

I. Background

After the military coup on 6th October, 1976, many thousands of people were arrested under martial law edicts, and have still not been brought to trial.

Those arrested fall into two main categories:-

- Over 3,000 people arrested at Thammasat University prior to the coup.

Most of those were rapidly released on bail, bail was only refused thirty, however a large number of poor people who could not possibly afford the \$1,000 bail stayed in Jail for almost five months. Most of these had nothing to do with the Thammasat demonstration but included Janitors, Noodle Vendors, and ordinary spectators. No all except for 30 of those arrested at Thammasat have been released. Only 110 of those arrested are being charged, (mainly for being communists) and will be tried at an unspecified time in a military court. They are not entitled to legal representation during their trial (which must take place before February, 1978)

- Up to 8,000 people have been arrested as "Danger to Society" since October 6th, 1976 and probably at least 2,000 are still being held. According to Decree Number 22 of the National Administration Reform Council (NARC) those people can be held for 30 days at a time, renewable, and need never be brought to trial  
\* In addition to the arrests  
(see Annex, 1 for text of this decree) \* there have been many other attacks on human rights, namely.

- Up to 50 intellectuals, writers, journalists, university professors have had to flee the country, and take up residence in various western countries, often having to leave their families and friends behind them.

- At least 600 students, workers, and farmers leaders have had to flee to Laos to avoid arrest and detention, whilst larger numbers have had to go underground.

- Since the coup Communist insurgency has taken a dramatic up-turn with increasing numbers of clashes being reported from all parts of the country, and increasing casualties both amongst troops and insurgents as well as amongst innocent villagers. In its efforts to deal with the insurgent problem the government has declared increasing areas of the country out-of-bounds to the general public has introduced long curfews, and restricted the freedom of villagers to a great extent in other ways.

- All political parties have been banned, and labour unions made inoperative (through disallowing meetings and strikes - those organising the most legitimate of strikes have been arrested as a "Danger to Society" Many members of Socialist

parties, leaders of trader unions, and peasant unions are amongst the arrested.

- Strict censorship regulations have been imposed on all mass media. Many left wing newspapers have been permanently closed, (and the Journalists working on them put out of work), and other newspapers have frequently been temporarily closed, thus muzzling criticism of government. In terms of electronic media, all those high level officials who had opposed the army controlled T.V. and radio stations have been replaced, and only moderate right wing stations allowed to broadcast. Both magazines and newspapers, and radio stations of the extreme right have also been closed.

- Hundreds of thousands of books have been burnt and banned since October 6th, including all books actively promoting socialist or communist ideologies, but also many less radical books advocating <sup>more</sup>egalitarian and just development policies. Many of the banned books seem to have been banned more because of their authors or titles, than for their content. At the same time, hundreds of thousands of copies of books written by the prime minister, have been printed at government expense and distributed to educational, religious and other institutions all over the countries.

All in all it can be seen that the present military backed government has taken action against all normally accepted principles of human rights.

Unfortunately, because of historical factors (moving from an absolute monarchy to various forms of dictatorship), it is not yet widely understood that the people have rights against mistreatment by government or its representatives. Thus after the October 6th Massacre and the subsequent Military Coup, human right activities were very slow to start.

Fortunately one existing group, the "Ahimsa" or "nonviolence" group was prepared to take the risk of gathering information, and even visiting prisoners, at a time when mass arrests were still taking place. Gradually this group of young Buddhist monks and laymen began to establish links with more senior buddhist, catholic, protestant and religious leaders in "The Coordinating Group for Religion in Society" (the precise translation from the Thai has not yet been determined), and this group agreed to assist and help protect the activities of the young Buddhist "Ahimsa" workers.

The "Coordinating Group for Religion in Society" has members drawn from Protestant, Catholic and Buddhist leaders, and includes a Bishop, high ranking monks, university professors and layman. The most active members are:



Dr. Koson	Srisung	:- Secretary General of the Church of Christ in Thailand. (Protestant)
Rev. Somchart	Cha-unthong	:- Vice-Moderator, Church of Christ in Thailand
Rev. Fr. Prasit	Samanchit	:- Executive Chairman Catholic Council of Thailand for Development.
Dr. Gotom	Ariya	:- Post Founder of the Union for Civil Liberties, University Professor, Buddhist.
Phra Pracha	Pasannathammo	:- Buddhist Monk.
Mr. Nicholas Bennett		:- UNESCO Chief Advisor in the Ministry of Education. Buddhist.

Though this Coordinating Group has wider activities than the immediate human rights activities. In the human rights areas its main objectives can be summarised as follows:

- Collect information from every possible source on the names of prisoners, their charge, where they are being held, the conditions in the prisons, the position of the family, and so on.
- Systematically filing and storing this data. Disseminating where possible in Thailand. Completing Amnesty forms, and translating data for other purposes.
- Arranging to visit known prisoners in jail systematically and regularly, and provide them with some welfare (books, medicine, food, soap, etc.)
- Contacting the families of the prisoners, identifying their problems, and within our means providing them with some assistance.
- Carrying out the same types of activities up-country.
- Within our means helping others in difficulty because of their conscience, i.e. journalists.
- Helping others who are suffering from the increasing conflicts in Thai Society (i.e. wounded soldiers)
- Develop a strategy so that the various religions can work together for justice, peace and human development.

Throughout December, January, and February the "Ahinsa" group, under the guidance of the CGRS, visited prisoners (bringing food, books, and medicines) as often as possible, helped the families of prisoners, collected information, bailed out as many people as possible, and visited and talked with wounded soldiers and policemen.

I rapidly become clear that the amount of work to be done was much greater than could be achieved on an ad-hoc basis, and thus even before any funding was available, it was decided to establish a permanent, open, office, with full time workers operating in a systematic way.

This office was established on the 15th March, 1977 at

Room 21

16 Thannon Pramuan

Silom

Bangkok Tel. 2332320-21 extn 21

and seven members of the "Ahinsa" group agreed to work full time.

Those seven are:-

Mr. Paisarn	Wongsvorawisith
Mr. Chaiwat	Yao-vapongsiri
Miss Lawan	Kemaphundhu-manus
Mr. Visit	Wungwinyoo
Miss Laddawan	Tantivitayapitak
Mr. Chachawan	Sae-Dan
Mr. Nit	Chantramonklasri

biographical sketches of those seven young men and women are included in annex 3.

The faith of the CGRS, and the above young men and women who are working full time, as well as other part time volunteers was amply rewarded when shortly after the establishment of the office, Bread for the World allocated 83,300 baht for the establishment, and first 2-3 months running costs of the office, the Mennonites allocated 10,000 baht for welfare services, Amnesty International promised up to 35,000 baht, and various other friends both in Thailand and overseas gave or promised 20-40,000 baht. Much more money is still needed from friends both in Thailand and overseas, but we have faith that given the importance of our work this will be forthcoming.



PROFILES OF SOME POLITICAL PRISONERS IN THAILAND

1. Mr. Jean Sangsakul

Reporter of SiangRath and Muang Tai, two local newspaper of Nakornsrithammaraj, was arrested (as a Danger to society) in late January in his home town in Pippon district of Nakornsrithammaraj.

His wife went to visit him every day after his arrest for 4-5 days. One afternoon she found that he was no longer in the detention centre. The policemen told her that they had released him that morning, but she could not find him anywhere.

She went to ask the people living near by the detention centre and some of them told her that they saw him last time walking into the jungle escorted by some policemen (or military men).

She asked the editor of the 2 papers to help her finding her husband or at least to publish his case, but her wish did not receive any response. Mr. Jean has one brother who went to the jungle some time ago, his hometown, Pipoon district, is one of the strong communist infiltrated areas. He, himself had been working as an active newsman for a long time, He is about 40 years old and has several children. A picture of Mr. Jean Sangsakul is available on request.

2. Mr. Somboon Barneu-silp and Mr. Vichai Barneu-silp

Arrested 15 and 16 October, 1976 respectively. They are brothers. Mr. Somboon has come to visit his younger brother, Mr. Vichai, at Wat Baromnivas Bangkok when he was arrested by the police. The arresting team had raided Mr. Vichai's house and found many correspondences between them both which expressed clearly their political ideals. When Mr. Vichai came back home on October 16, he quickly went to Patoomwan police-station to ask after his elder brother and then he got into the trouble there. At present, both are detained at Bangken detention camp.

Mr. Somboon aged 36, is one of the founders of the Liberal-Socialist Party and was a candidate on the January 26, 1975 election. He was also head of a local Agricultural Group. Originally he lived with his aged father and his another younger brother at .58 Moo 8, Ban Kelek, Taruey district, Amphur Mueng, Ubon province. Mr. Vichai, aged 29, is an employer of the Telephone Organization of Thailand and a member of the Labour Union of that organization. He said that he had once argued with a monk of the wat where he lived, on political issue. Both are afraid that they may be charged with promoting communism and be detained up to 350 days prior to trial.

3. Mrs Pimparn Poo-vapant

Arrested in Surin on 22 October, 1976 for endangering the society. She was then transferred to the Youth Punishment Camp (for women), Lardyao, Bangkok on 25 February, 1977. Mrs Pimparn, aged 46, is the wife of Mr. Suthee Poo-vapant, an ex-member of the National Parliament, who used to be detained as a political prisoner for ( continued...Page 2)

4 years since 1967 on promoting communism charge. Originally, they were Surin residents. They used to live with their six children at 17/2 Suriyarach Rd, Amphur Muang of Surin province; but now the children have come to live at a safer place in Bangkok. Her husband is working as a law counsellor of Thai Rath newspapers. She did not know the real reason for her arrest. She believed that it was because she is the wife of Mr. Suthee. It was said that she was a coordinator of a demonstration of discontented farmers, and chosen as a representative to meet the government officers of Surin, she was also active in helping to bail out many poor arrested farmers. It was also said that the policemen who arrested her made up a false report saying that the deputy commander-in-chief of the army ordered her arrest and that she went on instigating other prisoners.

✓ 4. Mr. Narinthre Somtusna

Arrested in Chiangmai on 21 October, 1976 at the same time with many other persons such Mr. Teppitakse Viriyar, Mr. Viroj Kunthachompoo. Mr. Narinthre Somtusna, aged 24, graduated from Pisanulok Teacher College in 1974 and had been a teacher in a school of Nan province since then. He used to be the head of the student art-club while he was a college student. He said that he had been an outspoken critic of the school headmaster about the teaching method. He himself taught the young students on the subject of social science, dealing with the present world problem; so he encouraged them to read newspapers and make various reports which resulted in the head-master's dissatisfaction for he did not want the youth to be concerned with such information. During the school vacation, he went back to his home-town-Amphur Sarapee of Chiangmai province; and was arrested by the police there. He was charged with "endangering the society"; and had been investigated twice and then transferred to be detained at Bangken, Bangkok.

✓ 5. Mr. Sien Kingkaew

Arrested in priesthood by the police at 4 pm. 23 October, 1976 and forced to leave the priesthood by the provincial clergy at 10 pm. on the same day. He was first taken to a local government office in Surin province and was transferred to Bangken, Bangkok, on 25 February, 1977. Mr. Sien, aged 35, had been in priesthood for 18 years and was the head of the monks in Wat(monastery)Piaram, Piaram districe in Amphur Muang of Surin province, when arrested by the police. He still <sup>has</sup> relatives living at 127 Moo 1 Ban Bueng, Bueng districe of Surin. He said that he had been in conflict with a districe council committee about the organization of a youth group, and also with the Governmental Psychological Warfare Unit's officers at the time they went to show a movies to villagers there in Wat Piaram without asking for his permission.



6. Mr. Tongchai Vinijkul

Mr. Tongchai had a role in fighting for the justice in society since he was a pre-university student. He was a committee member of Siam's Youth group. This group played a very important role in that period (1972). In 1974 he was elected to be the secretary of the National Pupil Centre of Thailand. In this capacity, he joined the University students in many activities such as; supporting labour movement in fighting for higher wages, supporting minimum price rice guarantee scheme, asking for the departure of the American Air Force Base, etc. When he was the student of Thammasat University, he was elected to be the first year students' representative in the Student's Parliament. In the next year, he was elected to be the Vice-President of Student's Organization of Thammasat University for external affairs. During the demonstration against the return of Marshal Thanom, as the situation became more tense on October 5th, 1976, Tongchai as one of the organizers decided that he would dissolve the demonstration the next morning. But it was too late. The Government sent policemen to bloodily suppress the demonstration.

He is a student leader who devote himself very much for the welfare of others. No one ever question him about his sincerity and integrity. on the October 6, 1976, there was some suggestion for a student leader like him to run away. But he insisted on facing the same fate as the people who were there.

Now he is held in Bangken Prison under ten charges. He will be tried in the criminal and military courts.

✓ 7. Dr. Lert Chirasiri

Doctor Lert finished his education in medical science from the Faculty of Medical Science, Siriraj University in 1955. He has a wife who is a nurse and a daughter who has just finished pre-university school. His interest is in traditional medicine. He found out that traditional medicine could help to get rid of worm from the intestine. There were two kinds of medicine that he found useful to get rid of tape worms and earth worms. He tried to convince people that traditional medicine was very useful. He had made some demonstrations at the Faculty of Medical Science but to no avail. no one was interested in this. He also wrote to a medical journal Sarn Siriraj. That was 20 years ago. Now people just begin to realise the importance of traditional medicine.

He went to study in Israel for some time. He went to Gabbutz and was interested in how to build up an ideal community. He saw that there was declination of both economics and spirit in Thai villages. There were needs to rebuild villages. When he was back in Thailand, he had an idea of setting up a cooperative village. There were two steps. The first step was to organize in a village (or villages)

so that it would be self-sufficient in economics. The second step was to introduce the kind of education to help villagers to be capable of doing things for themselves and to progress in Buddhism. He had written a project and sent it up to His Majesty the King through His Secretary. But he received no reply.

Besides that, he was a serious student in Buddhism. He was the one who understand "Paticca Smupapada" (Dependent Origination) very well. He wrote a "Hand Book to Study Buddhism" which contained more than 300 pages and is very interesting.

The reason he was charged of Endangering the Society was that he used to demonstrate against American Military Base in Nakornrajseema, and when a right wing group came to a temple in his district, he called a group of friends and went to "Hydepark" against them. That rendered the rightist group very angry. He was a member of Socialist Party of Thailand. And this can be another reason why he was caught. It was reported that the Governor of Nakornrajaseema didn't ever think to arrest him. The idea came from a military group.

Now he is detained at Bangken, Bangkok.

COORDINATING GROUP FOR  
RELIGION IN SOCIETY

APRIL 1977.



## II. Summary of Activities

### 1. Report on helping the arrested due to the October 6, 1976 coup

According to the government's own estimates, more than 3,000 people were arrested on October 6, 1976 and there were more than 250 persons still be detained until the 3rd of March 1977. Most of them were charged against with the crimes of insurrection at Thammasat University and of promoting communism (totally 10 charges); and seven were charged against with lese majesté (Totally 11 charges, one was arrested before October 6, 1976). Since the 3rd of March 1977, there have been releases of all but 111 prisoners arrested due to the October 6, 1977 event. It should be noted that almost all the rest had been held by the government precisely on charges of the kind described above, they were students and laymen whose names were listed in annex 3 of this report. None of these prisoners had been convicted in a law-court, although a trial proceeding has begun for one of them on 22 March, 1977. The government claimed that substantial numbers of detainees had been released.

On the other hand, a pattern of wide scale secret arrests has continued, involving large numbers of people. It is not possible at present to give a precise estimate of the total number of people currently arrested for the crime of 'endangering the society' as charged by the authorities, but some observers estimate that the number is higher than 2,000. People continue to be secretly detained in various detention in various detention centers, and the authorities are not willing to give any information of these missing persons.

Almost all "prisoners of conscience" have to be tried by the emergency military tribunal which means that no advocates allowed, they can only be advocates of themselves. Until now, they are not informed of when they will have their trial of the charges against them.

So the most important and urgent action of our group at present is to work on behalf of detained persons to advocate fairer trials for them and wipe off their various handicaps imposed by the unjust and inhumane authority.

1) To establish completed lists of the names, the whereabouts and the brief backgrounds of the arrested (now we have the lists of 111 detainees and 56 of those secretly arrested after October 6, 1976, see annex 3)

2) To present the petition of each individual to the National Lawyer Association asking for personal advice from the lawyers there.

Now, we have already given the petition forms to all those detained at Bangkwang, Sethsiri, Iard Yao, and also those released out on bail except some uncontactable and those detained at Bangkok who received directly from the

National Lawyer Association.

- 3) To provide books on National Law including useful advices to every detainee and some who were released out on bail, as many as needed.
- 4) To contact certain law-counsellors to give practical advices to organized groups of those released out on bail so that they will know how to prepare themselves for the coming trials. We have already done this for a group of Mahidol University student who were charged of promoting communism.
- 5) To fill the amnesty forms and send to various worldwide human rights movements including the Amnesty International.
- 6) To ask a certain person to function as a translator and interpreter for the representative of the Amnesty International who will arrive in Thailand in the near future.
- 7) To visit as many families as possible of all these prisoners of conscience that are in need of helps.

2. Report on name listing and information of the prisoners.

The objectives are to work for the release of men and women which are the prisoners of conscience imprisoned anywhere in Thailand for their beliefs, and oppose the torture and capital punishment in all cases, and advocate fair and early trials for all political prisoners, and also work on behalf of persons detained without charge or without trial. It is our fundamental duty as human beings to eradicate such crime against humanity - the violation of all principles of human freedom and of the life and dignity of the human person.

1) Those who were arrested at Thammasatra University on October 6, 1976

We try to collect all the names of those who were arrested at Thammasatra University on October 6, 1976, and follow all cases so as to know the places where they are imprisoned, the persons who are out on bail, and the ones who are still incarcerated; and also be able to give other helps as well (as mentioned in the previous reports). Until March 3, 1977, 3044 prisoners have been released and 111 persons have still been imprisoned. Out of these 111 persons; 7 persons have been charged with lese majeste, 74 absorbing in communism, 33 riot acts. We try to help them fill in the amnesty forms and call upon individuals, organizations and solicitors to advocate for them. (Solicitors are forbidden in the cases of lese majeste and communism charges).

2) Those who were arrested after October 6, 1976 with the charge of endangering the society.

This "endangering the society" law is a broad-spectrum law. The



police and soldier are able to arrest any suspected one with no need of any evidence, without specific charge, without trial and within unlimited period of detention. Most of the prisoners were arrested in upcountry districts, and few were sent to be jailed in Bangkok. At present, the number of those being detained in such case is over 1,500. (Bangkok Post March 10, 1977). We only know 56 of them. So, now we are trying to find the names of the rest and their places of detention in upcountry districts.

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### III. Summary of News:

For months, the various incidents had sent the political temperature here soaring; even the most cautious observers thought a military coup possible. Military officers seemed to have grown increasingly disappointed with the appointed government's performance. Sources close to the military indicated that as soon as public opinion was sufficiently prepared for the move, the services of some or all of the ministers might be dispensed with.

Since the return of former Field Marshal Prapas Charusathirak, it was generally believed that he was quietly reassembling his old network of immense influence in military, business and political circles with a view either to reassuming political power himself or to directing the course of events from the sidelines. Prapas' return was undoubtedly expected to serve as a healing and unifying force of the Thai army which was left leaderless and divided by the death of General Kris Sivara. On the day of Prapas' arrival, deputy army commander General Yos Thephasadin rushed to see him. So many observers believed that Gen. Yos could be in a position to assume this role.

During the passage of time, the stamping out of official corruption and of the narcotics trade had made the stubborn Thanin and staff, who had no political base, the enemy of some senior military figure. General Thienchai Sirisamphan, a protege of Field Marshal Prapas, was charged against by the Government's anti-corruption committee. At the end of January, a right-wing magazine with connections to the government's International Security Operations Command was ordered closed on the personal order of the Prime Minister. Both the charges against Gen. Thienchai and the closure of this magazine were strongly attacked by the popular ultra-patriotic Armoured Division Radio Station, under Col. Utharn Seni Wong - a relative of the Queen, the most important of the army's 100-odd radio stations and the one which played a crucial role in arousing popular anger against the students and mobilising right-wing pressure groups during the events of last October which precipitated the military coup. So, the radio station's operation was temporarily suspended and Col. Utharn only just transferred. About the same time, many newspapers were ordered closed by the government.

As a result, a groundswell of opposition to the Government had been building up in certain organized groups. At the beginning of February, more than twenty military officers of the National Administrative Reform Council signed a petition to the King asking for a change in the appointed government; but received no reply.

By the middle of February, it was reported that Crown Prince Vijiralongkorn was ambushed by an unidentified number of terrorists when his convoy was almost at the Somdej Base in the Third Army region. Few days later, the private secretary to



Majesty the Queen, M.C. Vibhavadi Rangsit, was shot dead while on a helicopter flight over the communist-infested district of Viengsa in Surathani while on her way to distribute Royal gifts to Border Patrol policemen.

One powerful group tried to force the Palace to do away with the cabinet, or make a reshuffle, while at least three other groups were plotting for imminent coups: one connected with the losers of the 14 October, 1973 incident, next one was one been stole a march on by the present group, another one was backed up by an intellectual who joined with economic group. The former premier Kukrit Pramoj seemed to know a lot, he used to write in his daily newspaper satire column that Chalad (clever) also meant a monk who loved to wander to upcountry military camps as a form of meritmaking. Also, Kukrit used to see General Tienchai Sirisamphan, the commander of the Lop Buri Special Warfare Centre, and Deputy Army Commander-in-chief General Frasert Thammasiri sometimes. It was written in a small gossip column of Ban Mueng newspaper on Feb. 14, 1977 that Feb. 20 might be the day. A few days later on, the prime minister unofficially announced that the government got along well with the NARC. Days after, many papers received closure orders.

Then a month after that or a week before the March 26, abortive coup; it was reported that Samak Soonthonwech, a loyalist minister, was not injured in an attempted assassination and two rankers were arrested. And a day after the starting day of the governmental dry-season local development projects, the dramatic coup d'etat took place and lasted for 10 hrs.

Deputy Supreme Commander General Kriangsak Chmanan spoke to a packed Press conference later that "we knew that such a thing was going to take place seven or eight days previously". But, was there anything done if either the NARC or the government had known in advance?

Gen. Chalad Hiranyasiri was a former commander of Thai forces in Vietnam and was briefly Deputy Army Commander-in-Chief. He was suspected of trying to stage a counter-coup to the National Administrative Reform Council. When he was put off active service, he took up the monkhood. Meanwhile, it was rumoured that former Chatthai Political Party's members were planning to settle old scores. Also, it was rumoured that another economic group called Porn-Sithi-Amnuay which had their base on trust and bank business had bribed many colonels and lieutenant colonels for political purposes.

According to sources made available to us, which could not be officially confirmed, the coup plotters knew that another group might do a coup on March 26, so they decided to steal a march on the same day for being afraid of being stole a

march on themselves. It all started about 4 am. which was still in the curfew time when about 300 rebel soldiers from the Ninth Division stationed in Kanchanaburi started moving into the Vicinity of Suan Ruen. These "rebel" soldier told passers-by as reported by the press later that they they had not known why they had been brought to Bangkok. At the International Security Operations Command (ISOC) which was the command centre of the rebel group fully armed soldiers were much evidence at road junctions nearby to keep curious onlookers away. But only small groups of people could be seen at the Public Relations Department and at Sanam Suapa, the headquarters of the Supreme Command Forward Section. Apart from the three key areas the rest of Bangkok functioned normally almost as if nothing had happened.

The situation became more specific soon after 9 am. when Radio Thailand began broadcasting announcements from a "Revolutionary Party" which claimed to have taken over control of the country to "stop further deterioration of the situation."

A series of directives were issued by General Prasert Thammasilpi and General Chalad Hiranyasilpi before the Army Television Channel 5 began transmitting a counter announcement that the Government was still in power and that all three armed forces have pledged loyalty. Colonel Utharn Sanidwong who attained fame as an announcer on the Armoured Vehicles Radio station during the October 6, 1976, taken-over by the National Administrative Reform Council came on television to warn the high officials against turning up before the council. Then followed a radio war with each side claiming to be in control and each side calling on radio stations to ignore the other side's transmission. But by afternoon it became clear that the attempted coup was failing as one radio station after the other switched over to the side of the one which claimed to be of the Government. The war of the radio waves ended for the "Revolutionary Council" when the area where the buildings occupied by the "Revolutionary Council" troops was cut off the electricity supply. Defence Minister Sa-ngad Chaloryu, Air Force Commander-in-chief Kamol Dejjatungkha, Gen. Kriangsak, Gen. Yos Thephasdin and other armed services but none of the Thaksin and staff appeared on television to reassure the public. Prime Minister Thaksin Kraivixien who was in Bangkok throughout the incident appeared on television very lately in the evening. As seen in the program, Gen. Yos and Gen. Kamol seemed very embarrassed.

By noon, it was announced by the going-to-win side that Commander of the 1st Army Division Maj-Gen Aroon Thavathasilp was shot dead by rebel troops in Suan Ruen during the coup attempt because he refused to co-operate with the rebel group. It was also announced that he died from nine gunshot wounds at Vachira



Hospital. But in an hour before that, the coup attempting side made an announcement to promote Gen. Aroon and Gen. Thongtorn to high ranks which was suddenly counter-announced by the claimed Government side to warn both not to join. And also it was said later by Captain Kittisak who had served with Gen. Aroon for two years that "Gen. Aroon went to Suan Kuen by himself, without any guns." Gen. Aroon was a very conservative loyalist. Her Majesty Had sent a condolence note to his widow. "It also meant that we have lost a good friend whom we, known and trusted", the condolence note said.

After 10 hrs., the coup attempt failed. Rebel troops handed over the weapons to the government forces without any fighting. It was reported that Gen. Kriangsak, a man who always did for himself, decided to let the five coup plotters leave the country in exchanges for the lives of two high-ranking military officers. They had taken hostage Gen. Prasert who had a very good credit before and Gen. Pralong Virapree the Army Chief of Staff. However, the pilot refused to fly off with them. Inquiries were telexed to Taipei which responded that the five were unacceptable in Taiwan. But the NPI said that it was just a trick. So; Gen. Chalad, an ultra rightist, and his low ranking co-conspirators - Lieutenant - Colonel Sanan Kachornprasart, Major Boonlert Kaewprasit, Major Visit Khongpradit and Major Aswin Hiranyasiri, Gen. Chalad's son - had to be tried by court-martial for treason. Even Gen. Kriangsak told the press himself of his personal opinion that "If I were Gen. Chalad who had been trained abroad, and had been on the planning staff, then I did this with only 300 men, I would be crazy". What even more crazy was that his co-conspirators were low ranking and unexperienced military officers; and he did not plan to arrest Gen. Serm, Gen. Sa-ngad, Gen. Boonchai. After the game was over and Gen. Prasert and Gen. Pralong were released, Gen. Prasert rushed to Pra Mongkut Hospital that night and was recuperating from severe exhaustion and stayed as a patient there until now. On the whole day, the winning side broadcasted from Army Television Channel Five disputed the claim that Gen. Prasert headed the "Revolutionary Council" and also that the voice was merely a tape voice of Gen. Prasert. Was it possible that there was double cross somewhere or that the coup was planned to fail? It was rumoured that there was much greater involvement in planning and Lieutenant Gen. Vithoon Yasawat former assistant Chief-of-Staff for Manpower who came from abroad visit his family during that period was involved. But Deputy Prime Minister Gen. Boonchai said that "Vitoon and Chalad could not get along," and if Vitoon was a co-plotter the coup might succeed."

According to unofficial reports, more than five military officers were arrested

in connection with the abortive coup. It was officially reported that three journalists from two newspapers, a former Public Relations Department Director, a famous television commentator, a business man who was a director of Dusit Thani Hotel, a police Col., a former Democrat MP and a professor were detained in connection with the March 26 incident. And Gen. Chalad was not allowed to be visited by his family.. Is it possible that some involved were not arrested and some were arrested as unwanted persons?

Can the incident be called a coup? Will there be a coup soon that may worsen the situation? A number of details invite suspicion.

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Annex

1. Decree No. 22 of the NARC

No. 2 Governmental officers and police have the authorities to inspect and investigate those who are considered "endanger to society". They are allowed to arrest and detain those who are considered "endanger to society" for investigation and re-education within 30 days.

No. 3 After 30 days in detention, if those who are considered "endanger to society" do not behave properly, they can be transferred by the authorities of Police Chief, Commander in Bangkok and Governors of provinces in other provinces.

2. Article 21 of Constitution (1976)

Provide the Prime Minister sees the necessities to defence, prevent, restrain and subdue the endangering kingdom and throne and economy incidents which will destroy the peacefulness, moral, resources and health of people no matter happen inside or outside the country before or after the announcement of this Constitution; he has the authorities to give any order within the agreement of the cabinet and the counselling council.

The order of the Prime Minister in the case mentioned is law.

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#### IV. Profiles of Prisoners

##### Mr. Jean Sangsakul

Reporter of Siang Rath and Muang Tai, two local newspaper of Nakornsri-  
thamaraj, was arrested (as a Danger to society) in late January in his home  
town Pipoon district of Nakornsri-  
thamaraj.

His wife went to visit him every day after his arrest for 4-5 days. One  
afternoon she found that he was no longer in the detainment centre. The  
policemen told her that they had released him that morning, but she could  
not find him anywhere.

She went to ask the people living near by the detainment centre and some of  
them told her that they saw him last time walking into the jungle escorted  
by some policemen (or military men)

She asked the editor of the 2 papers to help her finding her husband or  
at least to publish his case, but her wish could not get any response.

Mr. Jean has one brother who went to the jungle sometime ago, his hometown  
Pipoon district is one of the strong communist infiltrated areas. He, him-  
self had been working openly as newsmen for a long time as an active one,  
that should be the reason for his mysterious disappearance. He was about  
40 years old is married and has several children.

In Pipoon District large numbers of people have been arrested, as anyone  
who is suspected as helping communists is automatically arrested. Many  
others arrested have disappeared, but no names are available. The villagers  
however talk about people being taken up in helicopters and being kicked out  
over the mountain or burning prisoners in petrol tanks. Villagers talk  
about at least 100 people being killed since December.

A picture of Mr. Jean Sangsakul is available on request.

##### Mr. Somboon Barneu-silo and Mr. Vichai Barneu-silo

Arrested 15 and 16 October, 1976 respectively. They are brothers. Mr.  
Somboon was visiting, his younger brother, Mr. Vichai at Wat Baromnivas  
Bangkok when he was arrested by the police. The arresting team had raided  
Mr. Vichai's house and found many correspondences between them both which  
expressed clearly their political ideals. When Mr. Vichai came back home on  
October 16, he quickly went to Patoompon police-station to ask after his  
elder brother and then he got the trouble there. At present, both are detain-  
ed at Bangken detention camp.

Mr. Somboon aged 36, used to be the establisher of the Liberal-Socialist

Party in which he was the only member so that he could be a candidate on the January 26, 1975 election, and also used to be the head of the local Agriculturist Group. Originally he lives with his aged father and his another younger brother at 58 Moo 8, Ban Kelek, Taruey district, Amphur Mueng, Ubon province.

Mr. Vichai, aged 29, is an officer of the National Telephone Organization and a member of the Labour Union of that organization. He said that he had argued soundly against a monk, of the wat that he lived, on political issue.

Both are afraid that they may be charged with promoting communism which they can be detained 360 days before trial.

Mr. Siroj Tongyai

Arrested on 21 October 1976. He was first taken to the local amphur office and was transferred on December 13, 1976 to Bangken, Bangkok, with other 28 prisoners from Surin. He told us his school head teacher informed the police that he was too progressive.

Mr. Siroj was a teacher at Kao Jan-van Jan-van district, Amphur Sunkla of Surin province. His father and mother are peasants. He is single, has one elder brother who is a soldier and one younger sister. All his relatives do not afford to visit him at Bangken.

Mrs. Pimparn Poo-vapant

Arrested in Surin on 22 October, 1976 for endangering the society. She was then transferred to the Youth Punishment Camp (for women), Lardyao, Bangkok on 25 February, 1977. Mrs. Pimparn, aged 46, is the wife of Mr. Sutee Poo-vapant, an ex-member of the National Parliament, who used to be detained as a political prisoner for 4 years since 1967 with promoting communism charge. Originally, they were Surin residents. They used to live with their six children at 17/2 Suriyach Rd, Amphur Mueng of Surin province; but now they all have to live at a safer place in Bangkok. Her husband is working as a law counsellor of Thai Rath newspapers. She did not know the real reason for her arrest. She believed that it was because she was the wife of Mr. Sutee. It was said that she used to be a coordinator, in a previous demonstration of the discontented farmers, in contact with the governmental officers of Surin; and used to help many poor farmers be released out from prison on bail. It was also said that police who arrested her made up a false report saying that the second commander-in-chief have the order to arrest her and afterward she still instigated other prisoners to disobey the warders.



Mr. Narinthre Sontusna

Arrested in Chiangmai on 21 October, 1976 at the same time with many other persons such as Mr. Teppitakse Viriyar, Mr. Viroj Kunthohompo. Mr. Narinthre Sontusna, aged 24, graduated from Pisanulok Teacher College in 1974; and had been a teacher in a school of Nan province since then. He used to be the head of the student art-club while he was a college student. He said that he had been an outspoken critic of the school headmaster about the teaching method. He himself taught the young students on the subject of social science, dealing with the present world problem; so he encouraged them to read newspapers and make various reports which resulted in the headmaster's dissatisfaction for he did not want the youth to <sup>be</sup> <sup>ed</sup> concerned with such information. During the school vacation, he went back to his home-town--Amphur Sarapee of Chiangmai province; and was arrested by the police there. He was charged with "endangering the society", and had been investigated twice and then transferred to be detained in Bangken, Bangkok. At present, he does not know when he will be granted "a release".

Mr. Sien Kingkaew

Arrested in priesthood by the police at 4 pm. 23 October, 1976 and forced to leave the priesthood by the provincial clergy at 10 pm. on the same day. He was first taken to a local government office in Surin province and was transferred to Bangken, Bangkok, on 25 February, 1977.

Mr. Sien, aged 35, had been in priesthood for 18 years and was the head of the monks in Wat (monastery) Piaram, Piaram district in Amphur Moung of Surin province, when arrested by the police. He still has relatives living at 127 Moo 1 Ban Bueng, Bueng district of Surin. He said that he had conflict with the district council committee about the organizing of the youth group, and also with the Governmental Psychological Practice Unit's officers at the time they went to show a movie to villagers there in Wat Piaram without asking for his permission.

BANGKOK DETAINMENT CAMP

10 FEBRUARY 1977

CO-ORDINATION GROUP FOR RELIGION IN SOCIETY

I write to you because that my poor family is needy in need of me. My mother died years ago. My aged father live with my step-mother and their children. All my brothers and sisters are married, and have their own families to look after. I am single but have to send the earned money to my father and my step-mother's children. I came to live in Bangkok at Klong Tuey slum, log 4. with my relative and sought my employment as an embroidery workers until being arrested. In those few days, my chronic stomach and heart illness show their symptoms again. The doctor here gives me only pain relief pills, and I have no money to buy any medicine or other special treatment. I receive no news from my family nor my relative. I think that may be they have moved to live somewhere else. So I ask for your mercy to kindly consider my case, I am in need of your help.

Here are some basic informations of mine: NAME: MISS JIJIRA PONGSRI  
Sixty Year; 1955 Address: 49 Bananachod 5, Tansoon District, Amphur  
Pitsanulok, Sukkum, Udonratchathani Province. Brothers/sisters: 6. I am  
the sixth. Family occupation: paddy farming. Father: Mr. Yoo Pongari  
Mother: Mrs Dok Pongari (dead) Education: P 4 from Bananon Sarakivitaya  
School. All those I mentioned are true

Respectfully,

JIJIRA PONGSRI



BANGKEN DETAINMENT CAMP

11 FEBRUARY 1977

CO-ORDINATION GROUP FOR RELIGION IN SOCIETY-

I write to you in hoping for your help. My mother is the family's head but she is too poor to bail me out and is over occupied by the increasing economic burdens. My father had passed away since I was very young. We are together five brothers and sisters, I am the third. At present, my eldest brother has his own family to look after, my elder brother is jailed with the charge of drug addiction, my two younger brothers are low paid labourers. My mother is a textile ~~app~~ workers. My mother who is very old is working so hard and even harder these days in which everything rockets its price. I always dream of being able to come out and help her.

My name is Miss Leehua Sae Jeer. My father is named Kiatek, my mother Soil Hng. I was born in 1959, in Bangkok (cannot remember the certain place of birth). <sup>My</sup> Present address is 050 Soi Jarernsook, Rama 4rd, Kongtun District, Amphur Prakanong, Bangkok II. Now I am 17 years old.

I have never had a chance to learn in a school, for my parents have too many children and my father was dead many years ago and my mother is too old and we all live in poverty. I worked all day long in a textile factory since I was 7-8 years old, and never had a chance like others to enjoy my early years. Before being arrested, I work at Century Textile Company, Samuthprakarn.

Hope to have some news from you soon.

All the statements are true.

Lee Hua Sae Jeer--woman prisoner

## THE LIST OF THE NAMES OF THOSE WHO MAY FACE

"COMMON IST, LESE MAJESTE AND OCTOBER 6" CHARGES

NO.	NAMES	PRISON	POSITION IN THE SOCIETY (STUDENT OR LAYMAN)	CHARGES
1.	Anupongse Pongsuwon	(Bkr)	TU.	(lese majeste)
2.	Apinan Buahaphakdee	(Bkr)	TU.	(lese majeste)
3.	Viroj Tangwanich	(Bkr)	TU.	(lese majeste)
4.	Suchira tanchainanth	( W )	TU.	( communist )
5.	Arthakarn Oopathampakul	(B k)	TU.	( communist )
6.	Suchart Pucharasorawoothi	(B k)	TU.	( communist )
7.	Prasit Tinarukse	(B k)	TU.	( communist )
8.	Somsak Jiamtharasakul	(B k)	TU.	( communist )
9.	T-hongchai Winitchakul	(B k)	TU.	( communist, )
10.	Boonchart Sathienphanee	(B k)	TU.	(lese majeste)
11.	Boonyuen Chualcharearnsook	(	TU.	( )
12.	Methee Kiethkongkajon		TU.	( )
13.	Wonthanee Sasanaarukdij		TU.	( )
14.	Visooth Boonwathanaman		TU.	( )
15.	Sonthi Sai-jew		TU.	( )
16.	Rachanee Pooriyaphanth		TU.	( )
17.	Wathana Chaichanasakul		TU.	( )
18.	Somchai Limtrakul		TU.	( )
19.	Veerapong Varinthrakitikul		TU.	( )
* 20.	Kriengkrai Tikamaongkol		TU.	( )
21.	Udomsook Thechakumpush		TU.	( )
22.	Vachirasith T-ipayarathana		TU.	(. communist )
23.	Prayoon Ukraabovorn	(B k)	RU.	( communist )
24.	Preeda Kawlbo		RU.	( )
* 25.	Wonchok Ruengarj		RU.	( )
* 26.	Jongdee Thavornthonth		RU.	( )
* 27.	Naphaporn Wongseerimunth		RU.	( )
* 28.	Chot N..oisiri		RU.	( )
* 29.	Benjavarn Ithijarookul		RU.	( )
* 30.	Boonchai Mahunthanunchai		RU.	( )
* 31.	Pathiparn Howsakulsuvarn		RU.	( )



* 32.	Phadoongsakdi	Thirawong	RU.	RU.	(	)
* 33.	Phiroon	Roojiramunth		RU.	(	)
* 34.	Phitaksi	Ruengrungrsee		RU.	(	)
* 35.	Apisark	Srikornwinya	(B k)	RU.	(	riot
* 36.	Sompongse	Tuntiroojana Wongse		RU.	(	)
37.	Ap-inya	Booranapongse		RU.	(	)
38.	Mahindr	Tanboonperm	(B k)	RU.	(	)
39.	Cheosith	Jarunwerojsiri		MU.	(	-
40.	Komooth	Pongsewoonyoo		MU.	(	)
41.	Jurie	Nakarathana		MU.	(	communist
42.	Prapai	Kaellkong		MU.	(	)
43.	Viyada	Waravoothinanth		MU.	(	-
44.	Wunthana	Luengkarnneeti		MU.	(	)
45.	Upa	Soothidechamunth		MU.	(	communist)
46.	Sootalarksina	Srisooparp		MU.	(	)
47.	Sarapae	Karnpinyo		MU.	(	-
48.	Tongprakorb	Sirivanich		MU.	(	communist
49.	Tusaneeya	Srichantra		MU.	(	)
50.	Netranapha	Pokaisawarnnumas		MU.	(	)
51.	Nipawon	Pradipathpongse		MU.	(	)
52.	Sookanya	Boonrunluekthanom		MU.	(	communist
53.	Soopalukse	Techaboonruthana		MU.	(	riot
54.	Sirinthra	Poortama		MU.	(	communist
55.	Ladda	Du-amikamlerse		MU.	(	communist
56.	Soorapongse	Uengseriwongse		MU.	(	-
57.	Soontorn	Sritar		MU.	(	communist
58.	Sirichai	Kuersirikul		MU.	(	)
* 59.	Kitipongse	Boonprasithi		MU.	(	)
* 60.	Charnpen	Choopraparwon		MU.	(	riot
* 61.	Sahnatep	Sawangnethr		MU.	(	riot)
62.	Sutham	Saengprathum	(Blw)	CU.	(	lese majeste
63.	Surachat	Banroongsuk	(Blw)	CU.	(	lese majeste
64.	Charivalit	Vinditchakul	(B k)	CU.	(	communist
65.	Prapithya	Napunrieb		KU.	(	)
66.	Sunee	Sae-lee		KU.	(	)
* 67.	Sonkid	Suebtrakul	(B k)	KU.	(	riot

68.	Praponth	Wungsiripitak	(Blk)	Techno.	(lese majeste)
*69.	Somsak	Parksirikall		SVU.	( )
70.	Orissa	Aikranonwathana	( L )	BKK. Technic. College	( communist )
71.	Sompoch-na	Lukanavichien		Pranakorn College	( )
*72.	Pintipya	Sa-ngob-suwon		Suangornantha College	( )
*73.	Warnee	Niyonthai		Suangornantha College	( )
74.	Walce	Tongkumpra		Rama Hospital	( communist )
75.	Wanee	Sook-ar-rom		Rama Hospital	( )
*76.	Pornsrueng	Pothi-thong		Rama 6 Technic. College	( )
77.	Montri	Silpson		Thai-suriya Technic. College	( )
78.	Taveeporn	Klun-kiam-dee		Sathrivithaya College	( )
79.	Nispaon	Chai-inthipornwongse		Sathrivithaya College	( )
80.	Parichart	Sakul-parp-nimithr		Sathrivithaya College	( )
81.	Pojana	Chantrasuwanakorn		Sathrivithaya College	( - )
82.	Puthanajarinth	Suan-kael-mane		Sathrivithaya College	( - )
83.	Prisaneeya	Pongpai		Sathrivithaya College	( )
84.	Wipa	Boonyochothi Wongse		Sathrivithaya College	( )
85.	Sooprancee	Soopthiwonrathana		Sathrivithaya College	( )
86.	Prawin	Prustinant		Suankularb College	( )
*87.	Karmikarn	Pong-ar-ree		Sriboonyanonth	( )
*88.	Priyanarth	T-arkwoothi Wongse		Suntiras	( )
*89.	Songwooth	Aui-trakull		Amnaysin	( )
*90.	Oil	Tuntampai		Charlsithvithaya	( )
*91.	Vanida	Orarikhaat	( W )	Student	( riot )
92.	Ar-rom	Pongpa-ngun	( B k )	Layman	( communist )
*93.	Suwitya	Prayoonsark	( B k )	Layman	( communist )
94.	Mana	Poothchantra (Poothchaitavee)		Luanwongse (teacher)	( communist )
95.	Likit	Wechasith		Layman	( )
96.	Kongsak	Ar-sapakdi	( B k )	Layman	( communist )
97.	Sonthi	Chomdee	( B k )	Layman	( communist )
98.	Somchai	H on-la-or	( B k )	Layman	( communist )
99.	Anek	Chantrapunya		Layman	( )
100.	Sa-ngiam	Janduang	( W )	Layman	( communist )
101.	Seree	Sirinoonpongse	( B k )	Layman	( communist )
102.	Lumyong	Puengpracha		Layman	( )
*103.	Thirachai	Leelarathanakul		Layman	( )
*104.	Sungwarsai	Sonkael		Layman	( )



*105.	Sompongse	Kaelsirisil	Layman	(	)
*106.	Sooring	Sae-sue	Layman	(	)
*107.	Oratai	Vithoonsarn	Layman	(	)
*108.	Pipathana	Boornithiprasert	Layman	(	)
109.	Viruth	Tevin	(S)	Vietnamese	( )
*110.	Dars	Chan	(S)	Vietnamese	( )
*111.	H-earb	Parm	(S)	Vietnamese	( )

NOTES:

1. Total 111 persons
2. Out on bail at the investigation period 77 persons
3. Out on bail at the trial period 4 persons
4. B k = imprisoned at Bangken, 17 persons
5. Bkw = imprisoned at Bangkwang, 6 persons
6. S = imprisoned at Sethsiri, 3 persons
7. W = imprisoned at Woman Punishment Camp, Ladyao, 3 persons
8. L = imprisoned at Ladyao Hospital, 1 persons
9. \* =, released on March 23, 1977

March 23, 1977.