

# At Least 15 Die in Thailand as Police Raid Campus in Political Dispute

BANGKOK, Thailand, Wednesday, Oct. 6 (AP)—Thai policemen firing machine guns, grenades and antitank weapons stormed a university campus today where several thousand students were demonstrating against the presence in Thailand of the former military ruler, Field Marshal Thanom Kittikachorn.

The police reported that at least 15 persons, most of them students, had been killed and more than 10 seriously wounded. Reporters at the scene said the casualty toll could well go far higher.

Earlier, a mob of angry right-wing students, mostly from vocational schools, had exchanged fire with the demonstrators, from Thammasat University.

The rightist students hanged two rival students from a tree near the campus. It could not be determined whether they were dead before being hanged. The mob then set upon the corpses with sticks, gouged out their eyes and cut their throats.

## Police Surround Campus

About 1,000 policemen surrounded the walled campus and special units stormed the gates to break up the rally inside. The police said that more than 300 students had been arrested and that others fled on boats or swam across the nearby Chao Phya River.

The police, who were also armed with United States made M16 rifles, said they had been ordered to fire to quell the violence. Initial reports were confused, but the reporters at the scene said the police directed fire against students holed up in the buildings of the university.

An immediate cause of the violence was apparently a skit staged by leftists showing the Thai Crown Prince, played

by a youth, hanging from a tree. The rightists said this was an insult to the monarchy.

Marshal Thanom, ousted three years ago, has touched off new left-right antagonisms since returning from exile last month.

Prime Minister Seni Pramoj called a special cabinet meeting to discuss the situation. He said it "could be controlled" but that he was considering declaring a state of emergency or martial law.

Earlier, the Thailand radio announced an indefinite closure of all schools and universities in Bangkok.

Marshal Thanom, who ruled Thailand from 1963 until his regime was toppled in 1973 by student rioting, returned from Singapore on Sept. 19 and was ordained as a Buddhist monk. He said he came back to be near his ailing 91-year-old father.

His return set off a wave of protests and demands that he be tried or expelled from the country.

Criticism of the way he handled the matter caused Prime Minister Seni Pramoj to resign, but he agreed to form a new government, which was approved yesterday by King Phumiphol Aduldet.

It was Thailand's sixth government since Marshal Thanom fell from power.

The anti-Thanom students want the former dictator expelled or tried for the deaths of 72 civilians in the October 1973 uprising against his government, as well as for other alleged crimes during his rule.