

# Thai King Names Civilian Premier 2 Days After Coup

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BANGKOK, Thailand, Saturday, Oct. 9 —King Phumiphol Aduldet of Thailand unexpectedly named a new civilian Prime Minister yesterday two days after a military coup swept the former civilian government from power.

The announcement was made in a broadcast shortly before midnight last night by the leader of the military junta, Adm. Sa-ngad Chaloryu. He said that the new Prime Minister was a 49-year-old lawyer and Supreme Court justice, Thanin Kraivichien, who would take office within two weeks after a full cabinet had been appointed and the situation stabilized.

At that time, the admiral added, the military leadership plans to step aside.

## King May Have Acted

The suddenness of the decision was taken in some quarters as a sign that Thailand's revered King, who had been keeping in the background since the coup, had actually been working to return power to civilians as quickly as possible. It had generally been believed that it would be at least a month and more likely up to three months before the military would be able to put together a civilian government to its liking and relinquish at least the trappings of power.

There was, however, no indication that the Administrative Reform Council, as the

## Military Junta Asserts It Will Step Aside Within 2 Weeks

junta is formally known, planned to dissolve itself when the new Prime Minister takes office.

Early today, in his first speech to the nation after being named Prime Minister, Mr. Thanin listed five priorities in his new administration—to fight the threat of Communism, to end attempts to change Thailand's constitutional monarchy and to eliminate government corruption, mistreatment of people by officials and rural poverty.

### 'Must Be Step by Step'

"I can say with confidence that if you all join in getting rid of these threats, the country will survive," Mr. Thanin said. "We may have democracy, but it must be step by step."

Clearly these steps were beginning much more quickly than was first thought possible after the military seized power late Wednesday after bloody clashes between the police and students at Thammasat University.

Less than 12 hours before the admiral's broadcast, the military junta published the first list of its own membership and disclosed an administrative organization of civilian advisers to oversee the ministries. Mr. Thanin, in fact, had been named then to head a panel overseeing public health, education, justice and universities.

The military has ruled Thailand for most of the years since the overthrow of the absolute monarchy in 1932. In October 1973 the last military dictator, Thanom Kittikachorn, was overthrown in a bloody revolt led by students, and a year later a civilian government was set up after national elections.

It was the King's support of the students in 1973 that finally forced the Thanom government to quit and its principal members to go into exile. The civilian government overthrown on Wednes-

day was the third democratically elected administration since 1973 as stability diminished, and many had feared the return of an absolute military dictatorship.

Mr. Thanin was severely critical of all of these democratic governments. Otherwise, however, little is known of him. He was born April 27, 1927 and is married and has five children. He was educated at Bangkok's Thammasat University, which has been the focus of the student protests that had been building for weeks, and he obtained a law degree from Gray's Inn in London in 1953.

The following year he joined the Ministry of Justice in Bangkok and has held a succession of legal positions in and out of the government since.

How he now plans to cope with the problems of the country, including the more than 3,000 people, mostly left-wing students, whom the junta announced yesterday it had seized over the last three days, was not clear.

### University Is Searched

At Thammasat University yesterday, heavily armed soldiers searched the buildings, flushing out students who had continued to hold out since the battles with the police Wednesday.

Several shots were fired but there were no new casualties. The official death toll from Wednesday's violence has now risen to 39.

Before the announcement of the new civilian Prime Minister, the military continued to issue a series of orders to the nation. Among the orders yesterday were for citizens to turn in unregistered firearms or face two to 20 years in prison, and for conversion of courts into military tribunals.

Last night the first Thai-language newspapers allowed to resume publication appeared, including far-right and moderate dailies. None of the leftist or even left-center papers were allowed to publish, however, and most of those that appeared presented cautious descriptions and photographs of Wednesday's violence.

More papers — including the English-language dailies, The Bangkok Post and The Nation — are expected to resume publication today under licenses issued by the junta.

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