, Anupong Pongsuwan, Somsak Jiamjirasakul and Boonchart Sathienthamanee, also sent a letter on the occasion to the university from their cell in Bangkokwang.

The letter, which praised the teachers' effort in educating them, was also published in a Teachers' Day newsletter issued by the university students union.

All the tray, message and letter were checked and approved by the prison officials before being allowed to be sent out of the prison.

• **PHOTO shows the floral tray and message from nine of the defendants of the October 6 trial to express their gratitude toward their teachers on the occasion of the Teachers' Day of Thammasat University.**



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Preceding the world heavyweight fight will be three world title fights also live from the same stadium beginning at 7.00 am.

The first fight will be the WBC featherweight championship fight between title-holder Danny Lopez of the US and Juan Alvarez of Argentina. Then the WBA light heavyweight championship fight between champion Victor Galindez of Argentina and Mike Rossman of the US, followed by WBA bantamweight title fight between champion Jorge Lujan of Panama and American Alberto Davila.

Happy viewing.—Pre-fight drama on Page 11.



Overwhelming yes (180:1) to amnesty bill

Military lawmakers abstain

by NATION REPORTERS

A GROUP of about 50 lawmakers from the armed forces abstained from voting yesterday on the government-sponsored Oct 6, 1976 amnesty bill which was finally passed in the third reading with a 180:1 overwhelming vote in a closed-door session by the National Legislative Assembly yesterday.

Informed sources monitoring the debate, which lasted about three hours and 30 minutes, told The Nation that the estimated 50 military men in the assembly left their seats in the Parliament building when the voting started.

PM meets King

NARATHIWAT — Prime Minister Kriangsak Chomanan, accompanied by Deputy Defence Ministers Gen Yos Thephasadin and Adm Amorn Sirigaya, were granted an audience by His Majesty the King at about 8.00 pm here last night.

The premier presented the amnesty bill for all parties concerned with the Oct 6, 1976 riots, passed earlier in the day by the National Legislative Assembly, for approval by His Majesty the King.

The premier was also believed to have presented the list of the new military hierarchy for Royal approval in the same audience, informed sources said.

Gen Kriangsak is due to fly back to Bangkok this morning.

"I am very happy with the passage of the bill," Prime Minister Kriangsak Chomanan told the Press at 1.30 pm after the bill was passed in all three readings in one sitting. The bill was approved with a 208:1 vote in the first reading.

Gen Kriangsak said he would fly to the southern palace — Taksin Rajanives Palace in Narathiwat — last evening to seek an audience with His Majesty the King for royal approval before the law is officially published in the Royal Gazette.

The premier said he would return to Bangkok today after the audience.

Continued Page 12



Red Gaur leader dissatisfied

PM f tough

LEADER of the Red Gaur rightist group Maj Gen Sudsai Husdin said yesterday he disagreed with the amnesty to be granted to defendants who were charged with lese-majeste in the October 6 case.

Those who had only political implication with the case should be absolved by the amnesty but not those charged with lese-majeste.

Continued Page 12

PRIME Minister Kriangsak Chomanan yesterday faced some tough questioning during a lengthy debate in the National Legislative Assembly over his proposed amnesty bill in connection with the Oct 6, 1976 riots at Thammasat University.

The debate began at 9.33 am and came to an end at 1.05 pm—and only one military man took the floor. Assistant Air Force Commander-in-Chief, Air



Sa-nga Vongbangchud

One who said no

THE only lawmaker to vote against the amnesty bill, Sa-nga Vongbangchud, said yesterday the amnesty was inappropriate "especially when the case concerns a lese majeste charge."

Sa-nga, a former village headman from Pathum Thani, said the country was still faced with "many problems" and the release of the 18 defendants would be a wrong move. "If I had been allowed to voice my opinions by the acting Speaker, I am sure many others would have voted against the bill the way I did," he said.

Sa-nga was surrounded by a huge throng of reporters after the end of yesterday's parliamentary session.

He raised his hand in a gesture seeking permission to speak from the first

Continued Page 12

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