



LEFT: Six Ramkhamhaeng students hold two huge posters in front of the Parliament yesterday in support of the amnesty bill.



'I'll always support my son,' says mother on P.12

Red Gaur leader dissatisfied

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

Continued Page 12

PM faced some tough questioning

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

Chief Marshal Bancha Mekvichian, spoke in favour of the bill.

The sole dissident throughout the three readings of the bill was Mr Sangha Vongbangchud, who was not given a chance to speak out by Deputy Speaker Chalermchai Charuvastra who chaired yesterday's meeting.

There were 260 lawmakers in the session.

Most of the speakers from the floor were in favour of the bill—but law-

maker Suchart Tejasaen, weeping ferociously while addressing the assembly, said some anti-Communist groups, including the Red Gaur, village scouts, Navapol and the Pitak Thai Group, many oppose the move.

"If they don't understand the government's motives, another Bloody Day may happen in the near future," Suchart said.

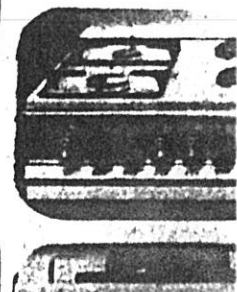
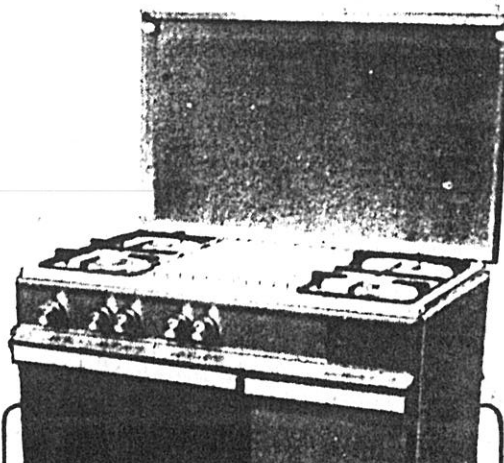
Mrs Vimol Chiamcha-

Continued Page 12

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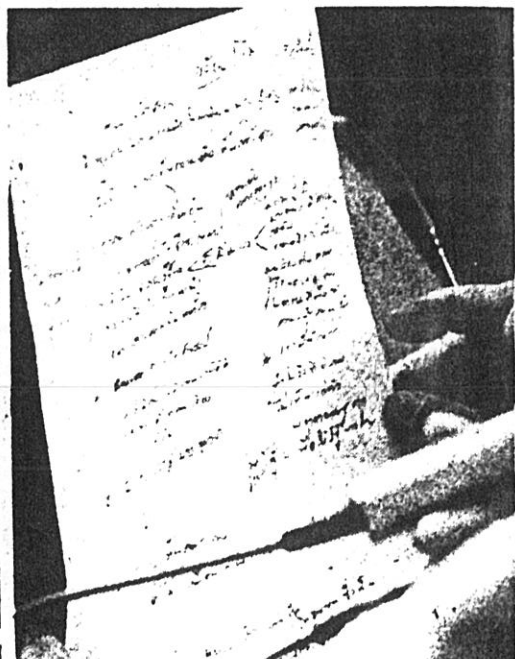
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The blaze occurred late Wednesday night when over 300 movie-goers were watching the "Wild Geese."

was doing the right thing, I became more relaxed. I always support the right cause of the students," she said.

to touch down safely.

In a dramatic new tactic in the long-running anti-airport campaign, radio-controlled cars rammed police facilities in Tokyo and nearby Chibao.

corporation said it received a call from a man who said the attacks had been engineered by the middle core faction — one of the left-wing extremist groups involved in the campaign to close the airport.

Nearly 12,000 riot police backed by armoured cars and water cannon are standing guard at the 2.6 billion-dollar airport 60 kilometres (40 miles) northeast of Tokyo in anticipation of a new invasion by radicals this weekend.

A big anti-airport rally is planned for Sunday when about 20,000 people are expected to gather nearby.

In a battle last March opponents managed to smash vital control tower equipment delaying the official opening.

All visitors to the airport have been banned until next week and shipments of fuel b tanker trains has been suspended for the next two days.

Four policemen and two demonstrators have been killed in fighting over the airport since 1966. — Reuter

From Page One

QUESTIONING

roen, better-known as "Tamayanti" in her writing career, said the government should not have shown "too much haste" in introducing the bill.

She said problems concerning the cost of living of the public were more pressing.

"Can the government give out assurances that once the Thammasat 18 are released, national unity would come automatically?" she asked.

"The government is taking this action in contrast against the prime minister's plea for national unity and the call to fight Communists," she argued.

She suggested that the government should have proposed the amnesty for Dec 5 this year to mark His Majesty the King's next birthday anniversary.

Nitipat Jalichan, another lawmaker, said the government should have dropped charges against the defendants rather than submitting an amnesty bill.

Prime Minister Kriangsak Chomanan told the session that the government, aiming at national reconciliation, could not give a "100 per cent assurance" that there would not be problems after the bill was passed.

"But the government will do its utmost to create unity among the people," he said.

A proposed amendment proposed by Pancha Kaesornthong to retain the lese majeste charge against six of the 18 defendants was defeated by the majority of the lawmakers.

Before the debate took place, a group of six students from the "Pitak Tham" Group of Ramkhamhaeng University picketed in front of the Parliament carrying posters saying: "We Don't Have Any More Time for Conflicts" and "We Support the Amnesty Bill."

Another poster read: "We Urge All Lawmakers to Consider the Bill with Sincerity for Your Children..."

SAY NO

reading until the end but was not given a chance, Sa-nga said.

Sa-nga spoke briefly when an amendment to the bill was proposed.

"I am sure there will be problems when the bill is enacted into law. And it would be difficult to solve the subsequent troubles," he said.

He also criticized the government for being "hasty" in proposing the bill while the case was on trial in the military court.

"I perfectly understand the government's policy for national reconciliation but I don't understand the haste with which the bill was proposed," he said.

He said even Prime Minister Kriangsak Chomanan himself could not give the assurances that no untoward incidents would take place after the bill was passed.

"How then could he be sure that the bill will bring peace and understanding?" he asked.

DISSATISFACTION

majests, he said. He also said that there were some rightwing groups who were displeased by the amnesty.

"Some groups of people were irked by the fact that those charged with lese majeste will also be absolved and I have to stop them," he said, adding that such sensitive case should be settled in court and not through an amnesty.

Saying that he agreed with the amnesty as a government's conciliatory move toward national unity, Sudsai, however, warned that if those freed by the amnesty became trouble-makers again, "Red Gaur is forced to take action against them."

When asked to comment on the Police Department's order to investigate

into a rumour that a group of Red Gaur members was prepared to stage a rally following the news of the amnesty, Sudsai said: "Red Gaur are always ready but we have not made any move yet."

ABSTENTION

Gen Kriangsak said the debate was "full of logic" and he would take the advice of the assemblymen.

"I will inform His Majesty the King about the questions raised in the debate and I will explain the matter to the public," Gen Kriangsak said.

He said the amnesty will cover all parties concerned in the incidents from Oct 4-6, 1976, including all officials assigned to Thammasat University during the riots.

"The atmosphere during the debate was friendly and straightforward. The debate was full of reasons," he said.

Deputy Prime Minister Sunthorn Hongladarom said there were "some arguments" in the debate. "But mostly, the arguments were along the legal lines," he said.

The premier said the amnesty did not mean that the government would not take drastic measures against any "disturbances" in the future.

"If they create trouble, they will face more severe punishment," he said.

The amnesty, he said, would not tie the government's hands in dealing with mob rule in the future.

Referring to reports that some quarters were not happy with his decision, Gen Kriangsak said: "I am not concerned with disagreements. I am sure of everybody's patriotism."

Deputy Interior Minister Prem Tinsulanond told reporters that the debate proceeded satisfactorily.

"There were some questions raised. But all in all, everybody understood the motives of everybody else," Gen Prem said.

India floods

NEW DELHI, India—India has launched a massive campaign to immunize millions of flood victims against cholera, the director general of the nation's health services said Thursday.

Dr Balu Sarankan said 349 cholera cases have been confirmed by Aug 19, including seven fatalities in the Delhi area, Uttar Pradesh, Bihar and West Bengal states. He said this was the latest official information available.—AP

Draft cc

Deputy Secretary General, Dr Amorn Chandra, appointed by the committee to head a working Constitution to head a working appropriate number of the

The committee earlier Cabinet should comprise

The committee which Chapter 11 yesterday was clause next Wednesday.

Committee chairman vastr said he expected Friday and the scrutiny of the House Speaker on S

Vietnam Khmer

Vietnamese forces fighting the war are threatening a fish-hook area of eastern sources said here yesterday.

The town which lies from the Vietnamese border road into the fish-hook frontier.

"We think they (the) but we're not certain yet,"

He said the Vietnam possibly inside it.

The Vietnamese forces few weeks and were also the fish-hook, they said.

Snoul lies on the only from the north and the command of the roads to army in the area, the source

They said Vietnam's position of the Cambodian and Penh government's source major offensive.

The sources said the border had taken a heavy toll of lives seemed to be suffering

"We think the Cambodian source said.

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Sept. 16, 1978, p. 8

THE NATION REVIEW, Bangkok Saturday, Sep

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I WILL ALWAYS SUPPORT MY SON

The mother of one of the 18 "Thammasat 18" awaiting amnesty now just couldn't hold back her tears yesterday when she related how her son, Thongchai Vinijkul, was taken custody soon after the Oct 6, 1976 riots.

But Mrs Chin Vinijkul said she would continue to support her son "in all the good things he will do for the society once he is released."

Mrs Chin was speaking to a packed audience of more than 200 at the law faculty of Thammasat University yesterday to mark the government-proposed amnesty for the Thammasat 18.

"I am very happy that my son will be released.



Mrs Chin fighting back tears while talking about his son, one of the defendants in the "Thammasat 18" case yesterday at Thammasat University.

But being a mother, I would naturally feel threatened if he is intimidated again," Mrs Chin said.

Thongchai, before his arrest, was deputy president of Thammasat Student Union.

She related how Thongchai was taken forcibly by a group of policemen and border patrol policemen from her house on the evening of Oct 6.

And she wept loudly. "I went up to my son and told him that he had done nothing wrong."

Mrs Chin said her son was taken away from her by the policemen and he has been in custody since.

"On Oct 6, 1976, I heard shooting and my heart went to my son. I was worried about him since I knew he was in the middle of the situation. I always asked myself how I could help him. But then, things turned out too bad for us all," Mrs Chin said, sobbing.

She said she was at first frustrated when Thongchai got heavily involved in student activities.

"But he always told me in advance when he could not come home some days. But when I knew he was doing the right thing, I became more relaxed. I always support the right cause of the students," she said.

Theatre fire: Evidences discovered

Police yesterday discovered six oil tanks, cotton and aluminium foil in a store room in the Petchpimarn Theatre which was totally burned down by blaze Wednesday night.

The evidences were taken to the Scientific Crime Detection Division to be investigated if arson was behind the incident.

An investigation policeman said police did not believe that the fire originated from the room full of pinball machine, located next to the store room, on the grounds that the room was completely sealed off since the Police Department banned pinball machine business.

Police speculated that the fire broke out of the store room which was directly under the room of theatre manager, Mr Somsak Saengtasith.

The blaze occurred late Wednesday night when over 300 movie-goers were watching the "Wild Geese."

From Page One

QUESTIONING

Before the debate took place a group of six students

RP pre welcom

MANILA - The Philippines is preparing a full ceremonial welcome for Vietnamese Prime Minister Pham Van Dong who arrives here today on the second leg of a tour to build new relations with Members of the Association of Southeast Asian Nations (ASEAN). The Philippines has declared in a press statement that the trip reflected a new conciliatory mood

China reiterates for zone of p

MANILA—China's new ambassador to the Philippines, Chen Hsin Jen, yesterday reiterated his country's support for the Association of Southeast Asian Nations (ASEAN) call for a zone of peace, freedom and neutrality. He made his remarks when presenting his credentials to President Ferdinand Marcos, who had just flown back from a visit to the north for the ceremony. Reliable sources said the ambassador was keen to present his credentials and make his statement before the arrival today of Vietnam's Prime Minister Pham Van Dong, on the second leg of his tour of ASEAN countries designed to improve regional relations. Chen also expressed China's backing of the president call for a speedy move to institute a new international economic order of more benefit to the developing countries. In receiving the credentials President Marcos expressed Philippines' readiness to work with China for the progress of the developing world, noting both were third world nations. The ambassador's remarks prompted speculation that the Chinese wanted to drive the point home before the arrival of the Vietnamese leader. His visit is believed designed to end some of the suspicion surrounding relations between Hanoi and the ASEAN members—Malaysia, Singapore, Thailand, Indonesia and the

Narita radicals use new tactic

NARITA, Japan, - A Japan Air Lines plane coming in to land at Narita international airport yesterday hit a nail-studded rope tethering a balloon sent up by airport opponents. One driverless car smashed into six parked vehicles at riot police barracks at Chiba and another crashed in the gate of Tokyo's fifth district police headquarters as it burst into flames. Police said there were no casualties either incident.

The pilot of the aircraft, flying in from Hong Kong without passengers, managed to touch down safely.

In a dramatic new tactic in the long-running anti-airport campaign, radio-controlled cars rammed police facilities in Tokyo and nearby Chiba.

Nearly 12,000 riot police backed by armoured cars and water cannon are standing guard at the 2.6 billion-dollar airport 60 kilometres (40 miles) from the city.

make Spinks "look like an amateur." The decision, delayed some 10 minutes as he waited for a mob of Ali well the ring, was unanimous.

The Nation Review, Sept. 17, 1978, p. 1

Free, at last!

Curtain falls on October 6 case

by NATION REPORTERS

EIGHTEEN young brains and a labour leader walked out into the fresh air of freedom and heart-rending embraces of their relatives and friends waiting outside Krungthep Maha Nakhon Special Prison yesterday evening after almost two years of detention in connection with the controversial Oct 6 case.

Tears ran down their faces as they huddled and kissed each other in what could be their happiest moment in their lives.

One of the most controversial cases in Thailand's political history, which has drawn worldwide attention for the past two years, the October 6, came to an end at 5.20 pm yesterday following an Amnesty Act signed by His Majesty the King absolving all the defendants on trial and those

who had fled into the jungles.

Continued Page 2

Kriangsak explains how amnesty came about

"THE idea to settle this long-pending 'October 6 case' came across my mind before I took over the premiership and it has slowly and cautiously been put into practice following a desire of His Majesty the King expressed to me when I met him at Bhubhing Ratchanivet in Chiang Mai."

Prime Minister Kriangsak Chomanan disclosed this to a group of reporters at his resident after returning from seeking an audience with the King for royal approval at Taksin Ratchanivet in Narathivat yesterday.

Gen Kriangsak said that the King wanted him to settle the case but he did not disclose whether the idea to enforce this amnesty covering all parties concerned also was a part of the Royal desire.

"Formerly," said the premier, "I didn't want to relate what was spoken at the royal audience because

the people will feel uneasy should their King be involved in politics.

"However, His Majesty gave me permission to disclose this to the public during the audience yesterday evening," said Gen Kriangsak with a sigh of relief.

The premier said that he nearly implemented a move to absolve all the defendants following suggestions from the public, lawyers and advisors but this would take longer and require complicated processes to be carried out.

Since there was no other alternative, said Gen Kriangsak, he approached the King to adopt the amnesty for parties concerned with the October 6 incident.

"The King was very pleased to grant this amnesty," said the prime minister.

He said he personally felt that the amnesty which passed the National Legislative As-

sembly with 180:1 vote on Friday was a "risk for the Government's stability."

He said that some pressure

Continued Page 3



FORMER Secretary General of the National Students Centre of Thailand and some of the former October 6 defendants express their happiest moment in life as they are about to walk to liberty.

PM invites

THE nineteen defendants freed yesterday were secretly invited by Prime Minister Kriangsak Chomanan to join him in an informal breakfast party for heart-to-heart talks at his residence at dawn to day, informed sources confirmed late last night.



SWEET freedom for all! The jubilant 19 former defendants in the October 6 case pose for a group photo in front of the Krungthep Maha Nakhon Special Prison after their release.

Parties, parties and more parties...

A TIGHT home-coming schedule awaits the former defendants of the October 6 case.

Beginning tomorrow morning, the Thammasat Students Union will host a religious ceremony for them at the university football field. The ceremony, to be presided over by Thammasat Rector Prapas Ouychai, will also be joined by presidents of all the university students unions.

The 19 students, released by an amnesty yesterday, will then participate in home-coming receptions at their respective universities in the afternoon.

A meeting of the presidents of the student unions of Ramkhamhaeng, Silpakorn, Srinakarindaraviraje, Chulalongkorn and

FINGER-CHOPPING PROTEST AGAINST DONIC'S VISIT

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another defendant told her. Fighting back her tears unsuccessfully, she gave food and sweets she brought for her son to the relatives and friends of other defendants. Obviously, Orissa would soon be able to consume his favourites in greater amount and particularly

From Page One

11 Eastern Frontiers on Oct. 6, 1978

Most of the former defendants, including the "Thammasat 18" charged with lese majeste, treason, communist act, rioting, resisting arrest, killing and attempting to kill law enforcement authorities, trespassing in official compounds and possessing firearms and ammunition without permission, were arrested in the aftermaths of the October 6 riots at Thammasat University which claimed more than 40 lives, according to official reports.

The riots eventually led to a military coup d'etat which swept the Thanin Government into power. "The Thammasat 18", including former Secretary General of the now-de-

a bit awkward, you know, after almost two years being away from him."

And Arom's five-year-old daughter, Benjapa, sweetly voiced: "I miss my daddy very much. I dream of him every night. Now I can surely go to sleep with him tonight."

US Assistant Secretary of State for Humanitarian Affairs, Miss Patricia Derian met Prime Minister Kriangsak Chomanan on January 16 this year to urge the Thai Government to speed up the trial of the case. She also visited the 18 defendants to get first-hand accounts on their plights.

A group of Thai lawyers, supported by several quarters of the population, volunteered to defend the "the Thammasat 18". The 19th defendant who was arrested also in connection with the case was Boonchart Sathienmanee who was being tried separately on lese majeste charge at the Criminal

The months of speculations on the amnesty or release of the October defendants finally ended last

behind the bars since he could not do any good for society. He said he would like the Government to release all other political prisoners.

Politics is a matter of differences of thought, he said. Persons who have different thoughts should handle the respective movements to build up the country.

Wednesday when Prime Minister Kriangsak said that Cabinet had agreed to submit an amnesty bill for debate in the National Legislature. It passed in three readings in one sitting last Friday afternoon.

The bill was overwhelmingly passed with 180-1 vote. Gen Kriangsak flew to Taksin Ratchanivet in Narathiwat Friday evening to have the bill signed by His Majesty the King. The amnesty is aimed at absolving all persons and parties concerned with the October 6 riots, including those who had fled into jungles.

Gen Kriangsak said that the amnesty would be a great move towards creating unity in the country.

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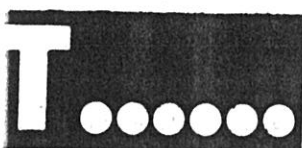
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The Nation Review, Sept. 17, 1978, p. 2

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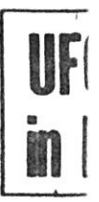
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so overwhelmed that he on his knees to "wai" his rungthep Maha Nakhon

Israeli security forces quickly cordoned off the area, used by many tourists as an entrance to the ancient walled quarter. A police spokesman said about 30 suspects had been held for questioning. Glass from damaged shops covered the ground although a police spokesman said damage was not extensive. — Reuter

bombarding. They're using rockets, bombs, cannons and machine guns." He said there was some looting in the city, 50 miles northwest of Managua, "because the people are hungry and have to eat."



From Page One *Kriangsak Explains*

KRIANGSAK

image of the government. Gen Kriangsak sought the audience with the King in Narathivat with Deputy Defence Ministers Yos Thephasdin na Ayudhya and Amorn Sirikaya. "I brought this matter to the assembly, because it is the proper way for the government to solve a public problem.

"And yet, somebody still allegedly said that I am launching an election campaign with the students," Gen Kriangsak expressed his concern.

However, the premier said that he could not care less about any movements of certain pressure groups due to the royal approval of the matter to better the understanding among the people.

"We should forget the past and start in the right direction to build up unity among the Thai people, justice in society and progress of the country," he said.

Actually, he said, nobody really knows who was right or wrong on October 6, 1976. "We then should forgive all the parties concerned".

Asked whether he will call all the 19 defendants to a meeting, Gen Kriangsak who is also Defence Minister said he will not do so unless it is their wish.

Regarding security of the defendants, the premier said that the people will not do any harm to their own men. The harm will only come from the third party which is eager to see disintegration among the people.

Warning of the third party, Gen Kriangsak said that the Government widely welcomed students to organize activities within the law.

The amnesty is a historic event and very important to the country's survival, he said.

He added that the most important thing at present is to solve internal problems as ex-

ternal problems are becoming small matters now.

PROTEST

refugee question in their talks over the next few days, including the repatriation of some 300 Filipinos caught in Vietnam at the end of the Indochina War.

Marcos yesterday welcomed Dong with a statement stressing the urgency of neighbours working together for regional harmony, peace and co-existence in South-east Asia.

The statement was issued soon after the veteran 72-year-old leader touched down here from Hanoi. Dong also highlighted in his statement, the regional significance of this second stage of a tour designed by Vietnam to build new bridges with the non-Communist members of the Association of Southeast Asian Nations (ASEAN) after years of mutual suspicion.

The Philippines produced a full ceremonial welcome for Dong, only a little less elaborate than that given earlier this year to Chinese Vice Premier Li Hsien-nien and United States Vice President Walter Mondale. It included an air force fly past, military honours and hundreds of dancing and singing children at the airport.

The president and Mrs Marcos, the capital's governor and minister of human settlements, personally welcomed the Vietnamese party, along with members of the Cabinet, military officers and the diplomatic corps.

A possible symbol of the concern of the region with super-power rivalry and conflicts was the fact that Dong stopped briefly to talk with the Soviet Ambassador here, Mr Valerian Mikhailov, while only correctly shaking hands with the newly-arrived Chinese Ambassador Mr Chen Hsin-jen, as he moved down the wel-

coming line.

Both sides issued statements pointing up desire to step up regional cooperation, despite differences. Marcos — whose country was once used by the United States as a military bases, back up for its war effort in Indochina — declared a new era of relations had been established by the arrival of the Vietnamese premier.

Meanwhile, Philippines Industry Minister Vicente Paterno rated as low the likelihood of Vietnam joining ASEAN in the near future because of the differing economic systems.

Paterno was speaking to newsmen when awaiting the arrival of Dong here yesterday.

Commenting on reporters' speculation that Vietnam might now be interested in joining ASEAN to help boost its war-shattered economy, Paterno noted that Vietnam had a socialist economy whereas ASEAN member nations were basically private enterprise economies.

"Our way is through private enterprise, private investment," he said.

"It may still be a long, long way before Vietnam can join us," he said.

He did not rule out the possibility of cooperation between Vietnam and ASEAN members.

THE GREATEST

never stopped trying to solve Ali's defensive tactics.

But the champion was fighting in desperation in the late rounds as he realised that Ali had built up such a big lead that probably only a knockout could pull it out for him.

Ali, weighing 221 pounds (100.24 kg) to 201 pounds (91.18 kg) for Spinks, seemed to be using his left jab as effectively as he did 10 years ago when at his peak.

He frequently set up Spinks with the jab for follow-

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The Nation Review, Sept. 17, 1976, p.3



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THE GREAT

SEI

THEIR HEARTS SPEAK OUT.....

Sutham Saengprathum

"JUSTICE is justice and freedom is delightful," said the former secretary general of the now-defunct National Students Centre of Thailand (NSCT), Sutham Saengprathum who was born in 1955 in Nakhon Si Thammarat.

Expressing his gratitude, Sutham said that he and his colleagues are very deeply grateful to the kindness of His Majesty the King who approved the amnesty for all those involved with October 6, 1976.

"Release from prison has long been said while we were being imprisoned. We were really sure of it only when we took the first step outside prison," said Sutham.

Sutham said he would like to spend most of his time now with his family and also spend some time with friends and the people who helped him while he was in prison.

"The detainees naturally felt down-hearted," he said, but "we will never give up. Many people are suffering more than us," he said.

Sutham was a fourth-year student of the Law Faculty of Chulalongkorn University before the October 6 riots.

Mahin Tanboonpherm

"I HAVE lost my freedom for more than 700 days and now I have it back," said Mahin Tanboonpherm, born in 1954 in Bangkok and a former leader of Ramkhamhaeng University's students.

He said he was very unhappy while being detained behind the bars since he could not do any good for society. He said he would like the Government to release all other political prisoners.

Politics is a matter of differences of thought, he said. Persons who have different thoughts should handle the respective movements to build up the country.

US Assistant Secretary

of State for Humanitarian Affairs, Miss Patricia De-Pratt, said that Cabinet had agreed to submit an amnesty bill for Krungsak Chomanan on January 16 this year to the National Assembly.

She said the Thai Government passed in three readings to speed up the trial of the 18 defendants to get their first-hand accounts on their plights.

A group of Thai lawyers, supported by several quarters of the population, volunteered to defend the "The Thammamat 18".

The 19th defendant who was arrested also in connection with the case was Boonchart Sathien, a former member of the Thai Government which was accused of suppressing human rights.

The months of speculation on the amnesty or release of the October defendants finally ended last

Arom Phongphangnan

FORMER leader of Metropolitan Waterworks Authority Labour Union Arom Phongphangnan said he was used to withstanding a lot of pressure before and therefore encountered no difficulties when he was detained in prison.

"I will go straight home (in Bangkok) where my mother is staying after coming from Surat Thani to take care of my kid since I was arrested," said Arom whose face looked pale and tired.

Arom was chosen by the International Labour Organization to represent Thailand at the ILO annual session in 1976.

Suchira Thanchainand

"THE first thing I will do after being released is to go to see my family and visit friends from whom I have long been separated," said Suchira Thanchainand, former deputy secretary general of now-defunct National Students Centre of Thailand (NSCT).

Thanking all her supporters, Suchira said she will again use her abilities to serve the country, by developing democracy.

Suchira is the third child in a family of four children. She was a student of Law Faculty of Thammasat University before being arrested during the October 6 riots.

Suchat Phacharasoravuth

SUCHAT Phacharasoravuth, born on May 7, 1955 was a student of Thammasat University. He spoke just a few words to the Press after he stepped out of prison.

"I used to hear very often that I and my colleagues would be released soon. Now I thank the Government for making our hopes come true."

Suchat said that he will continue his course at the university but he could not tell at the moment when.

Atthakarn Upathamphakul

"I AM glad to get back my freedom after having lost it for nearly two years," said student activist of Thammasat University Atthakarn Upathamphakul who was born on October 6, 1955.

Saying that he would like to carry on his study at the university, Atthakarn said that he will help as much as possible to better society.

Atthakarn was formerly an executive member in charge of public relations of the Thammamat University Students' government as well as outstanding activist during his study at high-school level.

Khongsak Asephakdi

"I WILL return to my hometown in Buriram and work in a farm," said Khongsak Asephakdi who was born on October 1, 1950.

Khongsak was an employee at Sritai Pharmacy shop in Bangkok when he was arrested during October 6, 1976.

Khongsak was one among the four former defendants who are not university students.

Thongchai Vinijakul

"I WILL first visit two of my friends - Somboon and Vichai Banhusipa who were arrested after me and changed with carrying out communist activities," said Thongchai Vinijakul, born in Bangkok on October 1, 1957.

He explained that the two detainees currently detained at Bangkok Prison were farmers. "I strongly believe that they are innocent," said Thongchai.

Thongchai was a vice president of the Thammamat University student government. He said he will return home to spend most of his time with his family.

He expects to continue his study at the university next semester.

Orissa Irawanwat

"I have gained experience. The wealthy can stay anywhere. I am happy even in a cell," philosophized Orissa Irawanwat, the former leader of a vocational student front.

Orissa has long been suffering from a wound on his cheek where a bullet had pierced right through.

His detention was reported world-wide last year when various activist groups sought the help of Amnesty International.

Orissa was born on September 23, 1952. He was shot while hiding in the river at Tha Phrachan.

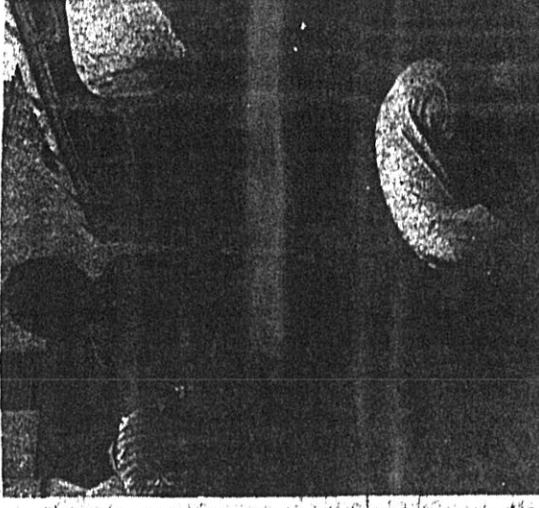
Seri Sirinuphong

Born in 1940 in Phatthalung Province, Seri Sirinuphong was an official of the Communications Ministry's Harbour Department before he was arrested on October 6, 1976.

"I will set forth to take care of my family whom I have left for nearly two years.

"My father is now in a hospital. I have to take good care of him, too," said the former government official.

However, he claimed that he still has right to continue his work at the department and is entitled to a promotion. He is thinking of going back to the same department.



VIROJ Tangwanich was so overwhelmed that he could not resist going down on his knees to "kiss" his mother in front of the Krungsak Maha Nakhon Special Prison.

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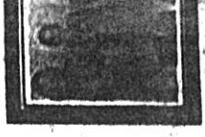
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masat is on the campus than "to breed more tigers in the jungle," Mon Free quoted Prime Minister Kriangsak Chomanan as

Kriangsak's pragmatism in administering the "two-wife government," but did not elaborate. Former Interior Minis-

ter stepped out with the wrong foot by referring to the amnesty as a desire of His Majesty the King.

three full columns on Page 3 commenting on the amnesty. Phya Mai said in one of the columns that he wo

When time moved so slow for many

MOST, if not all, of the October 6 defendants—2 girls and 17 men—must have spent Friday night tossing and turning throughout, because of the uncertainty as to the time of their release from detention, and not on account of the sentences to be handed down by the military court which had been handling their case up to the moment when the National Assembly voted 180-1 to approve the Government-sponsored amnesty bill earlier in the afternoon.

The ten defendants detained at Bangkhen Detention Centre were informed of the good news by their prison guards in the evening that the bill was overwhelmingly passed and that the order to acquit them might come on Saturday morning. The rest were detained in Bangkwang Prison and the Women's correctional institute.

Indeed, yesterday morning was rather unusual in that the crowd of relatives waiting to visit the defendants rapidly grew larger in size. They had heard of the pending good news as well. Those who still had not come to the detention centre with the same frame of mind as the days before were subsequently relayed the good news and in turn they promptly rang up their friends and relatives in trembling voices.

Words of excitement and joy were exchanged noisily through the bars between the defendants and their friends and relatives.

The hand of the clock appeared to be extraordinarily slow yesterday as people on both sides of the bars an-



A LOVE that nothing could bar. Orissa Irawanwat is hugged through the bars by his mother during her visit to the cell yesterday morning. The Amnesty International last year campaigned for a temporary release of Orissa so that he could have his bullet wound in his mouth treated.



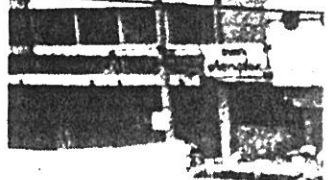
VIROJ Tangvanich, one of the former October 6 defendants, receives the first kiss from his mother in two years.

ly in a better atmosphere. "I was stunned when I heard the news from the prison guards," said Thongchai Vinichakul who was vice president of the Thammasat University student government. "My friends excitedly shook one another's hands after the good news. But I don't really know how I felt at that time."

The good news came officially at about 3.30 pm—the defendants would be taken to hear the amnesty order at the Defence Ministry and that they should be ready when the time came.



A "WAI" from their freedom.



SHOUTINGS, weeping as they leave the Krung arms of their relatives a prison.

THEIR HEA

Sutham Saengprathum

"JUSTICE is justice and freedom is delightful, said the former secretary general of the now-defunct National Students Centre of Thailand (NSCT), Sutham Saengprathum who was born in 1955 in Nakhon S Thammarat.

Expressing his gratitude, Sutham said that he and his colleagues are very deeply grateful to the kindness of His Majesty the King who approved the amnesty for all those involved with October 6, 1976.

Samak com-

cruising in front of the Bangkwang Prison.

The paper devoted three full columns on Page 3 commenting on the amnesty.

Phya Mai said in one of the columns that he won-

was a confirmation that those released were actually wrong-doers.

In another column Chupong Manenoi commented that he was looking for an answer to his speculation of the motive behind the amnesty.

terday greeted the amnesty with more enthusiasm and went out to report the news in full details.

Refraining from making any obvious comments on the amnesty, Thai Rath — one of the papers that usually avoid committing

column in from now threat to ti ing up arm was not police or th "The o them now nist insurg



A "WAI" from the released....one that is enough to reflect their gratitude for their freedom.



SHOUTINGS, weepings and tears greeted the released October 6 defendants as they leave the Krungthep Maha Nakhon Special Prison to freedom.... and to the arms of their relatives and friends who gathered in the hundreds in front of the prison.

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