

THAI MILITARY TAKES POWER AFTER POLICE BATTLE PROTESTERS

30 Believed Dead and 1,700 Seized
—Constitution Is Suspended
and Publications Banned

By DAVID A. ANDELMAN

Special to The New York Times

BANGKOK, Thailand, Thursday, Oct. 7 — Thailand's military seized power last night within hours after policemen and university students fought violent battles in which 30 persons were believed killed and hundreds wounded. More than 1,700 students were arrested.

The Defense Minister, Adm. Sa-ngad Chaloryu, said over television and radio that Thailand's 42 million people would henceforth be ruled by an Administrative Reform Committee headed by himself. He announced that the 1974 Constitution had been abolished, that all newspapers and periodicals had been banned and that a curfew would be enforced from midnight to 5 A.M.

Protests Against Thanom

The Defense Minister, who is noted for his opposition to Communism, said that the military had to step in because the six-month-old Government of Prime Minister Seni Pramoj had proved unable to cope with the protests of the students, who, the minister said, were backed by Communist elements. The students were demanding the renewed exiling of the former Thai military dictator, Field Marshal Thanom Kittikachorn, who returned to Thailand nearly three weeks ago and is now in a Buddhist pagoda.

"The stability of the country is at stake," the Defense Minister said.

The announcement marked the first return of Thailand to military rule since a student revolt in October 1973 led to the toppling of the Thanom Government. Speaking of Thailand's experience with democracy—the ousted Seni Government was the nation's third to be democratically installed in two years—Admiral Sa-ngad said:

"We've set our sights too high as far

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Associated Press

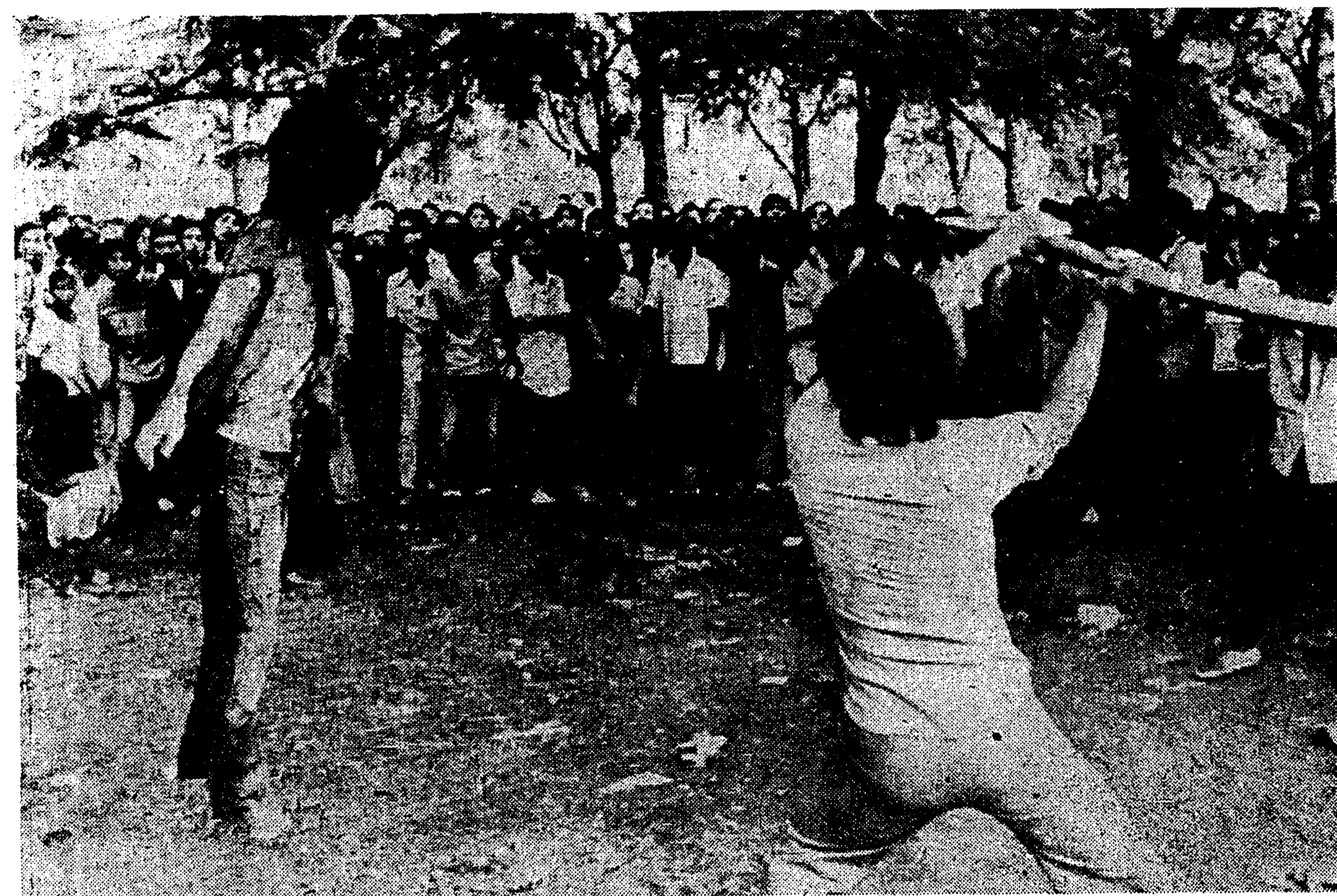
Thai soldiers guard leftist students who surrendered after clash with rightists and police at Thammasat University

The New York Times

Published: October 7, 1976

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Thai Leftists' Rally Crushed in Frenzied Violence



Associated Press and United Press International

A Thai policeman fires through a gate into the school grounds, which had been taken over by leftist students on Monday. At right, a wounded leftist is pounced upon by enraged rightists; below, a soldier kicks a student who surrendered after the troops were called in. A witness said he saw a mob drag four youths through the streets, beat them, soak them with gasoline and set them afire.



An enraged right-wing student batters the corpse of a leftist, hanging from a tree outside Thammasat University in Bangkok. An apparent cause of the violence was a skit staged by leftists that showed the Thai Crown Prince hanging from a tree. The rightists said this was an insult to the monarchy. Below: A youth loots the body of a victim. Moments later, the photographer himself was shot in the neck.



Adm. Sa-ngad Chaloryu, Defense Minister, seized power in Thailand.