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HUMAN RIGHTS IN THAILAND

July - August 1977

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XI. INTRODUCTION

The period of the last two or three months has been one where foreign friends all over the world have been playing an increasingly important and effective role in helping improve the fate of political prisoners, particularly of those arrested at Thammasart University on the 6th October.

The Prime Minister, the Public Prosecutor, the Minister of Interior, and other high level government officials have been inundated with a steady flow of polite but firm letters and telegrams from all over the world. Though one can in no way single out any one group of friends as being more important than others, as an indication of the wide degree of international concern the following examples can be cited:-

- From 15 US senators and Congressmen
- From the Japanese Committee on Human Rights in S.E. Asia
- From Amnesty International in London, and various National Sections of Amnesty
- From the World University Service in Geneva
- From a group of 38 concerned U.S. Scholars
- From a group of concerned Danes, including the Vice Chairman of the Social Democrat Party and leading politicians from other parties
- From the International Commission of Jurists in Geneva
- From the World Student Christian Federation of Asia

For all this support, we on behalf of the thousands of political prisoners who have been helped are most truly thankful.

In addition to the above more general letters and cables of concern, there was an effective campaign for the provision of proper medical treatment for Orissa Iyay-wonwuthra, spearheaded by Amnesty International, and a group of Thai Students in Australia. This campaign was closely coordinated with our local initiatives and was rapidly successful.

There have also been several official missions from concerned and respected foreign organisations. These missions have not only been able to gather much useful information, but in addition have, through their conversations with people such as the Minister of the Interior, the Minister of Foreign Affairs, the Public and the Military Prosecutors, been able to further reinforce the feeling in government circles that any farther repressive actions will have serious international repercussions. Dr. Manfred Kopp, a German lawyer with a deep knowledge of Thai Civil and Military law came from the International Commission of Jurists in July. Mr. Ramsey Clark (US attorney general under President Johnson) and Mr. W.C. Huang (an Amnesty International official) came from Amnesty International in August. And Mr. Don Luce, from Clergy and Laity Concerned (uncoverer of the Tiger Cages in South Vietnam) came in August-September.

All the above mentioned international concern, combined with the Senator Fraser Committee hearings on June 23rd and 30th (in the US Congress) on human rights in Thailand which thanks to excellent testimony from Stewart Meecham, David Morrell, and Dr. Puey Ungphakorn, and a poor inconsistent testimony from Mr. Oakley US State Department Spokesman went very favourable for our cause, has made the government increasingly insecure about its various measures and has opened the doors for these inside the government who would like a more liberal approach to become more influential. This does not mean that the problem of human rights in Thailand is anywhere near a successful resolution, but only that as long a polite and strong international pressure and concern can be kept up, a more favourable climate will be able to be maintained.

There is a danger however that the government is trying to deuse the international pressure with 'cosmetic' measures. We will give a few examples of things that have already happened in this direction:-

1. The government has "locked" stories that it is trying to allow legal counsel for those being tried from October 6th. Though this could be important, far more important is the fact that these 18 are being tried in a military court for offences allegedly committed at the time of a civilian administration (see annex for letter to the Prime Minister from relatives of October 6th detainees), they have been detained for ten months without bail already, and might be detained for as long as a further five years while the trial goes on, and still face a possible death sentence forevented primarily caused by military radio stations and various other military and police elements.
2. The government announces the release of large numbers of "endangering society" prisoners, but at the same time many of the "politicals" are immediately detained under other pretences or sent for reeducation, whilst the majority have to report

to local officials weekly (at their own expense), are prevented from finding employment, and are harassed in other ways. They move from one form of detention to another cheaper form (for the government) of self imposed detention. In addition after a successful petition for the release of one "endangering society" prisoner using article 90 (habeas corpus) of the period code, the Cabinet decree (with no publicity) that only the police and the Ministry of Interior (and not the courts) would have jurisdiction over endangering society prisoners.

3. Even amongst the five released from the October 6th events on August 25th, at least one - Wirat Truen - has been quietly rearrested on unspecified charges. And in addition the military prosecutor not only suggested that the 56 people for whom charges were dropped could be recharged at any time, but also announced that a further 32 people (many of whom have been out of the country for several years) are being searched for and will be charged with offences relating to the October 6th events.

4. Newspapers continue to frequently receive unpublicised instructions of what they should print and what they cannot print. In the rare occasions when the instructions are disobeyed (eg. on Narong's return) the offending newspapers are immediately closed. Because of the extremely high expense of a closure to the publishers there is an excessive degree of self censorship, which few people realise.

5. Any form of strike, or workers' demonstration remains banned (offenders are quietly arrested for "endangering society") and can receive no press coverage. This allows the more unscrupulous employers to disregard past agreements, and generally prevents workers from obtaining more convivial working conditions, or increases in wages to compensate them for the very rapid increase in the cost of living that has taken place since October 6th last year.

Perhaps most serious of all for the future of the country, and the unity of the Thai people, are the unreported and gross misuses of government

power in the sensitive areas. Though after these misuses are in response to insurgent activities, all the mistakes of South Vietnam seem to be being repeated in various parts of Thailand. Entire villages are relocated; innocent villagers massacred; various places classified as free fire areas; significant numbers of progressive and honest villagers arrested on pressure from corrupt power elites, and sometimes tortured or murdered whilst under official detention; other progressive leaders are assassinated or arrested on trumped up criminal charges, whilst yet others are sent (without charge or trial) for long periods of reeducation causing great hardship to their families. In addition there are strictly enforced curfews which interfere with normal economic activities (eg. rubber tapping), restrictions on the sale of most commodities so that villagers have to make purchases (and travel to market) every day, and indiscriminate bombing. What is most worrisome about these misuses of power is that the people in the affected areas have absolutely no recourse to any form of justice, and the various officials involved in the excesses are never charged or punished. Fortunately this pattern does not seem to be unworsed, with for example the Second Army (North East) seeming much more reasonable than say the Fourth Army (South).

Nevertheless the indiscriminate misuse of official authority in certain parts of the country is certainly not only the most serious human rights problem, but perhaps the most serious overall problem facing the country at the present time, since it leads to widespread and deep rooted polarisation as well as a climate of hatred and escalating viciousness from both sides.

We would thus appreciate if our friends overseas could begin to suggest to the government that it develop a mechanism through which individuals can safely air their grievances over such misuses of power, and to stress the importance of dealing forcefully with such misuses (the majority of which are carried out on the "initiative" of local officials not in pursuance of a clear cut central government policy), it is admittedly a difficult area for international pressure because of the difficulty of zeroing in on particular cases (usually witnesses cannot speak publicly for fear of their lives), but any help both in terms of pressure on the government, and suggestions for action we might take from our friends abroad would be most welcome.

Finally we must sadly report that the summary executions of people using article 21 is still continuing despite the fact that we are in the middle of the Buddhist Lent (Kaw Pansaa), a time when Buddhists should make special efforts to avoid 'taking life'. If only Thais in all walks of life, from all factions, could understand and act upon the wisdom of their Buddhist roots, seek reconciliation instead of conflict, and harmony instead of enmity.

II. THE HUMAN RIGHTS SITUATION IN THAILAND

It has been almost a year now since the coup d'etat of October 6, 1976. Though there have been several marginal improvements in the Human Right Situation time has proved that basic human rights in Thailand under a Military backed dictatorship will inevitably be violated again and again, so much so that, at the present time, the Thai people live the life of mutual mistrust, fright, hardship and difficulties.

During the past two months, arbitrary arrests have still continued, both in Bangkok and also especially up-country and in sensitive areas. In Bangkok, three men two of whom were students at Thammasart University, have been arrested because they had "anti-government, pro-communists" documents. They were charged with endangering society and could subsequently be detained for an indefinitely period, in accordance with Decree No. 22 of the NARC. Up-country, a lot more people have been arrested under both endangering society and communist charges, the definition of which is very wide and vague. Guilty or not, some of them have been tortured during the investigation until they confessed. Many others have been secretly assassinated or have just disappeared.

Moreover, the authorities have shown their intention of suppressing the people to the utmost. The right of the detainees to lodge an appeal to the Court against their unjust detention in accordance with the Criminal Code, article 90 (Habeas Corpus) is likely to be banned, as the Minister of the Interior has brought the case to the Council of the Ministry. (See the "legal process of Mr. Ruem Chitman" in this report).

Though over 3,000 people were detained at Thammasart on October 6th, and many hundreds held in Jail for several months, now after about ten months' detention, charges against eighteen October 6th detainees have now been filed in the Military Court, and their first trial will take place on September 5 without defence Council, while the other five detainees were set free. However one of Vietnamese origin (Wirat Truen) was immediately rearrested for further detention on exile. Such is not a rare case. Many other released endangering society detainees have faced the same problem. After the release, they are sent for 'reeducated' again and again and have to report themselves to the authorities regularly. Therefore, even after their release, they still lack proper freedom.

The government has used Article 21 of the Constitution to "solve" its problems again. Three young men were executed for raping and killing and 21 government officials at the Thai-Cambodian border were punished with jail terms for collusion in the massive smuggling of essential goods and weapons to our "communist" neighbour.

The suppression of academic freedom is apparent. High-School and university teachers are warned to be "secure" in teaching, and while political themes are banned, new patriotic subjects have been introduced. Besides, they have to attend the psychological training and ISOC's government official training. Up till now, many teachers and students have been arrested and many have resigned from their work. In Thammasart University, for example, at least 300 students have disappeared; 15 teachers have resigned and one has been dismissed with political reasons.

In addition newspapers continue to have to observe close self censorship, and several have been summarily closed, and labour unions prevented from any effective action.

Thus though in response to external pressures, the government has been trying to create for itself a more liberal image, we must regretfully conclude that the incidents that have taken place during the past two months have again proved that basic human rights do not yet exist in Thailand.

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III. SUMMARY OF THE NEWS

A. Southern Thailand

June 24, 1977 : A time-bomb exploded in the departure lounge of Don Muang Airport, Interior Minister Samak Sundaravej and the Supreme Commander Field Marshal Kamol Thejatangka told reports that the so-called "Movement for the Pattani Islamic Republic" claimed responsibility for the explosion in leaflets found in two other bags containing the dud bombs.

June 29, 1977 : Hat Yai -- Two time-bombs exploded within ten minutes of each other at this major railway junction in the south. It was reported in the Nation newspaper that at least 13 persons were injured three seriously.

June 2, 1977 : Songkla -- Local police claimed that they had killed a high-ranking separatist movement leader, Jaha Sawa, and found propaganda leaflets similar to those discovered at Don Muang Airport after the bombing incident last week. This operation was a part of the "Frab Traichak" campaign launched by the 4th Army Region Commander to crack down the four separatist groups which are jointly known as the Pattani United Liberation Organization (FULO). Meanwhile, another separatist leader, Yoh Ha Chueha, was said to have led a number of his followers to surrender to authorities in Pattani at the Ingkanayut Military Camp.

July 4, 1977 : Four amphurs and two sub-amphurs of Narathiwat province were announced to be under a curfew from 8 pm. to 5 am. from July 4th. People living in these areas were ordered to surrender their arms and were prohibited from wearing green suits similar to those of armed personnel. Commodities, foods and medicines were under control as in other sensitive areas

: The forth Regional Army declared a curfew from 8 pm. to 5 am. in Betong District of Yala province, and prohibited people from carrying firearms in public places and from entering or living in areas where strategic operations were taking place in the Budo mountain range.

: Maj-Gen. Mahmood Sulaiman of Malaysia announced that Malaysia and Thailand have a joint agreement for 12 years to fight the communist guerrillas along the common border. The third operation in which Malaysian troops have openly crossed into southern Thailand for joint operation with Thai troops is named

"Cahaya Bena". It is a follow-up of the previous two operations called BigStar Musna One and Two.

July 5, 1977 : Betong, Malaysian and Thai air force planes today resumed heavy air strikes against communist sanctuaries in the Beton Salient, a large slice of Thai territory jutting into Malaysia, and also in Sadau district to the west and Weng district to the east. This was in support of advancing ground troops engaged in a massive combined operation. Military officers here said that Malaysian artillery also went into full action for the first time today.

July 6, 1977 : The Express newspaper said that a group of police and soldiers in Pattani province rescued Mr. Pholsakdi Pakironnakorn, a second-year Ramkhamhaeng University student, where he was being held in a hideout of the Jeh Kuding Ardae muslim terrorist gang.

July 6, 1977 : Betong; at least five persons, namely Sompak Chanvirawong who was reported to be a member of the provincial assembly, Songsak sae Yong alias Viroj Niranmanrungrueng, Pengnam alias Ahkin Sae Lueng, Yong Soon Nam alias Ah-chan Sae Yueng, Songsin alias Choosak Sae Chu, were picked up in a massive round-up of Communist guerrillas and their sympathisers went into full swing. At the same time, ten guerrillas were said to have been killed and 25 others wounded in the current "Sacred Ray" joint operations between Thai and Malaysian forces.

July 7, 1977 : The Nation newspaper reported that General Hassan estimated that there used to be about 2,000 CPM guerrillas in Betong salient alone; an unknown number of CPT guerrillas were also present in the area.

July 7, 1977 : Betong; four more alleged sympathisers of Chinese CPM guerrillas were picked up; they were identified as Mr. Piangchoo sae An, Mr. Liakchi sae Tae, Mr. Lohchun sae Loh and Mr. Watana sae Chum; all were reported to be traders.

July 7, 1977 : A curfew from 8:00 pm. to 5:00 am. was imposed beginning today in five districts of Narathiwat: Weng, Sugei Pade, Ra-ngae, Sugei Golok and Ruesch.

July 8, 1977 : Malaysian Home Affairs Minister Ghazali Shafie said the guerrillas had forced the people of Betong either to pay 15,000 baht per family or send a male member of the family to join them. He added that the misled youths could make use of the current disarray among the guerrillas to come out and surrender.

July 10, 1977 : Betong; Thai authorities here launched the first village volunteer corps at the predominantly Muslim village of Sayoi to enable them to defend the village against the Communist guerrilla attacks.

July 12, 1977 : Maj. Gen. Pingphan Netrangsrri the Thai field commander told newsmen in Betong that Thai troops had raided towns and villages in the Betong Salient but would not say how many people had been arrested.

July 17, 1977 : Thai Deputy Defence Minister General Lek Naewmalee said Malaysian and Thai forces had jointly dislodged about 2,000 communist guerrillas from their strongholds in the Betong salient.

July 31, 1977 : Betong residents of the town of Betong, carrying placards and portraits of the King and Queen of Thailand, held a demonstration against communist activities. This was described as the first anti-communist rally held in the town since it became a suspected communist nest in the 1960's.

August 9, 1977 : A combined Thai-Malaysian force will be permanently stationed in Betong salient after the termination of the joint operation (Thairath newspaper, August 10, 1977).

B. Endangering Society Prisoners

June 24, 1977 : Prime Minister Thanin Kraivixien said that "granting a general amnesty for students would not serve the government's purpose because we can't find out just how many are ideologically brainwashed, legal actions must be taken against those students heavily indoctrinated with communism." (Nation, June 25, 1977)

June 25, 1977 : Prime Minister Thanin Kraivixien inspected several city police stations and said mistreatment of suspects should not be practised by police. (Nation, June 26, 1977)

July 10, 1977 : Thirty persons who had been held in Bangkok on charges of "endangering society" were released from Bangkok detention centre, but six of them were immediately picked up on other charges (ie. communist conspiracy and attempts to kill government officials). Deputy Corrections Director General Vichit Thongkham reported that 1,180 persons are still being detained in several centres throughout the country for being a danger to society. (endangering society).

C. Firing of Wichien Saenkaew

July 1, 1977 : Metropolitan Police Commissioner, Police Lt. Gen. Vichien Saengkaew, was summarily relieved of his post for "serious violation of discipline and insubordination" in connection with the March 26th abortive coup attempt. He denied the charges and claimed that he had been "persecuted".

July 4, 1977 : Interior Minister Samak Sundaravej said that he had nothing to do with the summary dismissal and that the former city police chief is a "good man". He also said that "In fact, I just sought permission from Cabinet for a budget of 34 million baht to buy communications equipment for the city police."

D. The Press

June 24, 1977 : There was a item of news about a bomb exploded in the airport in Bangkok many people injured and beside the bomb there were pupus and declaration of Pattana Islam Republic Movement. On that evening the Press Advisory Council phoned to every newspaper told them not to publish that news in details. But later in the evening Samak Sonthornravej, Interior Ministry, told the newspaper that details could be put about this news.

July 11, 1977 : The Director General of Broadcasting Department, Mr. Kamjad Keapanich, announced that government and the representatives of journalist agreed to have a seminar on "The Role of Government and Newspapers in Developing Democracy According to the Constitution". on July 14, 1977.

July 11, 1977 : The Director General of Police Department acted as Press Authority of Bangkok with the approval of the Press Advisory Council ordered to closedown of "Sieng Fuang Chon" because it published about Narong Kittikajorn coming back to Thailand. (which was informed by Press Advisory Council before that no newspaper would say about Narong coming back).

On the same day Mr. Prachum Boonprakong ordered to withdraw licence of the editor and of the publication of "Yook Mai" newspapers stated that this newspaper published the issue that insulted the government bodies which was against the decree No. 42 of the NARC.

July 12, 1977 : The Journalist Association had asked all press associations Central and provincial to consider the behave of the Press Advisory Council, and agree upon each other that they would postpone the press seminar because of the closing down of newspapers without enough reason.

July 13, 1977 : The Press Authority of Bangkok withdrew the order to close down of "Sieng Fuang Chon" on July 11, 1977.

August 14, 1977: "Sieng Fuangchon" daily was closed for 10 days because of an article that "may harm the public peace and order". The article criticized the government for allowing the Malayan troop to pass the border and be based in Thailand while the Royal Thai Army has no right to do the same thing at Malaysia.

August 17, 1977: Five press associations issued a joint statement protesting the Press officer's decision to close down Siang Fuangchon daily. The press association said that the wire story to the effect had been originally published in some English newspaper on August 10 but the Thai authorities did not issue a denial until after Siang Fuangchon had published the editorial.

The five association also declared that they reserve their right to exercise their right to express opinions sincerely out of patriotism.

The five associations are

1. the Press Association of Thailand.
2. Reporters Association of Thailand.
3. Journalist Association of Thailand.
4. Provincial Press Association of Thailand.
5. Provincial Journalist Association of Thailand.

August 18, 1977 : Press officer ordered the closure of "Thai Daily" for 7 days because it had published an article that insulted and was against the government, causing fright among people and threatened the public order.

E. Cambodia:

June 23, 1977 : Prachinburi-- Two Cambodians were arrested during a two-hour fierce gunbattle between Thai troopers and Cambodian troops. Local officials believed that the two could have been sneaked into Thailand as "sappers" to carry out subversive activities against Thai officials. (Nation, June 26, 1977)/

July 21, 1977 : Aranyaprathet--at least 17 Thai soldiers were killed and 18 soldiers and policemen wounded in violent clashes with intruding Khmer troops lasting 24 hours.

July 22, 1977 : Thai soldiers clashed for two hours with 200 soldiers at Ban-noiparai, Takon District, Prachinburi Province.

July 24, 1977 : Four Border patrol policemen and four member of their families were killed when an outpost in Surin located about five kilometres from the Thai Cambodian border was ambushed by about 100 Khmer Rouge early today.

July 25, 1977 : The United States government deplored the recent border fighting between Thailand and Cambodia, and hoped that both countries will meet soon to prevent future clashes, Warren M Christopher, US Deputy Secretary at State, said today.

July 26, 1977 : Thailand has sent a protest to Cambodia through the Thai embassy in Peking and Vientiane.

August 1, 1977 : 28 Villagers, including women and children and one border patrol policeman were killed yesterday when intruding Khmer troops launched coordinated pre-dawn attacks against two villages in the border district of Tapraya, Prachinburi.

August 4, 1977 : Tapraya, Prachinburi Province, -- more than 1100 villagers have been evacuated from two villages attacked by intruding Khmer troops on Tuesday morning.

August 4, 1977 : The top military officer at the border town of Aranyaprathet, Lt Col Prachak Sawangchit, was abruptly ordered transferred from his post. It is rumoured he was involved in a plot on Samak's life.

August 5, 1977 : Thailand delivered another strang protest note to Cambodia over the August 2, "premeditated and unannounced attacks" on two Thai vilgges in which 28 villagers and a policeman were slain.

August 7, 1977 : 3 Thai marine troopers were wounded in a new clash with Cambodian soldiers at a border vilgee in Klang Yai district of Trat Province.

August 9, 1977 : Nine young Cambodians believed to be on a spying mission in Thai territory were shot dead in the morning when they tried to flee, ignoring a Thai police unit's order to halt near Sa-ngae vilgee Tapray, Prachinburi.

August 10, 1977 : The high command announced that it will give firearms to the people living near the Thai Cambodian border to enable them to protect themselves.

August 16, 1977 : Prachinburi--Military attaches from 12 embassies in Bangkok flew in a helicopters to have a first hand inspection trip at Ban Sanlor Cha-tan village of Tapraya-scene of the recent attack by Khmer troops against Thai villagers.

August 19, 1977 : The Cambodian Embassy in Vientiane has refused to accept a protest note handed over an August 4 by the Thai Embassy there.

August 19, 1977 : General Kriengsak said that the problems at the Thai-Cambodian border arose from that fact that the Cambodian think that Thailand backs right-winged cambodian troop, not that Cambodian wants Thai territory or is being encouraged by other powerful countries.

IV. TRIALS AND LEGAL PROCESSES

A. FROM SENSITIVE AREAS :

THE TRIAL OF MR. UDOM PKA-KRONG AND HIS GROUP AT THE CRIMINAL COURT, ROOM 25, BANGKOK

Defence Lawyers: Mr. Tongbai Tonpaw ; Mr. Suttipong Laocharoeng ;
Mr. Suriyan

July 25, 1977

1st Witness: Mr. Anan Sri-kaew, a VDV, who was an guard when the communist guerrillas attached the camp.

Prosecutor : Mr. Anan Sri-kaew joined the VDV, military Training at Song-Praeg School in Tambon Hua-ta-paran. 117 VDV's got 45 days training from 20 soldiers from the Fourth Army. The incident took place on May 5, 1977, which was holiday for soldiers in the second and third section and most of the soldiers had gone to a village fair. The witness had been there too and come back at 23:30 to be on guard at 24:00. While he was on guard, he heard a whistle from the east and the sound of guns. He saw 150 communist guerrillas, dressed in soldiers uniform, coming to the school.

The guerrillas, some sitting and some standing, ordered the VDV's and the soldiers to lie down on the ground. The witness was shot in his leg. He recognized two guerrillas, namely, Mr. Udom Pka-krong and Mr. Sarn Boonpeng. The guerrillas shouted that they just wanted firearms and would not kill anybody, but anyone who disobeyed would be shot. After the guerrillas had taken all the firearms and tools, they went away.

Defence: : The defence lawyer tried to bring out, if the witness's deposition was true or not. He asked how the witness could recognize Mr. Udom and Mr. Sarn as it was a dark night and there was no light. The witness said that he could see their faces because of the light of the fire, 40 metres away.

- Lawyer : Can you recognize other defendants now?
- Witness : Yes, if I see them again.
- Lawyer : Everybody lied flat on their faces. How could you see the defendants' faces?
- Witness : Some of us lied flat on our faces, others on our backs.
- Lawyer : How many guerrillas were on guard? And what was their position?
- Witness : Mr. Udom was the only one guard and he sat on a chair.
- Lawyer : Is there a light in the school building?
- Witness : No.
- Lawyer : Did the guerrillas wear masks?
- Witness : No.
- Lawyer : Did they have everybody lie flat on the face?
- Witness : Yes, nobody could lift his head up.

July 25, 1977

2nd Witness : Mr. Winai, a VDV
He gave the same deposition as the first witness, but there were some depositions that contrasted the former ones. For example, while the first witness said that some of the guerrillas sat and others stood, and that Mr. Udom and Mr. Sarn sat on a chair; the second witness said that every body stood. The witness was asked in the court to point out who Mr. Udom was; and he mistook Mr. Sarn for Mr. Udom.

July 26, 1977

3rd Witness : Mr. Sompong Ratanamani, a VDV.
Mr. Sompong got a VDV training at the school. He said that he saw that Mr. Udom had joined the communist guerrillas in the attack.

July 26, 1977

4th Witness : Mr. Chuchee Suanpume, an assistant-district officer at Tasala District. He was one of the VDV's trainers.
Mr. Chuchee said that he was a trainer and that he had the responsibility over the tools, loudspeaker, guns, school building, electric motor, etc, during the training. But when asked about the make of the electric motor or

asked if the school building had one or two rooms, he could not answer.

The next session will be on August 29, 30, 1977 at Criminal Court, Room 25, Bangkok.

B. BEFORE OCTOBER 6th, 1976 CASES :

1. THE TRIAL OF SUPARP PASA-ONG AT THE CRIMINAL COURT, ROOM 18, BANGKOK.

July 3, 1977

16th Witness : Mr. Boonma Finpradap, a vice-head of the dye department at Petkasem II Factory at Omnoi and a member of Free Labour Group (founded to act against Suparp's Textile Labour Union of Samutsakorn Province).

July 27, 1977

17th Witness : Mr. Sorn Sae-Tiew, a worker at Siam Stainless Factory at Omnoi.

August 3, 1977

18th Witness : A mini-bus driver, aged 31.

Prosecutor : The prosecutor spent much time on the witness, trying to show that the witness knew Suparp and his group very well; for example, he asked if the witness ever saw Suparp at the factory, the witness answered, "Yes- at Petkasem II Factory". The prosecutor then asked if he ever saw Suparp in some other places. The witness said that he saw Suparp often, because whenever there was a strike, he could see Suparp.

The witness tried to show that the defendant had stored firearms. For example, he said that Suparp used to hire his mini-bus to load a sack, inside of which was something hard and heavy.

He also claimed that Suparp had incited and aroused the workers. He said that whenever there was a strike in any factory, Suparp would go there and teach the workers how to deal with their employers and consequently, the workers and the employers could not come to an agreement easily.

In conclusion, the witness tried to claim on 3 things:

1. The defendant had stored firearms.
2. The defendant had incited and aroused the workers and attacked the government.
3. The defendant had aroused the workers to strike.

Defence : The defence lawyer tried to cross-examine the witness's deposition for example, against the accusation that Suparp had stored fire-arms, he asked:

Lawyer : Have you seen what was in the sack?

Witness : No, I haven't. But I know that it was hard and heavy.

Lawyer : How did you know that?

Witness : I touched it.

Because the witness had not seen the thing with his own eyes, the evidence was rather weak.

The defence lawyer also proved that the witness did not really know much about the workers and the strikes.

Lawyer : For what demand did Suparp try to make the strike workers cry?

Witness : I don't know.

Lawyer : Who was the representative of the workers?

Witness : I don't know.

What should also be noted here is that the witness could remember some details very well, for example, he could remember the exact time when the strikes occurred, although at that time there had been so many strikes.

August 3, 1977

19th Witness : An expert in bombs from the Police Department.

Prosecutor : The prosecutor tried to prove that the witness was really an 'expert' in bombs, and then proved that bombs can be made from the ingredients mentioned in the document.

Defence : The defence lawyer tried to cross-examine the witness's deposition.

1. The lawyer tried to show that the witness knew very little about the bombs. He asked about the different types of bombs and their different ingredients. Finally, the witness admitted that he had not seen such ingredients that had appeared in Suparp's document before and he was not sure that the bombs could be made from them. When asked about the meaning of "easy to make" in the document, the witness knew nothing about that.

2. The lawyer tried to show that if bombs could be made from the materials found, the inventor of the bombs must have been a real expert, not a common person (like Suparp). And finally, the witness also accepted this.

August 10, 1977

20th Witness : A labour Department official, who had responsibility for factories in Samutsakorn and Samutsongkram provinces.

The witness gave a rather real and sincere deposition, except for some points that were suggested by the officials. He seemed to understand the defence to a certain extent. While the former witnesses said that the strike and the demands of the workers were a procrastination, this witness said that the purpose of the strike was to ask for more wages, for bonuses and for the dismissal of the personnel manager, which was the legal right of the workers and the workers had done it correctly according to the labour law. About this, the witness had documentary evidences, which Suparp and his group had given to the Labour Department before and during the strikes.

The witness knows many workers, worker leaders and labour union committees. He knows Suparp Pasa-ong, Pisit Pattaseri, Witmut Sumram and the two women arrested. He knew them as counsellors or representatives of the workers. He had seen them in the Labour Department and in his office when compromises were marked out between the employers and the workers. He had been among Suparp's group for a long time and never suspected nor had an idea that Suparp and his friends were communists or acted as a communist. He knew about their arrest from the newspapers.

He also said about Witmut Sumram, who, after having been discharged from the factory, had made a complaint to the Labour Department. He said that Witmut had done it correctly and legally and it was his right to do so. He said that it always happens that whenever the workers complain, strike or ask for their legal rights, they are discharged from their work. (And it was because of this that the workers at Onnoi asked for the dismissal of their personnel manager). He said that Witmut's complaint is an example of the workers' rights to ask for justice.

2. SURIN : The three prisoners charged with communist insurgency, who were sentenced to death on June 15, 1977, have made an appeal.

The original incident took place on June 23, 1976. Lieutenant Colonel Prasop Kasemsiri, the police commander in Surin, led a group of thirty special policemen to Ban Nongpai, Tambon Rawang, Srikorapum District, Surin, to surround the house of Mr. Amnuay Songtip, a village-head man at Mu 8. The house was suspected to be a hiding place for the communist guerrillas' firearms. While Lt. Col. Prasob Kasemsiri and the police were going into the house, the guerrillas, hiding in there, shot and threw bombs at them. Lt. Col. Prasob died immediately there. Then followed a battle between police and guerrillas. Three policemen and three guerrillas were wounded and one was shot dead. Mr. Amnuay, the owner of the house escaped.

The three wounded guerrillas, confessed both during the police inquiries and in court that they were communist guerrillas, and that they had already had military training with guerrillas in the forest, were sentenced to death on June 15, 1977. They are identified as:

1. Mr. Thongchan Srinam
2. Mr. Sau Saukaew
3. Mrs. Boonrern Sri-udom.

Mr. Charat Nupan, a defence lawyer at Surin has lodged an appeal for them. For the appeal, the defendants do not have to go to court, because they have confessed. They only have to wait for the mercy of the court.

Two defendants have been moved to Bangkok Maximum Security Prison and the court is expected to make a sentence after October this year. The other one has been moved to Women Punishment Centre.

Some more details about this case:

The police had originally arrested 4 guerrillas, not 3. But the fourth namely _____, was tortured to death on the way to police-station.

The picture of Mr. Sau Saukaew in the last report is false. The real Mr. Sau is about 18 years old and thin. He was shot in his arm and was so severely tortured that he had to have medical treatment in a hospital. His inside organs were hurt and he had to have an operation. Therefore, he has a scar at the stomach,

6 inches long, and also on his arm another 6 inches scar.

Mrs. Bunnern Sri-udom, the wife of Mr. Thongchan, delivered a child in April 1977 in prison. Now she is detained at Women Punishment Centre.

3. THE LEGAL AND TRIAL PROCESS OF MR. PRATEEP FRAKGRATOKE

Mr. Prateem Frakgratoke, was an employee at the "Thai-American Textile Co.," (T.A.T.) and was arrested with the workers at the "Thai Blanket Factory" under the charge of causing a delay so that a sick person died.

Background of the arrest of the workers of the Thai Blanket Factory

Workers at the "Thai Blanket Factory" had staged a strike from March 27, 1976. The strike was conducted in accordance with the labour laws. The events that led to the arrest of the workers and the subsequent trial occurred on April 2, 1976. On that day, the employer purposely took the head-guard for a heavy drinking bout disregarding his recurring ill-health. As a result, his condition worsened and he had to be hospitalized. Since the strike was still going on, the entrance of the factory was blocked. Workers had resisted any attempts by the employer's supporters to shift the goods for regular distribution as a means of increasing their bargaining power. The employer's supporters demanded that the patient should be sent to the hospital on the factory's bus which was coincidentally loaded with goods. But as it was the time of the strike, the bus was not allowed to leave the compound. However, the workers suggested that the patient should be carried to the front gate where transportation would be provided. Finally, the patient was carried out and sent to the hospital. The sad thing that happened was that instead of sending the patient to a nearby hospital (about 10 minutes drive), he was driven to Vachira Hospital, located far away from the factory. The patient finally died.

Legal Process

The employer reported the incident to the police and accused the workers of delaying the patient for 30 minutes which resulted in his death. The charges filed against 8 of the arrested strikers was detention of the patient resulting in his death. The names of the alleged workers were:-

1. Miss Suchada Fratharnsup
2. Miss Fica Sae Koil
3. Mrs. Samant Indraruangli
4. Mrs. Choie Sriruesang
5. Miss. Umphai Chaichop
6. Mr. Sombat Sukplum
7. Mr. Pratheep Frakgratoke
8. Mr. Samarng Soontranonth

All the accused except Mr. Prateep Frakaratoke, whose relative was too poor to be able to find enough money, were bailed out for 50,000 baht each.

Legal and Trial process of Mr. Prateep Frakaratoke

Mr. Pratheep Frakgratoke was a member of the Labour Union but withdrew from the membership after the accusation. The story of his arrest went like this. The day when the workers of the "Thai Blanket Factory" were settling their issue with the employer at the Labour Department, Mr. Pratheep, who was then a representative of the T.A.T. workers, was also up there to negotiate with his employer. As both of the factories were located in the same direction, the representatives from both factories came back together on the T.A.T.'s bus. On arriving at the Thai Blanket Factory, Mr. Pratheep had some talks with the strikers there. Consequently, he was arrested and charged with the same allegation as the Thai Blanket Factory's workers.

In the process of the trial, no witness of the employer knew or even mentioned Mr. Pratheep. But anyway, he was considered a worker of the Thai Blanket Factory. It is clear that such an accusation is merely a fabrication. Mr. Pratheep will manage to prove his innocence but at the expense of his income and family's welfare. Meanwhile he is still in jail.

Such is not an unusual case after strike. Finally, workers and labour leaders have been charged with other allegation unrelated to the strike. For instance, the workers and labour leaders of the Colgate factory were frequently accused by the employers so much so that on one occasion the police wouldn't accept the case. (At that time, the workers were collecting pieces of rusted iron to sell and were accused of stealing).

C. OCTOBER 6th, 1976

1. THE TRIAL OF BOONCHAT SATHIENTHAMMANI AT CRIMINAL COURT

August 15, 1977 : morning

Witness : a photographer at Bangkok Post journal and another chinese newspaper.

The process began at nine o'clock. After postponing the trial to verify films and photographs, this time it was the defence lawyer who questioned the accuser's witness.

The witness always repeated the words 'I don't know'. His replies about the 6th October event were rather forward, not directly attacking the defence. He had been in the hanging scene during the demonstration for 5-10 minutes, but he did not come close enough to notice that there was any likeness to the prince's face. All that he could say was that the crowd gathering around the stage did not seem to be excited or frightened when seeing the show.

Seeing photographs shown by the defence lawyer, he accepted that the scene in the show seemed like the hanging scene of two workers at Nakornpathom. For details about clothes and other things, he gave no idea, repeating the words, "I don't know". (for fear, perhaps, of troubles that would come afterwards).

August 15, 1977 : afternoon.

Witness : an official at the Department of Electricity and a member of Electrical Labour Union.

The witness was one of the eleven persons who accused the students of lese majeste on the night of October 5. He never knew the defendant or the actor before. He just saw the photograph in the newspapers, showing the actor's face that looked like that of the Crown Prince. He was a village scout but had not participated in any demonstration on that day, neither had he seen the October incident with his own eyes, just hearing about it. The reason that he accused the defendant was that he was so furious when he saw the photograph in the newspapers. His testimony seemed to go round this; for all other details, he repeated the words "I don't know".

The defence lawyer tried to prove the fact that the show on that day had no intention of attacking the Crown Prince, but was a pretext against the assassination at Nakornpathom. He compared the picture of the hanging scene in the play and in the assassination to show that the men in the pictures looked alike, for example, they had tongues coming out of their mouths. The lawyer also asked the witness about the clothes of the actor, if they were a typical style of students' clothes and could be found everywhere in Bangkok. But the witness did not answer the question. He said that it looked like the field clothes of the Crown Prince.

The testimony of the witness seemed to weigh in favour of the truth and that in fact, the show on that very day presented no lese majeste at all. It was also possible that the picture (film) could be touched, because the photographer had not developed the film by himself. Besides, at the Bangkok Post, there was a film laboratory, in which there is a business of making advertising poster. However, when asked about this, the witness replied that he had no idea about this.

Techniques about films are to be discussed in detail again next time.

The next trial will be on August 22, 1977. Increasing numbers of people listened to the trial show that there is a real public interest in the case.

2. OCTOBER 6 DETAINEES ARE TO FACE COURT CHARGES

On August 25, 1977, wide-ranging charges against 18 out of 74 persons still held from the October 6 incident at Thammasat University last year were filed by the military prosecutor at Military Court.

The 18, 14 of them students, were charged with Communist activities, 2. treason, 3. murder and attempted murder of government officials, 4. intrusion, 5. inciting unrest and 6. illegal possessions of firearms.

They were identified as Sutham Saengpratum, Anupong Pongsuwan, Apinand Buahapakdee, Surachart Bunnongsuk, Trahon Wangsiripitak, Viroj Tangvanich, Suchila Tanchainand, Sangiam Chaenduang, Mahint Tankunperm, Prayong Akkarabarorn, Arom Pongpa-ngan, Attakarn Uppathapakul, Suchart Patcharasorawat, Thongchai Vivitchakul, Kongsak Arsapak, Somp Somsak Jiamjirakul, Orissa Iyarawanwat and Serf Sirinupong. The first six were also charged with lese majeste.

Judge Advocate General Lt. Gen. Saming Trailangka said that the Judge Advocate General Department had decided to temporarily suspend all charges against five detainees and other 51 bailed persons. (However, the charges against these people can be brought back to trial at any time). Five detainees were released from Bangkok temporary detention centre on August 25, 1977 at night. However, one of them, identified as Virat Trem, was immediately re-arrested on other unspecified charges.

The detainees will be taken to the military court. Lawyer will not be allowed to represent them to fight the charges, in accordance with regulations covering military tribunals. (However, Saming promised that the public and the press will be permitted to attend the trial.) About 200 witnesses have also been prepared to testify against these 18 defendants during the trial. Lt. Gen. Saming also said that the maximum penalty for the

charges is execution.

In addition to the 18, 32 persons are being sought in relation to the October 6th events. Official sources reported that the prosecution against these will be temporarily suspended, but they will be prosecuted at a later date if and when they are arrested. It is generally believed that the majority of the 32 have gone underground or joined with the communist party of Thailand.

However, what is remarkable is that among the official list of 32 wanted persons, suspected to have taken part in the October 6 events, there are some names of those who had left Thailand over a year before October 6 events took place, for example, Mr. Samarn Leudwonghad, Mr. Weng Tohjivakarn and Mr. Seksan Prasertkul amongst others. These people obviously had nothing to do with the October 6th events.

D. DANGERING SOCIETY

1. LEGAL ATTACKS ON ARTICLE 22 OF NARC (ENDANGERING SOCIETY) --- (ON HABEAS CORPUS)

On April 1, 1977, Lt. Col. Chalit Hongrapak, a police governor of Choburi Province and his men arrested Mr. Rurm Chitman under the endangering society charge. Later on, Mr. Chur Chitman, the arrested's wife, appealed for Habeas Corpus to the Court of Choburi. The hearing was on April 22 and 25, 1977. Because the police had admitted that Mr. Rurm Chitman was only arrested under the endangering society charge, in accordance with the Decree No. 22 of the NARC number (charge) (1), (3), (4) and (7) the only point that the judge was interested was whether Mr. Rurm was really a danger to society or not.

The charges against the defendant were justified as follows:-

1. Behave with violence, use violence and threat towards others or do anything that is frightening to people

The appellatant had enough evidence to prove that the defendant had no such behaviour.

2. Earn a living in a way that is against the peaceful state of the country or against the morality of the people.

The appellatant had enough evidences to prove that the defendant had always had a legal occupation.

3. Store firearms and bombs illegally for trade or insurgences.

The appellatant had enough evidences to prove that the defendant had never stored firearms or bombs.

4. Earn a living by having a gambling house, prostitutes house or being an illegal dealer in the underground lottery.

It had been proved since number 2 that the defendant had a legal occupation and the appellatant had enough evidence to prove that the defendant had never had such illegal occupation as accused.

After that the judge mentioned the background of the defendant, that he was once a village scout, had joined the Woodbadge head scout training, was a member of a Hightower Juping Group of the Border Patrol Police. This could prove that the defendant had always been a good citizen.

Consequently, the judge acquitted the accused of the crime, in accordance with the Criminal Code Decree 90, (Habeas Corpus). At the end of the Trial the judge expressed an interesting opinion:-

"The Decree No. 22 of the NARC is a law that is against personal right and freedom. Therefore, one has to be very careful when using it. One must have enough obvious and apparent evidences before charging somebody with endangering society charge. An investigation alone is not enough. Remember that the police have already basic laws to deal with most crimes".

The Article No. 90 has been in use since October 1, 1935. The text of the decree is that when a person is illegally detained or imprisoned, his wife or relatives, or somebody concerned, such as a prosecutor, a prison governor or a custodian may appeal to the court for a release. The court must then hold a hearing so that the case will be justified.

On October 22, 1958, under Sarit Tanarat's dictatorship, there was a Decree No. 12 of the Junta concerning Communist Action. Here, the defendants under communist charges had no right to use the Decree No. 90. However, this Decree does not cover the endangering society charge.

Because of this, on April 26, 1977, Mr. Bunchuay Srisarakam, the governor of Choburi Province and Lt. Col. Chalit Hongrapak went to the Ministry of Interior to report about this. Mr. Chalaw Wanaputi, an under-secretary of the Ministry of Interior brought a legal amendment to the Meeting of the Council of Ministers on May 24th, 1977, under the "most urgent" order of Mr. Samak Suntornvej, the Minister of Interior.

The test of the amendment was aimed at giving complete power over endangering society charges to the police and Ministry of Interior officials. Whenever there is an appeal to the Court during detention, the Judge must clarify that the police have complete rights over the detention of a defendant under endangering society charges. However, after the detention, the defendants still have right to appeal.

2. THE LEGAL PROCESS FOR FRA MAHA SWARD

(For details of the detainee, see 'Human Right in Thailand Report, April 1977')

Up till now, Ira Maha Sward has been detained for 6 months without any trial. Because according to the Decree No. 22, sub-number 6 of the NARC, the investigators have authorities in getting control of the endangering society charged detainees, without having to act in accordance with procedures and detention time limits in the law. According to the Criminal Law, a detainee must be set free within 48 days after his arrest, if the police do not file charges against him in a Court on time.

However, the CGRS. is trying to appeal to the Court about his unjust detention in accordance with the Criminal Code, article 90. The CGRS. informed Fra Maha Sward about this in May 1977 at that time he hoped for an early release and expected that he would be set free on July 10, the releasing day for some endangering society prisoners and detainees. But Fra Maha Sward was not released at that time.

Unfortunately, in August, the police informed him that he would face another charge of Lese Majesty. According to the Decree No. 29 of the NARC, Communist and Lese Majesty charges have to go to a Military Martial Court and no lawyer is allowed to defend the case. Therefore, the lawyer who is to appeal for him took no action, saying that no lawyer is allowed in his case.

However, some experts in law said that there could be an appeal for the unjust detention of Ira Maha Sward, even when he was charged with Lese Majesty, and thus legal action is now being taken.

V. PROFILES OF PRISONERS

1. WIRAT TRUEN

What was arrested during the October 6th events at Thammasart University. He was one of the 23 student leaders who were refused bail and was detained at the Sethsiri Detention Centre and later on moved to Bangken Temporary Prison. He was released on August 25, 1977, together with 4 other student leaders. However, being of Vietnamese origin, he was remanded for further detention. It is also possible that he might be exciled from Thailand.

Background:

Wirat is of vietnamese origin but he was born in Thailand. However, he has not got the Thai nationality (nor Vietnamese). He has 3 brothers and one sister. His father is a carpenter. His house is located at Central District, Ubonrajthani Province. He and his family are Catholic. Having finished high school in the North-East of Thailand, he applied for further education in the Faculty of Political Science at Chulalongkorn University from the Prime Minister Kukrit Pramoj, who was at the same time the Minister of Interior. This permission was granted (ordinarrily, Vietnamese have no right to study in the University in Thailand.

Student activities:

While Wirat was a school-boy, he studying in a Catholic school and always went up-country to disseminate the Catholic religion and at the same time he learned about the life of the people there. At the Faculty of Political Science, he had no political activities, but social welfare activities; because he realized the fact that a Vietnamese in Thailand should have no political activities; however, he joined in almost every demonstration that occurred during the past two years. In the second year of his studies he was elected a vice-president of his faculty, which was a great honour.

Arrest and detention:

Wirat joined the demonstration against the former Prime Minister Thanom Kitikachorn, which led to the October 6th Massacre. He was arrested, charged with 9 charges including communist. charges.

He was detained at Cholburi province, then brought back to the headquarter of metropolitan police to be investigated, then to Bangken Temporary Prison and Sethsiri Detention Centre which is an information Cross-examination centre of ISOC. This was because Wirat had been mistaken for Wirat Sakchirapapong, the Secretary of the Socialist Party of Thailand after Dr. Bunsanong Bunyodyan who had been murdered. He was thoroughly investigated again and again. On October 14, 1976 at 8:00 pm. he was interrogated by 5 investigators-a military officer, a navy officer, an air force officer, a police officer and a civilian. On October 16-18 he was interrogated again and again every half an hour. Besides being mistaken as Wirat Sakchirapapong, he was also accused of being a leader of Vietnamese migrants and a leader of the Vietnamese in the North-East. The evidences against him came from documents about Vietnamese in Thailand and about Vietnamese detention centres.

At Sethsiri Detention Center, he was detained in a small cell in (15x7 ft.) solitary

confinement, in which he could walk only 7 steps. He felt very depressed worried and hopeless, and looked very pale and thin. Every day he was allowed 30 minutes outside the cell and a 30 minutes visit. There he spent most of his time reading books; however political books were not allowed and neither did he have any information about the present situation.

In the past three months, he was moved to Bangken temporary Prison, where many October 6th detainees and the March 26 rebels were detained. Here, his mental health was much better, although he got only 2 meals a day and in the food there were always some flies or small pieces of rag, and was allowed a visit only on Tuesday and Saturday. At Bangken, the October 6 detainees obtained more privileges after the political prisoners of the March 26th rebellion were detained here. They could have many books to read, could take some exercises on the detention deck in the morning and play football in the evening and also get some informations as well as being able to write letters.

On August 25, 1977 he was released with four other October 6th detainees, as there was not enough evidence against him. However, being of Vietnamese origin, he was remanded for further detention. As an unwanted person, he was detained at the Immigration Department at Soi Suanplu, Sathorn Road, Bangkok to wait for exile. However, because the Thai government cannot contact with the Vietnamese government about this, he was later sent to Ladbuakau Detention Centers for Vietnamese at Nakornrajsima.

The arrest and the detention has destroyed Wirat's hope of helping other Vietnamese in Thailand. Wirat had always hoped to help the Vietnamese refugees and prisoners in Thailand, as he realized that he has had a better chance than all other Vietnamese in Thailand. However, at present, his status is no better than their.

V. PROFILE OF PRISONERS

2. UDOM PKA-KRONG AND HIS GROUP:

Mr. Udom Pka-Krong and ten other persons were arrested and charged with being communists, attacking the military camp committing arson and killing 12 soldiers, VDOs and civilians. The defendants are at present being tried at the Criminal Court in Bangkok, and detained in the Special Prison of Bangkok. Letters to the prisoners could be sent to CGRS, 16 Pramuan Court, Apt. 21, Pramuan Rd., Silom, Bangkok.

Mr. Sarn (Yoi) Boonpeng used to live at 42 Mu 4 Tambon Hua-ta-paru, Ta-sala District Nakornsrihammarat Province. He has a wife (Mrs. Kimhad Boonpeng) and five children. His eldest son is married. The other four are studying in school. He has to look after his old father too. He is 39 years old now. He was arrested at Ban Toongchon school in his village on 23th May, 1976. He was charged with communist.

MR. UDOM PKA-KRONG

Country where imprisoned : Thailand.
 Address before arrest : Ban Toong Chon School, Mu 4, Tambon Huata-paru, Ta-sala District, Nakornsrihammarat Province.
 Family details : married, has 2 children, his wife: Mrs. Berchalak Pka-Krong.
 Date of birth : 17 May, 1944.
 Occupation : Government Official: second class head-teacher at Ban Toong Chon School.
 Nationality : Thai.
 Religion : Buddhism.
 Date and place of arrest : 23 May, 1976 at Ban Toong Chon School.
 Real reason for the arrest : He was a leading person who opposed the malpractices of the committee of tambon council.
 Other remarks : Although Mr. Udom is detained pending court trial, he is put in solitary confinement.

For further remarks contact CGRS.

MR. SARN (YOI) BOONPENG

Country where imprisoned : Thailand.
 Address before arrest : No. 42, Mu 4, Tambon Hua-ta-paru, Ta-sala District Nakornsrihammarat Province.
 Family details : married with Mrs. Kimhad Boonpeng. His eldest son is married. The other four are studying in school. He has to look after his old father too.
 Date of birth : in 1938.
 Occupation : An owner of a private construction company.
 Nationality : Thai.
 Religion : Buddhism.
 Date and place of arrest : 23 May, 1976 at Ban Toong-chon School.
 Real reason for the arrest : He opposed and disclose the malpractices of the committee of Tambon Council.
 Other remarks : Mr. Sarn owned a small private construction company. Before he was arrested, he had made a contact to build an official school and had paid 10,000 baht as a guarantee. When he was arrested, the official took the money.
 Mr. Sarn had always been against the corruption of the committee of the Tambon Council. He made out a list of the villagers who were against the malpractices of the council. In a New Year (1975) party, he made a speech against the council, and since then he was accused of being a communist sympathizer.
 Mr. Sarn is detained in solitary confinement.

MR. JENG SAE-TUN

Country where imprisoned : Thailand.
 Address before arrest : No. 153, Mu 4, Tambon Hua-ta-paru, Ta-sala District, Nakornsrihammarat Province.
 Family Details : married with Mrs. Pan Sac-tun, has no children.
 Approximate age : 40 years old.
 Date and place of arrest : 23 May 1976 at Ban Toong-chon School.
 Real reason for the arrest : He opposed and disclosed the malpractices of the committee of Tambon Council.

Other remarks

: Mr. Jeng was member of the educational committee at Ban Toong-chon School and a village-health-development committee. He had also donated his land to Ban Toong-chon School.
 He is now detained in solitary confinement;

MR. BUNJOB CHUAY-PUNTH

Country where imprisoned : Thailand.
 Address before arrest : No 15, Mu 4, Tambon Hua-ta-paru, Tasala District, Nakornsrithammarat Province.

Family details : married with Mrs. Pensri Chuay-panth, has 3 children. The three children are 8,5, and 2 years old.

Date of birth : 1 January, 1942

Nationality : Thai.

Religion : Buddhism.

Occupation : Farmer.

Date and place of arrest : 23 May, 1976 at No. 15 Mu 12, Tambon Hua-ta-paru, Nakornsrithammarat.

Real reason for the arrest : He opposed and disclosed the malpractices of the committee of Tambon Council.

Other remarks

: Mr. Banjob had helped building the Ban-Toong-chon School and had donated a land for a sub-road connecting the school and the main road, and also helped building it.
 After arrested, he was brutally tortured at the military camp. The soldier's knocked and kicked him in his belly, put him in a sack and then beat and kicked for many days and threatened to shoot him, so as to make him confess that he joined the attack. But he always denied. Finally, seeing that he would never confess, a soldier said that they could force others to denounce him and find some false witness against him.
 He is now detained in solitary confinement.

MR. PRACHA TVEE-MUENG

Country where imprisoned : Thailand.
 Address before arrest : No. 4, Mu 10, Tambon Inkeeree, Promkeeree Sub-district, Nakornsrithammarat Province.

Family details : married with Mr. Ladda Tvee-mueng, has one son.

Approximate age : 26 years old.

Occupation : gardener and trader.

Nationality : Thai.

Religion : Buddhism.

Date and place of arrest : 21 May 1976 at his house.

Real reason for the arrest : He was suspected to belong to the gangsters that shot an official.

Other remarks

: Mr. Pracha was brutally tortured until he confessed that the communist guerrillas forced him to join the attack that Mr. Puchong's house was a meeting place and from the meeting place they went to Ban-toongchon School. (He said he did not even know where the school was). He was forced to sign in three blank papers at the military camp and another three at the Central Prison of Nakornsrithammarat

MR. CHUAY (KAI-NOOL) JOOL-FUKDT

Country where imprisoned : Thailand.
 Address before arrest : No.82 Mu 11, Tambon Inkeeree, Promkeeree Sub-district Nakornsrithammarat Province.

Family details : unmarried. He lived with his mother and has 7 brothers and sisters. His father was dead.

Date of birth : in 1953.

Occupation : rubber tapper.

Nationality : Thai.

Date and place of arrest : 22 May 1976 at his house.

Real reason for the arrest : There were many communist guerrillas coming to his village, he was suspected to have some relationship with them.

Other remarks

: Mr. Chuay was so severely tortured that he made a confession that 80 communist guerrillas took him to Ban Toongchon School. There he ate and drank the food and alcohols, for which Mr. Udom had paid 400 baht. The policeman and the soldier told him to tell about the attack, but he did not know how to tell it, because he knew nothing about it. So the policeman and the soldiers wrote the confession for him. At present he is detained in solitary confinement.

MR. POOCHONG KAEW-SUWON

Country where imprisoned
Address before arrest

: Thailand.
: Ban Vanglung, Mu 11, Tambon Inkeeree, Promkeeree Sub-district, Nakornsrihammarat Province.

Family details

: married with Mrs. Chieb Kaew-suwon, has 6 children.

Date of birth

: in 1943.

Occupation

: trader and gardener.

Nationality

: Thai.

Religion

: Buddhism.

Date and place of arrest

: 21 May, 1976.

Real reason for the arrest

: There were many communist guerrillas coming to his village and he was suspected to have some relationship with them.

Other remarks

: He is detained in solitary confinement. For further remarks contact CGRS.

MR. VINAI BOONWAN

Country where imprisoned
Address before arrest

: Thailand.
: No. 107, Mu 4, Tambon Moklan, Ta-sala District, Nakornsrihammarat.

Approximate age

: 27 years old.

Occupation

: farmer and gardener.

Nationality

: Thai.

Date and place of arrest

: 21 May 1976 at his house.

Real reason for the arrest

: He was suspected to have some relationship with communist guerrillas.

Other remarks

: After arrested he was tortured so that he would confess. The soldier took him in a helicopter and flew to the sea; they told him that they would push him to the sea if he did not confess. But he denied. They took him back and tortured again. They told him that Mr. Chuay and Mr. Pracha had been murdered because they had not confessed. He was tortured again so severely that he decided to make a confession to save his life. At present he is detained in solitary confinement.

MR. NAEB DOAKBUA

Country where imprisoned
Address before arrest

: Thailand.
: No. 107, Mu 10, Tambon Inkeeree, Promkeeree Sub-district, Nakornsrihammarat.

Family details

: married with Mrs. Kalaya Doakbua, has 6 children.

Approximate age

: 43 years old.

Occupation

: rubber tapper and coconut planter.

Nationality

: Thai.

Date and place of arrest

: 7 June, 1976 at the market.

Real reason for the arrest

: One of his friends shifted the accusation on him. He was arrested in the town with Mr. Nookong and was taken directly to the police station. There he denied the charge. As far as we know, he was not tortured at the police station.

Other remarks

MR. NOONONG KANJANAPUKDI

Country where imprisoned
Address before arrest

: Thailand.
: No 711, Mu 2, Tambon Moklan, Tasala District, Nakornsrihammarat.

Family details

: married with Mrs. Nookuang Kanjanapukdi, having 4 children.

Approximate age

: 44 years old.

Nationality

: Thai.

Religion : Buddhism
 Date and place of arrest : 7 June, 1976.
 Real reason for the arrest : His rice field was at Ban Wang Long, a communist infested area, thus was suspected to have some relationship with guerrillas.
 Other remarks : The policemen arrested him in the town with Mr. Naeb; and took him to the police station.

MR. CHAO CHAINARONG

Country where imprisoned : Thailand.
 Address before arrest : Mu 5, Tambon Kralaw, Tasala District, Nakhonsrithammarat
 Family Details : married with Mrs. Sombai Chainarong, having 3 children.
 Approximate age : 27 years old.
 Occupation : rubber tapper.
 Nationality : Thai
 Date and place of arrest : 10 June, 1976 in central district of Tasala.
 Real reason for the arrest : The National Broadcasting Station broadcasted that he was arrested, so he was really arrested.
 Other remarks : On May 20, 1976 the policemen and the Border Patrol police searched his house found nothing and took his trouser, and his two jackets with them. On May 21, The National Broadcasting Station announced that the policemen had arrested him with two M. 16 and 25 bullets, bombs and a field radio, and that he had joined the attack. On June 10, 1976 he decided to surrender; but on the way to the police station, he was arrested.
 At the police station he was tortured by sub-lieutenant Vanchai Ruangsripurg and Somchoak Samat until he decided to save his life by confessing.

LETTER FROM THE PRISONERS:

Central Prison of Nakhonsrithammarat
August 30, 1976

I. Mr. Udom Fka-krong, was mistreated, arrested and charged with being a communist, attacking the military camp of Tasala Village Defence Volunteers (Or-Saw), committing arson and killing a total of 12 soldiers, VDV's and civilians. These false charges were motivated only by my opposition to malpractices of the committee of Hua-ta-parn Tambon Council. My true story is as follows:-

1. I was appointed by the Chief of Ta-sala District as a Secretary of Tambon Hua-ta-parn Council, after Mr. Kajern Karumas, the former secretary (and head-teacher at Wat Saprudit School) had resigned because he could not work with the committee because of its corruption. While I was a secretary, I always worked in a straight forward way trying in every way to prevent corruption in the use of district development funds in 1975.

2. The Committee of the Tambon Council used the following tricks to gain money through corruption:

a. Corruption in a water pipe project. The committee had to set water pipes at two places; each place cost 8,000 baht. But the committee carried the work at only one place and claimed the money for two places. Therefore, 8,000 was stolen. I protested in vain, because I fought alone against the majority of the committee.

b. Corruption in a dam project at Ban Fak-klong. This project amounted to 150,000 baht and involved more than one hundred workers. The workers received 17-18 baht wages per day. But the committee reported that the workers received 22 baht a day. Later on, the committee, saying that there were too many workers, dismissed many of them, but still reported and got the money for the former numbers of workers. The committee themselves signed the names of the dismissed workers, using their left hand and right hands or letting some other trusted persons sign the names. They took the money for themselves.

c. Corruption in a road project (one kilometre long). This project, costing 10,000 baht, used money from local taxes.

The committee changed this project to one of bridge repairing, in which the money, workers, tools and materials from the dam project were used. Therefore, the committee stole 10,000 baht from the local tax.

d. Corruption in a road project from Natab to Haul Fak-Nam. The committee first got 76,000 baht for the project. Then, the committee, reported that the 76,000 baht was all used up, asked for another 76,000 baht. I did not believe them and therefore Mr. Jeng Saeton, 20 other villagers and I measured the road to see if their report was correct or not. The result was that only 50,000 baht should have been used. The committee stole almost 20,000 baht. I asked for a meeting with the committee but nobody

came.

Seeing that I had known their tricks, the committee used a tractor instead of villagers in building the road. The tractor cost 400 baht per hour. Each day the tractor worked 10 hours. Therefore we had to pay 4,000 baht per day for the tractor. The tractor was in use for 4 days. So the money paid for tractor should have been 16,000 baht. But the committee reported to me that they had paid 76,000 baht for the tractor. Because of this, I and the committee had a quarrel.

Furthermore, whenever the committee stopped working for lunch, they would note down the name of the owner of the house where they took lunch as a worker taking part in the road building project. Thus, the committee gained money from the wages of those non-existent workers.

e. I and five other committee members of the Tambon Council got 500 baht every month for our duties apart from our salaries. But the Committee of the Council would give me only 200 baht, saying that the 300 baht must be given to an official at the Amphur (District), and that each Tambon had to give 1000 baht to that official. There were 10 tambonsin the district. Therefore he would gain 10,000 baht monthly. I refused, telling them that if they wanted my money, they should send an official letter. When there was a protest from me, the official at the district became afraid, so they gave the money back to every tambon. Later on, when rumours died out, they asked for the same amount of money again. But they never asked for my money.

3. A dining room project at Ban Tunghon School. This project, costing 12,000 baht, used money from local taxes. In the project, the size of the dining room was 6x8 Metres. But Mr. Tieb, assistant-district officer and advisor of the Council, let the designer make it smaller (5x6 metres) using the same amount of money. He also let Mr. Charoon Suttikiri, a committee member of the council, act as constructor of the building. Six days before the end of the project, the head-teacher of the school was invited to see Mr. Tieb, and was asked to sign on the contract that the school was already finished. I told the head-teacher not to sign. Consequently, the assistant-district officer and the committee of the Council regarded me as their enemy.

4. Two bridge building projects, costing 50,000 baht. The bridge was incomplete and not correctly built. The villagers made a petition to the head of the district, the governor of the province and the prime ministers office.

The committee was angry at me, because they thought I was the leader of the petitioners.

5. The committee of the Council and I found it very difficult to work together. Finally, the committee, using the power of the assistant-district who was an advisor of the council, remove my financial and accounting responsibility from me so that they could steal freely. I decided to resign from the Council in April 1976.

Mr. San Bumpeng, Mr. Jeng Sae-ton, the villagers and I had always opposed and protested against the corruption and malpractice of the committee of Hua-ta-parn Tambon Council. We had made a petition to the head of the district, the governor of the province and the Prime Ministers office. But our petitions were not answered. However, the head of the district, the assistant-district officer, the head of the tambon, the head of the village, and the committee of the council were angry at us. And finally, we, Mr. San Bumpeng, Mr. Jeng Sae-ton, Mr. Panjob Chuaypan and I, became detainees in this case.

(Signature)

Udom Paka-krong.

(See Annex 15 in May-June 1977 Report for names outlined of this case).

Central Prison of Nakornsritammarat

August 30, 1976.

I, Mr. Fuchong Kaewsuwon, was accused of attacking the VDV Camp at Ban Song Frack on 15th May 1976, killing 12 civilians and soldiers and committing arson. I would like to state here that this was a false charge. I do not know anything and have not been involved in this incident.

The reason I confessed during the investigation was because I was brutally tortured by the investigators who had power over a common civilian like me. The head of the district, the police officers and the military officers let their men torture me and every other accused terribly, until we said what they wanted. The pain was so great and the torments were so hard that I confessed to this false story:-

1. I was forced to confess that the communist guerrillas forced me to join in the attack on the VDV camp.

2. I was forced to confess that we gathered at Ban Toongchon School and that I saw Mr. Udom. I said that I did not see him. The officer said, "If you did not see Mr. Udom, say you have seen Mr. Yoy Boonpeng. You must say that you have seen somebody". I told them that I did not know what to say, because I knew nothing about the incident. The officer told me that I had seen Mr. Boonpeng carrying a fire-arm.

3. I was forced to confess that we went in many groups with the guerrillas till

we came to another meeting place.

4. It was suggested that I confess that I was forced by the guerrillas to guard the path near the camp, that I did not take part in the attack, but just guarded the way.

5. I was forced to confess that after the attack, everybody separated and I changed my clothes and kept them at school,

They forced me to confess many other things which I cannot remember now. The investigators wrote down what they wanted and let me sign my name. I signed my name 5 times in the paper they wrote and also signed on two blank papers. I signed because I was afraid of them.

I am not guilty and do not know anything about this charge. I confessed, because I was brutally tortured. If I had not confessed, I would have died. The investigator also told me that if I confessed, I would be bailed out and become a witness in this case. I do not know how I could become a witness because I am one of 11 defendants. Please consider my case and give me justice.

(Signature)

Fuchong Kaewsuwan .

Central Prison of Nakornsrihammarat

I, Mr. Jeng Sae-ton, lived at No. 153, Village No. 4, Tambon Hau-tapan, Ta-sala district, Nakornsrihammarat province. On 22nd May 1976, the Border Patrol Police searched my house while I was away but found nothing. I asked the police what I was guilty of. They said that I had some illegal things at my house.

On 23rd May, at 9 am., I went to Ban Song Prack School with Mr. Udom Fka-krong and Mr. San Boonpeng. At that time a helicopter landed and the police locked our hands and took us in the helicopter to a military camp at Wat Donhong.

There, we were kept in separate cells, I was investigated for 30 minutes about the attack of the communist guerrillas, but I knew nothing about that. At 7 pm. I was called for investigation again. The room was dark. I was to sit in a big chair with my arms locked behind my back. They asked me questions for which I did not know the answers. Suddenly many soldiers surrounded me. They tied an iron chair around my neck and pulled at both ends, asking if I joined the attack. I said I knew nothing. They kicked me, slapped me and kicked at my stomach till I fainted. When I became conscious I was in an open building in the temple. Beside me lay Mr. Udom and Mr. San and there were soldiers on guard.

The next day, on 24th May, at night, I was brought to that dark room again. And they treated me with the same method, telling me to confess. But I did not. So they put me in a sack and kicked and hit me. I still did not say what they wanted.

On 25th May, at 11 am., I was brought for investigation again. They threatened me saying that if I did not confess tonight I would die. I was very afraid and yielded. They taught me what I should say, especially that I should say that I saw Mr. Udom in green clothes, that he and I joined the communist guerrillas attacking military camp. The investigator wrote down my confession for me. I only had to sign it thereafter, without seeing what they wrote. Sometimes they recorded my words.

In the evening I saw the soldiers taking a man and Mr. Fuchong Kaewsuwan out of the tent. I know later that the man was Mr. Winai Boonwan and that he was also accused in this case. I never know him before. Soon after that I heard their cries of pain. One hour later, the two were brought back to the tent.

On 26th May, I was taken to the police station at Nakornsrihammarat, kept there for 2 days, and on 28th May I was brought here, the Central Prison of Nakornsrihammarat.

(Signature)

Jeng Sae-ton

Some Names of Those Arrested in July and August 1977

(Sources: Newspaper)

DATE ARREST	NAME (age)	OCCUPATION	HOME ADDRESS	REASON FOR THE ARREST	CHARGE	DETENTION	ORIGINAL ARRESTING SOURCE OF PLACE IF RELEVANT
July 7	1. Mr. Sordak Chanvirarong (35)	member of provincial assembly.	Betong District	Thai-Malay joint military operation (Sacred ray).	Communist Sympathizer		Batton 1-7-77
	2. Mr. Songsak (35) Sae-Yong (or Vitroj Niramanungrueng)	butcher.	"	"	"		"
	3. Mr. Pengnam (or Abking) Saelueng (37)	worker.	"	"	"		"
	4. Mr. Teng Soon Nam (or Ahchan) Saelung (32)	fishvender.	"	"	"		"
	5. Mr. Songsin (or Choosak) Saechu (29)	owner of Burapa grocery shop.	"	"	"		"
	6. Mr. Prayoon Puntan (19)	just finished high school.	95 Mu 15 T. Sasaming D. Varinchamrab P. Ubonrathani.	Policemen found communist documents and books. They were arrested at Nakornsi- thamarat.	Communist		Siangrab 11-7-77 Nakornsiham- marat Province
	7. Mr. Supet Chinthai (20)		39 Mu 1, T. Dume D. Bang- munnak, P. Pichit.	"	"		"
July 8	8. Mr. Surin Suwanpan (47) (See Annex 2.2)	carpenter	250/13 Samsen St., Bang- kumprom D., Bangkok.	He walked along a street Bangkok, carrying a paper bag. Police asked for search, found communist documents and sticker, asking for freedom for Sutham and his group.	Endangering Society.	Bangken Temporary Prison.	Yawan- Sam 9-1-77 Bangkok.
July 14	9. Mr. Sopen Buekam	village doctor.	T. Tungpo, D. Rongibun P. Nakornsiythamarat.	He was accused of having suspicious behavior and having written a letter to a police station at T. Ranod, threatening arson.	Communist.		ISOC, Song- kla, Pro- 21-7-77 Faitaksin vince.
July 16 10.	Mr. Chang Vichaddit and 8 other person (names unknown)	owner of a sawmill.	Ban Kankiem, Mu 10, T. Klap, D. Ta-sala, P. Nakornsiythamarat.	He was accused of being a communist leader at Sichen D., and supporting money to communist guerrillas.	Communist.		Tarzan- Siem 29-7-77 Surathani P.
July 18 11.	Mr. Luam Chusri			The soldiers had abattle with communist guerrillas at Ban Klongchaunma, Mu 9	Communist.		Police Sta Tion at Siem Viengsa D. 29-7-77
	12. Mr. Ham Sompot			T. Bansomg, D. Viengsa, P. Surattani. After the			Surathani P.
	13. Mr. Sawat Chuchay- suwan						

DATE
FIRST

NAME (LAST)

CORPORATION

HOME ADDRESS

REASON FOR THE ARREST

CHARGE

DETENTION

ORIGINAL SOURCE OF INFORMATION
ARRESTING PLACE

August 13 14. Mr. Nlom Chib-

miner

Ban Kunga, Km 5,
T. Pa-ngue, Central
District, P. Takorn
Sithamarat.

combat, the soldiers cleared up
the place and found these three
suspected persons.
The police suspected that their
house was a storage place for
firearms. The police found
bombs guns and a lot of tin.

Communist

Police Station at
Siengrat 15-8-77

Nakornsi-
thamarat.

15. Mr. Klai " "

"

"

"

"

Central
District of
Nakorn P.

"

16. Mr. Klang " "

"

"

"

"

"

"

17. Mr. Chit Kar-

lotpib.

"

"

Communist

Police station
at Charang
16-8-77

Nakornsi-
thamarat.

18. Sergeant Prajai

protection

"

"

"

Police station
at Charang
16-8-77

Nakornsi-
thamarat.

19. Sergeant Pruecha

Police on

"

"

"

Daily Times
16-8-77

"

20. Sergeant Sompony

(mineral

"

"

"

"

"

21. Master Sergeant

"

"

"

"

"

"

22. Mr. Sutorn Siva-

fourth year

Sripampen Flat,
Sri Sripampen,
Sri Sripampen,
D. Yungmahmek, D.
Yannava, Bangkok.

Police searched at the flat and
their room and found some commu-
nist documents.

Communist

Bangren
Temporary
Prison.

Daily Times
14-8-77
and other
newspapers.

23. Mr. Sirtsak Saw-

third year stu-

dent at Fac. of D. Jaturin, Bangkok-

"

"

"

"

24. Mr. Prachit Pong-

teacher at Tak-

ornsi-thamarat

"

Communist

Central
Prison of
16-8-77

Nakornsi-
thamarat.

25. Mr. Suanart Sangar-

teacher at Tak-

ornsi-thamarat

"

Communist

Central
Prison of
16-8-77

Nakornsi-
thamarat.

26. Mr. Suanart Sangar-

teacher at Tak-

ornsi-thamarat

"

Communist

Central
Prison of
16-8-77

Nakornsi-
thamarat.

27. Mr. Suanart Sangar-

teacher at Tak-

ornsi-thamarat

"

Communist

Central
Prison of
16-8-77

Nakornsi-
thamarat.

28. Mr. Suanart Sangar-

teacher at Tak-

ornsi-thamarat

"

Communist

Central
Prison of
16-8-77

Nakornsi-
thamarat.

29. Mr. Suanart Sangar-

teacher at Tak-

ornsi-thamarat

"

Communist

Central
Prison of
16-8-77

Nakornsi-
thamarat.

30. Mr. Suanart Sangar-

teacher at Tak-

ornsi-thamarat

"

Communist

Central
Prison of
16-8-77

Nakornsi-
thamarat.

31. Mr. Suanart Sangar-

teacher at Tak-

ornsi-thamarat

"

Communist

Central
Prison of
16-8-77

Nakornsi-
thamarat.

32. Mr. Suanart Sangar-

teacher at Tak-

ornsi-thamarat

"

Communist

Central
Prison of
16-8-77

Nakornsi-
thamarat.

August 12 27. Mr. Wirun Amphigo former student
(See Annex 2.4) of Chiangmai
Teachers' College

Joint Police Bangkok
military and Post
civilian zones 3-8-77
5 Operation Centre,
Chiangmai.

Communist
Joint Police Bangkok
military and Post
civilian zones 3-8-77
5 Operation Centre,
Chiangmai.

Ma-Fong
son P.

<u>DATE</u> <u>ARREST</u>	<u>NAME (AGE)</u>	<u>OCCUPATION</u>	<u>REASON FOR ARREST</u>	<u>CHARGE</u>	<u>DEFINITION</u>	<u>ARRESTING PLACE</u>
August 28. 12	Mr. Nikom	a worker at Ornoi.	unknown. Remarks: he was once arrested in the October 6 event.	3 charges were offer ed to him to choos namely, rebellion, narcotic distributor, gangster, breaking Article 42 of NARC (concerning the press)	Chanasong- lram police station, Bangkok.	
August 29.	Mr. Prapan Picha	editor of Kau-Lanna Newspaper			Lampang Lampang Province	
30.	Mr. Rungrot Na-Lampang				(will be brought to trial on Sep. 3)	

Besides the names from newspaper sources, there are also some other names from other sources, namely

I. Names of those arrested with endangering society charges

- Bangkok: 1. Mr. Vorapot Patachot (See Annex 2,5)
Nakornsrithammarat: 2. Mr. Pairoj Chaikong : A teacher at Sahamit School, Pakpanang district and a Ramdianhaeng student, charged with supporting supply routes to communist guerrillas.

- Udonthani: Udonthani Teacher's College
Teachers : 1. Mr. Narumol Pridisanit
 2. Mrs. Suprani Kammueg
 3. Mr. Charun Tavorajak
 4. Mr. Chin Po-on
 5. Mr. Padung Kausam-ang
 6. Mr. Somsak Suetrong
 7. Mr. Suching Prapanpot
Students : 1. Miss Rachani Nu-upara
 2. Miss Vichit Panlinpha
 3. Mr. Chalae Kamdi
 4. Mr. Somchit Na-patalung

- Satirachinutit School:
Teachers : 1. Mr. Saengthai Rupdi
 2. Miss Apinya Hayakvong
 3. Miss Amara Patapinyopoon
Students : 1. Mr. Sab-anan
 2. Mr. Apichart

- Samitayanusorn School:
Teachers : 1. Mr. Sakol Yangkam
 2. Mr. Kasaem Maegsatarn

- Don Bosco School:
Teachers : 1. Mr. Supot Yangkam

- (Unknown School):
Teachers : 1. Mr. Vichai
(Unknown office): 1. Mr. Dusit Seenachan.

II. Names of people who disappeared from Tambon Nobpitam, Tasala District, Nakornsrithammarat Province, during the communist suppression operation

- Mu 4 (Ban Huapan) 1. Mr. Hien Chanchum
 2. Mr. Chuan Chanchum
 3. Mr. San Prommueng
 4. Mr. Bunrit Prommueng
 5. Mr. Chot Kongchan
 6. Mr. Chien Kongchan
 7. Mr. Sawai Kaemee
 8. Mr. Vichin Sinkun
 9. Suntern Kongpiem (a boy)
Mu 3 10. Mr. Somnai Nainun
 1. Mr. Sutep
Mu 5 2. Mr. Huen
 1. Mr. Kaew Dejtim

III. Names of those killed in Nakornsrihammarat

1. Mr. Truk Sakset, aged 50, a head-teacher at Ban Huayhan School, Tambon Sautong, Rongpibun District and the father of Mr. Chammi Sakset, a former Secretary of the Socialist Party of Thailand. He was shot dead on June 1977.
2. Mr. Suttiporn Vongrampon, aged 33, a teacher at Huasaibamrungraj school, Huasai District. He was shot dead in front of his house. (See Annex 2.1).

STOP PRESS:

October 6 case on trial

The eighteen suspects in the October 6 were brought to the Military Court on 5th September, 1977. The trial was conducted by a three-man military judge panel consisting of Chief of Air Force Welfare Department, Air Vice Marshal Sansern Vanich, Col Piboon Chantarojwong and Group Captain Bun-ek Pholprapai.

The 18 defendants transported under tight security from three detention centres of Bangkok, Lamyao and Bangkwang, were greeted by over 2,000 students and well-wishers present at the Defence Ministry compound to listen to the trial. Most of them were not allowed to enter into the courtroom due to limited seats.

About 100 seats were set aside for newsmen, the defendants' relatives and the public which included officials of several embassies here.

A loudspeaker was put up in the gallery outside the courtroom to enable about 200 attendants to listen to the trial outside the courtroom.

Col Piboon read charges against the 18 which include Communist activities, threatening national stability, lese majeste, gathering of over 10 persons, assault with force and instigating unrest in the country by using weapons, intruding into government officers' at night, obstructing the authorities on duty, murder and attempted murder of government officials, and illegal possession of firearms and explosives.

Permitted to speak first, Sutham Saengprathum, a former leader of the now-defunct National Student Centre of Thailand, said the trial was unjust as they were not allowed to appoint lawyers to defend them of the charges, or even the right to appeal.

The defendants, he charged, were also not allowed to be released on bail to prepare for the trial. He pleaded to all justices and freedom lovers including US President Jimmy Carter and US Congressmen, to closely follow the trial so that it will be conducted according to the juridical proceedings and the Charter of the United Nations on Human Rights. Several other defendants including Miss Suchila and Arom asked the court that they be given more time to consult their lawyers since they are currently granted only 20 minutes per week with their lawyers.

The court accepted their request and assured the defendants that it would be submitted to the Correction Department, which has assumed responsibility of their welfare, for consideration. Arom also requested that the documents listing the charges against them should be given to them a few weeks before the trial so that they can have time to study them thoroughly. Military prosecutor Col Uthai Patakamin however, replied that the documents were confidential. The hearing ended at 11.30 am. The next hearings will be held on October 7 and 13.

VII. REPORT ON THE ACTIVITIES OF CGRS. DURING JULY AND AUGUST 1977

I. Visiting and helping prisoners of conscience and their families

a. October 6's detainees

VISIT : The group frequently and regularly visited October 6th detainees in every detention centre namely, Bangken Temporary Prison, Bangkwang Maximum Security Prison, Klong Prem Central Prison (Lard Yao), the Women Punishment Camp and Special Prison of Bangkok. For each prison the group visits the detainees at least once a week.

HELP : Beside bringing the detainees food and other necessities, the group has also helped the student detainees by asking their educational institutes for temporary leave so that they will not be cut off the student list and can continue with their studies after their release. Moreover, the group has given money to some poor detainees, name

- 1. Miss Sa-ngiam Jamduang : 200 baht per month.
- 2. Mr. Seree Sirinupong : 150 baht per month.
- 3. Mr. Orissa Irawanwat : 300 baht per month.

In addition money for legal aid is provided!

SPECIAL CASE : Mr. Orissa Irawanwat : The group has visited Orissa and his family regularly. Orissa was shot in the chin during the October 6 incident, however, in the prison he was refused medical treatment for a long time. His relatives want to bail him out for the medical treatment. The group gave the necessary bail money to his relatives. However, when his lawyer asked the Court for the bail on June 29, the bail was refused.

b. Endangering society detainees

VISIT : The group is officially prohibited from visiting the detainees directly so indirect methods have to be used. For example, it can give some food and other necessities to the detainees through their relatives and can also get some news of the prisoners through them. Through this and other expedients the group is in regular contact with many endangering society detainees.

HELP : The group has regularly helped the families of some poor detainees. Many detainees have already been released; however, the group still continues helping some of them, who still have troubles even when they are released. For example:

- 1. Mr. Supol Kamoldej's family : 300 baht in June.
- 2. Mr. Kamung Ketklang's family : 300 baht in August.
- 3. Mr. Suksan Maennirut's family : 300 baht in August.

c. THOSE ARRESTED BEFORE OCTOBER 6th

VISIT : The group visits Mr. Udom Rakkrong group every week and listens to the trial of Supap Pasaong group at the Criminal Court every Wednesday, as well as contacting ^{other} irregularly groups of detainees.

HELP : 1. Bamrung Charanyanon group. The CGRS helped hiring property (10,000 baht was needed to rent title deeds) to bail out three detainees. (The other three could afford the bail). In the first month after the release, some detainees could not support themselves yet; therefore, the group helped five of them by giving each 500 baht.

As for Mr. Yau-warat Charanyanon, Mr. Bamrung's wife, the group has regularly helped her with 600 baht per month. In addition, as she was hospitalized for an operation on her backbone, we also helped her with the hospital fees and other medical expenses.

- 2. Udom Phakkrong group. The CGRS. helped
 - Mr. San Bumpeng's family : 600 baht in August.
 - Mr. Jeng Sae-ton's family : 300 baht in August.

3. Supap Pasaong group. Supap has tuberculosis in the liver, for which the medicines are very expensive. The group has helped his family paying half of the cost of the medicines, and has also helped the two others, namely:-

- Mr. Wanta Rungja's family : 300 baht in July and August.
- Mr. Promma Nanok's family : 300 baht in July.

4. Thai Blanket Factory's case. At first the group intended to help bailing Mr. Frateep Frakgratok but found later that his relatives could afford it.

5. Supap Pasa-ong group. The CGRS. intended to help bailing out four detainees (28,000 baht needed for title deeds) because the trial will last for 2-3 years more. However, the bail was refused by the court,

II. ATTENDING TRIALS

The CGRS. has a group of volunteers attending the trials of many Prisoners of conscience, namely:-

- 1. Supap Pasa-ong and his group's case.
- 2. Bamrung Charanyanon and his group's case.

3. Udom Phakrong and his group's case.
4. Thai Blanket Factory worker 's case.
5. Pimpan Puwapan's case.
6. Tongchan Srichan and his group: 's case.
7. Bunchart Sathienthamni 's case.

III. LETTERS

1. Letters from Amnesty International to October 6th and endangering society prisoners are sent through the CGRS. The CGRS has ensured that every letter reaches the prisoners.
2. The CGRS, has volunteers to write letters to the prisoners of conscience. For the time being, there are volunteers writing to every October 6th prisoners and there are some who are beginning to write to some endangering society prisoners.

IV. SOCIAL WELFARE ACTIVITIES

The CGRS, has surveyed at Klong-toey Salam, Lock 12, and is interested in the Professional training project. But no definite action has yet been taken.

V. OTHER INJUSTICES

When other injustices are reported to CGRS, necessary action is taken. For example the release of one blind peddler was obtained, as well as other cases.

STOP PRESS

Endangering Society:

1. The 336 detainees will be the fifth group to be released after completing their education period. They were detained on a charge of Endangering Society.

Fifty one of the detainees will be released from Bangkok prisons, 74 from central region, 57 from Northeast, 42 from the North and 112 from the South.

Director-General Tawee said that as of November 12 last year, 2894 people were detained on the charge of Endangering Society of which 1489 have been released in four batches at different times. There are still 1405 under detention, including the 336 to be freed Thursday 9th September 1977.

2. These figures are somewhat worrying because they suggest that arrests are taking place of endangering society prisoners at a much more rapid rate than we had assumed. According to the corrections department on 23-6-77, 1,108 endangering society prisoners were being held which suggests that in a period of two months 297 people have been arrested for endangering society. Thus in fact new arrests under article 22 seem to be taking place at about the same rate as releases.

VIII. UP-COUNTRY

1. REPORT FROM THE SOUTH

The Southern part of Thailand has been the bloody scene of counter-insurgency military operations for many months. After the energetic operation to clean up the zones infested by communists, code named "One War", opening on December 24, 1977, followed the operation "Two War". These two operations effected the provinces in the south only, namely, Suratthani, Nakornsrihammarat, Satun, Trang and Pattalung. On January 14, a Thai-Malay joint military operation for communist suppression, named Big Star One, was launched in the provinces of Songkla and Satun along the Malaysian border, and ended on February 5. On March 14, began the operation Big Star two or Dao Yai - Musnah II, which gave the Malayan army the right to penetrate Thai territory throughout the length of the border. After the operation Big Star Two, there followed the third joint operation: Operation Cahayabana - Sacred Ray on June 5.

SONGKLA: It has been reported from Sadau District, (where, during the operation Big Star One - Two, some 1,500 Thai soldiers and 2,000 Malayan soldiers were mobilized) that many villagers, who are suspected of being communists, have been arrested. These arrested are often shot dead or tortured brutally. Sometimes the brutalities are committed openly, for example, in the market place. Thousands of acres of rubber plantations have been set ablaze. There is very strict control over the circulation and sale of all sorts of products, mainly food, commodities, medicines and arms. For example, rice and other food items are sold according to the number of the members of a family and pain killing medicine can be bought only two pills at one time. This has caused much trouble to the villagers who have to make a long journey to the town to buy things. Consequently, many people from Sadau District have migrated to other districts.

NAKORNSRITHAMMARAT: In sensitive areas, a curfew from 8:00 at night to 5:00 in the morning has been imposed. The curfew has caused much trouble to the rubber tappers, who have to tap rubber trees in the early morning, at about 2 am. Because at this time the workers can avoid sunlight which may stiffen the fluidity of the rubber, and therefore prevent a high yield. Therefore, many rubber tappers go out to work in spite of the curfew, and some have been shot dead as they were suspected of being communists.

Other atrocities have occurred. For example in this district there was an insane man, named Kaeng. He was 30 years old and lived at Sounmag Temple. He was arrested and charged of being a communist, and was severely tortured - kicked at the stomach, pricked with lighted cigarettes on his chest and stabbed on the fingers. Finally, he was recognized by a soldier as an insane man and was set free.

Tambon Nobpitan, Tasala District: This tambon is 23 kilometers from Tasala District, and has 10 villages. Most of its villagers work in rubber plantations. In the rainy season, this tambon becomes isolated from the outside world, because the water flowing from the mountains and the forests makes communications by road impossible. Therefore, this tambon has to stand on its own legs. It has its own mill, storehouse for rice, dry food and other necessities for life. Because of this, the tambon is suspected to be a supply source for communist guerrillas.

In March 1977, six villages in the tambon were declared an area that should be attacked. In this area, rice fields (after the harvest time) were set ablaze and many other places bombed. A large number of suspected villagers were arrested. Those arrested are common citizens, merchants or village heads, who were suspected of having supplied food, medicine or firearms for the guerrillas or of being a spies, or having been educated in the jungle. A number of civilian have disappeared, suspected to have been murdered, because they were last seen going up in helicopters (See Anex). Many others were arrested and jailed in Cha-ien Correction Center to have a "democratic education". (See Anex).

TRANG: Many civilians and teachers were arrested at Central District, Pahien District at Green Mountain in La-ngu District and also at Tambon Krachong and Tambon Nampud. These are all at the border of three provinces; namely, Trang, Pattalung and Satun.

PATTALUNG: The most sensitive areas in which there have been big operations were Tambon Tamod, Kauchaison District; Ban Mackru, Ban Loajangra, Kongla Sub-District; and at Ban Thad mountain range.

The Ban Thad mountain range offers a propitious condition and shelter for the guerrilla and it is along this range that the military operations are most intense. Since January tons of bombs have been dropped on this areas.

At Ban-pud, Kauchaison District, the villagers have to get used to bombs and killings. There have been from time to time notices ordering people to leave the villages in 24 hours or 34 hours and these have been followed by bombing. Thousands acres of rice fields and plantations were set ablaze and many innocent people were killed during the operations.

2. REPORT FROM THE NORTH-EAST ON VISITING DETAINEES' FAMILIES

SURIN: We visited the father of Mr. Prayong Sai-yot, an "endangering society" prisoner. He told us that when we visited him last time, in May, he dared not receive the money from us because he was threatened by the village-head, tambon-head and VDVS that if he received our money, his son would not be set free. However, when it was necessary for him to get the money, he should receive it in front of the eyes of the officials. He also told us that Mr. Prayong's family had some trouble, because the head of the family who worked was imprisoned. Therefore, we gave 300 baht to the family.

We also wanted to visit the wife of Mr. Supol Kamondet, an 'endangering society' prisoner, but we only met his uncle and sister. Therefore, we asked them to give our 300 baht to her.

We then went to Sangka District, to see Mr. Kampong Kaenkaew's wife. She was very pleased to see us. She and her children were very weak because they did not have enough food. We gave her 300 baht and agree to send her some money every month.

ROI-ED: We went to Ban Kwau, Tambon Nonghu, Panomprei District to visit the school which our group had built. A merchant had bought desks, chairs and a blackboard for the school. But unfortunately the school could not yet be in used, because it had not been checked by a relevant government official!

We then visited Mr. Wanta Rungfa's family. Wanta has 8 brothers and sisters, his father, aged 60, had lost one eye because of an accident and now his leg was swelling. His mother was very worried about him especially when some prisoners were sentenced to death. We told her that Wanta was the different case, that he was on trial in the court and she should not be so worried. We gave the family 300 baht.

UDONTHANI: The province used to have an American air base. After October 14, 1973 there was a mass demonstration against the base, and after that another demonstration against a water basin at Nongwasaw District. Moreover, in this province, the communist guerrillas had many activities and attacks. Teachers, students and common citizens are political aware. At a teacher college, there used to be a demonstration against the head-teacher. The teachers and students were on strike while the village scouts and right-wing students gathered against the demonstration. A bookstore belonging to a teacher was destroyed by village scouts.

After the military coup, many teachers and students were arrested under the 'endangering society' charge. (For some names see Annex). The arrested were interrogated at the police station and then moved to Karcontep Correction Center. Most of the teachers and students arrested were set free after 30 days, except an aggressive student, who was detained for 2 months more. The villagers arrested were further detained after the 30 days. As far as we know, one of them was detained for another 2 months.

NONGKAI: We received a petition from a villager. Her 'innocent' son, named Chalad Suriya, was arrested under the endangering society charges. She did not understand why her son was not brought to the court and why the policeman put a chain around his legs. The reason for the arrest was that a Vietnamese, named Ongvee, received a letter asking for 2,000 baht and the letter also mentioned the place where he should leave the money. The place was close to a coffee shop where Chalad and his friends were drinking. Consequently, they were all arrested five altogether, namely, Mr. Somkid Loedprasurt, aged 24; Mr. Chalad Suriya, aged 18; Mr. Rachapon Ratbarom, one Vietnamese, and another Thai whose name was unknown.

KONKAEN: We went to visit Mr. Fromma Manok's family. Mr. Fromma was the eldest son of Mr. On, aged 49 and Mrs. Buapan, aged 39. He has 7 brothers and sisters. We gave the family 300 baht.

BURERAM: We went to visit Mr. Narin Aponram's family. His parents asked us about his case and we told them the details. Narin has seven brothers and sisters. We gave the family 200 baht.

3. Situation in the sensitive areas effected by the Communist counterinsurgency

It has been twelve years now that the forces of the Thai government have had military and psychological campaigns against the "Popular Armed Forces" (the guerrillas) of the Communist Party of Thailand, since the CPT's armed struggle was first launched on August 7, 1965. At present, the violence used in counterinsurgency has increased immensely. Both the military and psychological counterinsurgency tactics such as free-fire zones, massive napalm bombing, curfew, evacuations of population, etc, have caused great troubles, suffering and loss to the poor people in sensitive areas.

Proclamation of "forbidden areas"

On January 3, 1977, Lt. Com. Pin Thammasri, the Commander of the Fourth Army, proclaimed the areas near the Banthad Mountain range in the provinces of Surathani, Nakhonsrithammarat, Patalung, Satul, Songkla, Trang and the areas near the Thai-Malayan border in the provinces of Yala and Narativat the "Forbidden areas" where nobody should enter, and their inhabitants should move out because a massive counterinsurgency programme would be launched there. Such proclamations have been issued in many sensitive areas all over the country, in accordance with the policies of "removing the fish from the sea" and "removing good people from bad ones". The purpose of the policy is to cut off any resistance or support for the guerrillas and to have an excuse for the massive bombing and shooting. Thousands of families have to leave their homes and land to live in the "Royal Sponsered Villages" and to be taken care by the state. However, the help from the state is far from that which is needed for a decent life and the people are forced to live in restricted areas under the control of the guards. There are also some people who refuse to leave their land and property and there are many who go back to harvest their crops. These people are often mistaken for communists and shot dead.

Arrest

Anyone suspected to be communist or communist sympathizer will be arrested, most of the time, through police or military. It happens that sometimes the spies give false reports to get rid of their personal enemies. For example, in almost every district and tambon there are the Village Defence Volunteers (VDV) to take care of the village; at the same time, the VDV's are spies and reporter informants for district chief and tambon headmen. Often enough, the corrupt and malpracticing district chiefs and tambon headmen use their authorities through these VDV's; using the VDV's as a tool to get profit from the people and to get rid of their personal enemies.

Moreover, after every battle with the guerrillas, a group of soldiers will clear up the fighting areas. Anybody found at the areas will be arrested and suspected of being communists.

Investigation and detention

Many of the suspects are tortured during the investigation, so as to make them confess. Some of them were sent to detention centers after their confession to have "democratic reeducation" and "psychological training", in which they are taught about the three values (nation, religion, monarchy). Some village leaders will have special training, so as to be able to respond to communist propaganda and to collect information for the authorities. However, many of those arrested disappear. When asked about this, the authorities always inform that they have been 'released' already. Some of the missing are found later on - dead secretly 'assassinated'.

Finally it should be noted that according to the communist suppression act anybody from a sensitive area can be held for 15 days reeducation without charge. Often however people are illegally held for 4 months or more without charge for reeducation.

ANNEX 1

1. ORISSA AND HIS MEDICAL TREATMENT

Until the middle of July, Orissa had not had any medical treatment. However, because of the pressure from both inside and outside the country, urging the government and the Department of Corrections to give him some medical treatment urgently, Orissa was at last taken to a doctor at the end of June. With schachles on his legs and under the watchful eyes of 3 custodians and CID officers, Orissa was taken regularly to the Dental Department at Chula Hospital once a week. His wound has much improved. He can now eat almost every kind of food, although there is still a loss of sensation at some part of his mouth.

The CID officials watch carefully who comes to see Orrissa and with whom he talks to. Until finally, the doctors have to ask his friends not to come to see him at the hospital, for fear of further troubles that might occur to both Orissa and his friends.

At present, Orissa is detained in the Sanitary Zone at the special Prison of Bangkok. When he asked to go back to Bangkaen Temporary Prison, he was refused by the Governor of the prison, who said that Orrissa had not yet recovered and if he was to change the prison, the department of Correction might be attacked (blamed) again. However, Orrissa is now pleased to stay at the Special Prison of Bangkok, because here he can work as an assistant of a doctor and helps take care of other sick prisoners.

In conclusion, the situation of Orissa is much better, thanks to all the people who fight and struggle for him from all over the world.

2. LETTER FROM SUCHIRA TANCHAMAN TO ORRISSA

July 27, 1977

are

Dear Orrissa,

We have received your letter on July 21. We are very glad that we can have a direct correspondence with you. You have given us a very good information about yourself. In fact, we have got some news about you from the friends at Bangkaen, and were very worried that you might have been deformed by the time you obtained medical treatment. All that we could do was to wish that anybody concerned would have some mercy for you.

We are very glad to hear that you can have a medical treatment right now and have unexpectedly survived from becoming deformed. However, before getting this treatment you had to go through all those obstacles. We are very impressed with your patience and endurance. We know that the pain caused by the knife of the doctor that cut your nerve was so much; however, we believe that it was lesser than the physical and mental pain you have had many times. Both of us send you our heart to lessen your pain.

As for Sa-ngiam and me, we have also some problems with our health. My health is not good, even when I was outside the prison. Although we have always tried to keep our health strong, we are still from time to time ill. Before I was put in the jail, I had just had an appendix operation, and until now I still have pain sometimes. I have talked about this to a doctor, and he said it will get better soon.

Here there is a nursing home. A doctor from the Central Hospital of the Department of Corrections comes once a week. If there is any bad cases, they are brought to the Central Hospital.

Both of us have big problems with our teeth. I have to get rid of farfar on my teeth every six weeks and Sa-ngiam has a twisted tooth which causes pain and has to be operated on. We have demanded this for a long time, but nothing happens. Until finally, on July 14 Sa-ngiam met the doctor and had an x-ray. The doctor made an appointment for the treatment on July 26 at the Central Hospital. But when the day came, we were informed that the doctor could not come because he had some bussiness to do. I asked the official if I could go to see another doctor, because I had been ill for many days and felt very weak; and was allowed. The doctor made a careful diagnosis; he suspected that I had typhoid. He ordered chest-x-rays and told me to bring the x-ray film back to him on that day so that he could be sure about the diagnosis and could give me some medicines.

While I was changing my clothes for the x-rays, the custodian told us to hurry up I asked him to wait for a moment because the doctor needed a film, and I needed the medicines, as I had been ill for many days. But the custodian said that the official car could not wait long; he had called the car to bring us back since he saw that we were finished with the dentist. So we had to go back. I ran to the doctor, telling him that I had to go. The doctor was astonished, asking if he could have a look at the film for a few minutes. When this was refused, he hurriedly took some 20 medicines for me without writing in the O.F.D. card.

Now, both of us have always tried to help and take care of each other, as best as we can. I hope I will get better soon and Sa-ngiam might get an operation, because the doctor has made another appointment on July 23.

We hope that you have further patience and recover soon. We will meet each other soon.

Always thinking of you, Your two friends,

Suchera Tanchainand and Sa-ngiam Chaemduang - October 6th Prisoners.

3. LETTER FROM A RELEASE PRISONER

August 23, 1977

Dear friend,

I have received your letter with pleasure. I have reached my home already. However, I was called for reeducation in accordance with the Peace Plan many times. I have a lot of trouble with the reeducation, because I have to borrow the money for journey every time. The next time will be on August 24.

There has been very little rain this year. My family is very poor and has no rice to eat. I have to stay with my father and rely on him. The other 5 released are as poor as I.

I thank you for your help. At present I am watched by the officials all the time. It is very difficult to go any places. However, I will struggle with all my strength and will not give up.

Yours faithfully,

Prayong.

"Released" Endangering Society Prisoner, still very closely supervised despite the release".

ANNEX 2 DETAILS OF SOME ARRESTED AND KILLED

1. THE ASSASSINATION OF MR. SUTIPORN WONGRAMPAN

On February 16, 1977, Mr. Sutiporn Wongrampan, aged 33, a civil servant teacher at Hua-sai Primary School, Nakornsri Thammarat Province, was shot dead in front of his school-residence.

Mr. Sutiporn graduated from Songkla Teachers College in 1965 and had been a teacher since then. He was married and had three children, aged 9, 7, and 2. He was an efficient leader of the people, and was one who sacrificed himself helping people in the village. Besides, he was a founder of the "Hua-rai people's Interests Protection Group", a sort of public organization that brought a harmonious collaboration among the villagers. From the other side, though, he was often mischarged as a communist sympathizer because by protecting the peoples interests, he was seen to be acting against these of corrupt officials.

A few days before his assassination, the police came to his school and stayed over night there. Meanwhile, rumours had been spread all over that the communist guerrillas would attack the police station. On the assassination day, Mr. Sutiporn went to funeral ceremony in the late evening. When he came back he was mysteriously shot dead right in front of his home.

The assassination affected the villagers deeply. Some said that it was because he had been too straight forward and too honest. For example, one day, his group hold a fair, from which many thousands of baht profit was gained. The money earned was used for the public benefit only. This made some officials angry as they got none.

Many people cried after his death. The school children made a gloomy demonstration around the school. Words that could be heard sounded like, "Where else could we ever find such a good man?"

No one has been arrested for the assassination.

2. MR. SURIN SUANPAN

Surin, aged 40, is married and has 4 children. He has been a good worker in many factories. After October 14, 1973 he began to have some leading activities among labourer. He was a member of the "Peoples Union for Democracy" and later with the Socialist Party of Thailand. He has been involved in many demonstrations and strikes. He also joined the demonstration against Thanom Kitikajorn which led to the October 6th tragedy. Having left Thammasart University before the 6th he escaped the arrest. However, after the Coup he was fired from his job and accused of being a radical. Losing his job, he turned to a private trade, selling drink (Tepsi-Cola). Finally, he was arrested while walking along a street of Bangkok, carrying a paper bag full of illegal documents and stickers urging the release of the October 6th political prisoners. It was suspected that he had been secretly followed for a long time. He was charged with endangering society.

3. MR. SUNTORN SITAMAHAPLASIN AND MR. SIRISAK SAE-UNG

Mr. Sunporn Sitamahaplasin, aged 25, a fourth-year student of the Faculty of Accountancy and Mr. Sirisak Sae-ung, aged 24, a fourth year student of the Faculty of Economics, Thammasart University were arrested on August 13 on charges of possessing pro-communist and anti-government documents.

The two were caught at their hostel, Sri-bampen Flat, when the police stormed the flat. Police found seven bags of illegal documents, a short-wave radio receiver and also several cassette tapes. According to a police official, the police had

watched them closely for a long time as the students were once arrested on October 6th and after their release they were suspected of having connections with some students leaders who fled to the jungle and of secretly distributing illegal documents in Thammasart University.

4. MR. VIRUN AMELIGO

Virun, a former student of Chiangmai Teacher's college, is alleged to be one of the leaders of the students, who fled into the northern jungles after the October 14, 1977 uprising.

Police found in his canvas shoulder bag an unlicensed Browning high power automatic, 3,200 baht cash, some Communist pro agenda documents and written communications between Virun and two other former student activists, Virasak Vetrabum and Thongchai Suwanvihok of Ramkhamhaeng University, who were also reported to have fled into the jungle to join the communist insurgents three years ago.

According to the police report, Virun controlled insurgency activities in Ban Mae Ram of Mae La Noi District while Virasak and Thongchai are active in Mae Jam District area in Chiangmai.

5. MR. VORAPOT PANTACHOT

Vorapot was arrested in May 1976 on charges of possessing pro-communist, anti-government documents, books and pictures, and was charged with a communist charge. Before October 6th, Vorapot worked with a daily newspaper and after that with a weekly magazine named 'Pai'. After he arrest, he was detained at Samsaen Police Station in Bangkok for 45 days, then moved to Bangkok Temporary Prison for another 45 days. He was brought to the Court in August to be remanded for another 90 days of imprisonment, without any trial.

ANNEX 3

REARRESTED DETAINEES

1. Surin Suannan was arrested while distributing leaflets (campaign for release of Sutham and group) in the front of Petcharama Theatre on July 7, 1977. He was detained in Phayathai Police Station and then was moved to Bangkok Temporary Prison. But in the middle of August, because evidence against him was weak so they use the decree No. 22 of the NARC detained him as Endangering Society.

2. Wichai and Somboon Bunlusilp: They were arrested in the mid of October 1976 on the decree 22 of the NARC. But on 10 July, 1977, they were released and rearrested against on Anti Communist Act. (1952) on the same day. Now they were held in Bangkok Temporary Prison.

3. Wirat Trern: He was arrested and charged with ten charges as others in the October 6th case since 6th October, 1976. On 25 August 1977, he was released and rearrested again at the same time with no other charges, except saying that he was an unwanted person. He was firstly detained in the immigration Prison on Sathorn Road. After a week he was transferred to Lad Bua Kaw at 'Stan Up-rom Piset'. Address: Lantakong Dam, Klong Fai, Amphur Srikaew, Korat. (Nakornrajrerna)

ANNEX 4 THE TRAGIC SITUATION OF THE RELEASED ENDANGERING SOCIETY PRISONERS

The endangering society prisoners still have no freedom after they are released. Some of them have to be 'reeducated' in some other detention centers. And when the prisoners from up-country reach their home town, they are secretly followed or 'invited' to have some talk with the police frequently. However, the poor released prisoners have to report themselves to the police every week, while the rich or the educated will have some officials visiting them from time to time. Before leaving their home district for any purposes, they have to get a permission from the district officials. Besides, these people have to pay for their journey to the district at the reporting time and to the reeducation centers. Ordinarily, most of them are poor enough and when they are put in prison, their financial situation is even worse, because they have lost their job already, and to find a new one is also very difficult. Those who are farmers also meet as sorrowful a tragedy, because this year there is very little rain and even the free farmers are already bankrupt. Therefore, some of them try to come to Bangkok to find a job; however, they are mostly not allowed to do so. Because of this, the released prisoners get into another trap; they still lose their freedom and have a very hard life.

ANNEX 5 THE STRIKES OF WORKERS AFTER OCTOBER 65

The strike at Navy Department Yard.

In the morning of January 19, 1977, one thousand workers at the Navy Department Yard at Arunamarin Street, Bangkoknoi District, Bangkok, gathered at the gate of the Department. The workers were not satisfied with a new regulation over the working hour. According to the new regulation, the workers could pass the gate at 7:30, began working at 8:00, but had to stand in line to be checked by number before beginning working; stopped working at 11:50, had lunch at 12:00, prepared to work again at 12:30, began working at 12:45 and stopped at 16:45. A worker who broke the rule would have 10% of his salary cut because of the new regulation the workers had to come to the Department very early to have their arrival time stamped time, because there were so many workers. However, the head-guard did not let the workers pass the gate before 7:30. Therefore, a lot of workers had to wait in front of the gate. When the gate was opened on that day, the workers did not pass it, but gathered against the new regulation.

The workers made a petition to the Deputy-Director General of the Department with the following demands:-

- 1) Adjust the salary scales two steps per year.
- 2) Change the regulation over the entering and leaving the Department.
- 3) Adjust the workers' welfare
- 4) The strikers would neither be considered guilty nor punished.

Rear-Admiral Palitdej Rumakom, the Deputy-Director General of the Department called a meeting of navy officers to consider the appeals. The result was that they could accept any demands.

Admiral Ching Chulasukam, the Chief of Staff of the Navy reconciled the workers and declared that the workers would not be guilty for the strike. But the workers still gathered. Finally, the Admiral declared that the workers' action was against the Declaration of the MRC; the workers should begin working now; those who did not want to work on that day could go back home without any guilt, and come back the next day. At 12:00 the workers went back to their work.

On January 20, 1977, the next day, the workers could pass the gate at 6:00 a.m. Rear Admiral Palitdej said that the disturbance from the new regulations arose from the misunderstanding of the head-guard. In the future, any workers who strike would be arrested right away.

The strike of workers at five Goats dry cell factory (Saensfa Battery Thai Co.)

On January 19, 1977, 800 workers at five Goats dry cell factory were on strike with in order to adjust the wage scales from 25 baht to 28 baht per day. However, the employer insisted on 27 baht; therefore, the strike continued, until the Labour Department sent the officials to negotiate. Finally, the employer gave up and increased 3 baht to every workers' daily wages.

Proclamation against strikes and closing work or obtaining employment.

On January 21, 1977, Air Chief Marshal Kamol Dejatungka, the Commander in Chief of Internal Public Peace and Order proclaimed any strikes lockouts were illegal.

"Because there have been strikes in some factories inspite of the Martial Law and the proclamation against strikes and lockouts against the Labour Law. Such action disturbs public order and subverts the security of the Kingdom; thus those who commit

those action will be heavily punished. The Commander in Chief of Internal Public Peace and Order warns the employers and employees again that during the Martial Law no strikes nor lockouts are allowed. The penalty for disobedience is imprisonment."

Arrest of workers at Five Goats dry cell factory (Saengfa Battery Thai Co.)

On January 22, 1977, Police arrested 12 strikers from Five Goats dry cell factory. The charges filed against the 12 workers were striking in time of Martial Law, and endangering society.

Strike and arrest of workers at Royal Mosaic tile factory (Royal Mosaic Export Co. Ltd.)

January 14-21, 1977, 1,100 workers at Royal Mosaic tile factory at Saraburi Province were on strike because the employer refused to pay the year's bonus. After the negotiation, the employer promised to increase the salary for every workers but not to pay the bonus. The strike stopped thereafter.

On January 22, 1977, police arrested 15 workers under the endangering society charge; accusing them of behaving with violence, using violence and threat towards others; and disturbing public order.

DETENTION CENTERS

Udonthani: Karoonthep Corrections Center

Karoonthep Corrections Centre is a detention and interrogation center for political prisoners and those who have communist charges or endangering society charges. The center covers 9 provinces in the upper part of the north-east of Thailand, for example Nongkai and Loei.

General Situation: The detainees are divided into two groups; the first group is made up of those who surrender and the latter those who are arrested. These two groups are treated differently; those who surrender get 2 sets of clothes (one set consists of a trouser and a shirt) and food at 12 baht per day, while those arrested get only one set of clothes and food at 10 baht per day.

Reeducation: There are re-education sessions twice a month, in which the detainees are taught about democracy in comparison with communism. What is concentrated on most is the loyalty to the Nation, Monarchy and Religion. Only villagers, (not including teachers and students) are supposed to be re-educated; however, others can join the re-education if they wish.

Interrogation: occurs from time to time, depending on the interrogators and reports, but seems to take place very often at first. In the first 20 days the detainees will be observed and watched closely, and visiting hours are rather short. There is also isolated solitary detention for the 'leaders' of the communists. In the narrow and dull cell, the health of the detainees are weakened quickly.

Detainees:

- a. During November 1976 - April 1977 there were 8 detainees, six of which were Vietnamese living in the Central District, Udonthani and another two were Thais living in Na-Klang District, Udonthani.
- b. At present there are 13 detainees; nine of whom have surrenders from Udonthani, Sakonnakorn and Loei. The other 4 were arrested, one Thai from Udonthani and 3 Vietnamese from Loei.

Nakornrajsima:

1. Profession Training Center is a newly built detention center for endangering society prisoners. The Center is located in the town.
2. Ladbuakan Concentration Camp is a detention center for Vietnamese with different charges, for example, illegal possession of firearms, moving firearms, selling narcotic drugs, and so on. One October 6th student who was released from Bangkok on 24 August 1977, was rearrested and moved there (Wirat Tuen).

Songkla:

1. Central Correction Center is a detention for prisoners who have already been on trial, whose detention time is over 10 years. There are about 1,000 detainees here.
2. Special Correction Center is a detention for prisoners with light punishment.
3. Temporary Correction Center is a detention for prisoners who are going to be set free. The detainees have outdoor work, such as growing vegetables or keeping farm animals.
4. Profession Training Center is a detention place for "endangering society" prisoners. There are about 232 detainees there.

These four correction centers are located in Sounteen District, 3 kilometers from the town and close to the mountain.

General Situation: There are about 2,000 detainees altogether in the centers. Each detainee has food at 6.50 baht per day and gets meat once a week. The detainees are classified according to their charges. Those with big charges and those arrested for the second time go to 'bad' class and those with smaller charges to 'fair' class. After 4 months they will be reclassified again. If the prisoners have cooperative behaviour, they will be moved to 'good' class, after that to 'very good' and 'super' class. There is reported to be torture and other mispractices in these correction centers.

Training: In the Profession Training Center as well as in the other three centers, the detainees have the following training: metal welding, basketry, carving and so on. The detainees receive 35% of the proceeds of their work, the custodians 10% and the rest belong to the government.

Interrogation: There are four interrogators: the governor of the province, the head of the district and 2 custodians.

Nakornsrihammarat :

1. Central Correction Center
 2. Special Correction Center
- These two centers are located at Rajdamoen Street in the town. There are about 2,000 detainees here.
3. Temporary Correction Center is located at Pakpanang District.
 4. Open Correction Center is located at Mag Mountain, Ronpiboon District.
 5. Cha-ien Democratic Training and Correction Center is for political and communist prisoners only. The center is situated four kilometers from the town, in Vachirawut Camp, the place where the Forth Army mobilizes from.

Detainees : The detainees are those suspected to be communists or communist sympathizers from the southern provinces such as Petalung, Surathani, Trang, Satue, Nakornsrihammarat. The arrested are 're-educated' for 15 days and then detained in the center or sent to Bangkok.

From the military coup in October 1976 until now (July 1977) there have been three groups of detainees attending re-education programmes.

- The first group consisted of 185 detainees. Some of them were set free on March 3, 1977. (the exact number is unknown).

- The second group consisted of 235 detainees. Some of them were set free on June 11, 1977. (the exact number is also unknown).

- The third group consisted of 211 detainees. Some of them were set free on July 5, 1977. Fifty detainees were detained at the center and more than ten were sent to detentions in Bangkok. As far as we know, among those sent to Bangkok are Mr. Win Chanchum, Mr. Samboon Dangbien and Mr. Hid Dangprom.

General Situation : according to the officials, the general situation of the detention is rather good, because most of the detainees are educated and political aware. Some of them are rich or wellknown. The detainees get food at 12 baht per day. Entering the detention, the detainees get one set of clothes and a mosquito-net. They live together, about fifty in each house.

ANNEX 7

THE BURNING OF THE GOVERNOR OF NAKORNSRITHAMMARAT'S RESIDENCE

On January 4, 1975, there was a big flood in many provinces in the south of Thailand, and the government together with the Thai people donated a large sum of money, food and other necessities for the relief of victims of the flood. In Nakornsrihammarat province, the governor was not fair with the distribution of food and money. Because of this and because the people had long been dissatisfied with their governor, Mr. Klai Chitpipat, there was a demonstration against him. On January 22, some demonstrators set fire to his residence. The Ministry of Interior promised to change the governor but would also take legal proceedings against those responsible for the arson and some of the demonstrators.

On March 30, 1975, students in Bangkok and up-country demonstrated against the arrest of the demonstrators. There was a mass demonstration at Nakornsrihammarat province. Finally, the Council of Ministers made a decision to only take legal proceedings against those accused of robbery and to release those accused of causing riot.

However, on April 6, 1975, Police in Nakornsrihammarat went on strike and urged the Police all over the country to join the strike against the decision of the Council of Ministers "to protect the law and the dignity of the police." The demands of the police strikers was that the Prime Minister, the Minister of Interior and the Chief of Police Department should declare that the release was motivated by political reasons and not by insufficient evidences. The government accepted the demands of the strikers.

On July 24, 1975 Police arrested 5 persons. The first three were accused of committing arson and the other two of thieving. They were as follows:-

1. Mr. Wanchai Tantisasirat
2. Mr. Bunkul Saeng-Ung
3. Mr. Prakong Pakdichart
4. Sergeant Siri Petsawat
5. Mr. Tannob Kongchart

After the October 6th Coup, the police reopened these case, and arrested at least another three men, (only because others were supposed to have joined the guerrillas in the forest.)

ANNEX 6

LIST OF PRISONERS RELEASED FROM "DANGEROUS TO SOCIETY" CHARGES ON 10 JULY, 1977

NO.	NAMES	OCCUPATION	ADDRESS
1.	Suchart Malalin	carpenter	Amphur Ratanabury, Surin.
2.	Pong Meesai	Committee of Socialist	Nakornsrithammarat.
3.		Party	
3.	Boonmee Kakarati	worker	Amphur Kingsanom, Surin.
4.	Tawal Aneknuat	a member of labour union	Chaiyapoom.
5.	Wichien Boonkla	Teacher	13 Ban Kor-Janvan, Amphur Sangka, Surin.
6.	Pisut Fitchom	teacher	Amphur Sangka, Surin.
7.	Suphichai Chomsri	teacher	
8.	Kampong Kangkaew	a farmer	Surin.
9.	Supol Kamoldej	a farmer	Surin.
10.	Prayong Saiyod	a farmer	Surin.
11.	Wichai Wichitranon	worker	Nongkai.
12.	Boonrit Wongprasert	teacher	250 Ban Don, Mu 13, Muang Phan, Amphur Phan, Chiengrai.
13.	Somboon Banlusilp	worker of Metropolitan Telephone	Ubon.
14.	Wichai Banlusilp	a farmer	Bangkok.
15.	Sornchai Nampiang	teacher	Amphur Chombueng, Rajburi.
16.	Miraphai Tanaleelangkul	a member of Socialist Party, Manager of a mine	Kalasin.
17.		selling mineral	
17.	Kitipong Chairit	accounting	Kalasin.
18.	Aksorn Saisilp	photographer	Bangkok.
19.	Frasong Wisetsangkom		122 Soi Anulakjedas, Amphur Tadpanom, Nakornpanom.
20.	Manas Lamangkul		
21.	Udom Rakpan		
22.	Wichai Jindawong		
23.	Tawee Puakphoom	farmer	52 Mu 3 Thashi District, Amphur Nakhon Phanom, Surin.
24.	Tawil Puakphoom	farmer	Amphur Wiengsra, Suratthani.
25.	Seri Puakphoom	farmer	" " " "
26.	Sommai Sae-Kok	worker	" " " "
27.	Jaroon Srisuksai	Ranckamhaeng Student	8/3 Surang Rd., Amphur Betat, Kala.
28.	Hue Langkakulnawat	Merchant	39 Mu 2 Dan Yang District, Petchaburi.
29.	Kaew Phanba	merchant	48/1, 2 Saththamana Rd., Amphur Muang, Surin.
30.	Sornchai Sae kee	worker of Thai Garment Factory, a member of Amnoi Textile Labour Union.	15/13 Soi Sarn Chao Sae Sin, TakSin Rd., Bukkhaloo District, Amphur Thanburi, Bangkok.
31.	Siroj Thangsai	teacher	
32.	Phramma Namwichai	teacher	Ban Narang, Narong District, Amphur Sangka, Surin.
33.	Long Boenthaeng	teacher	14 Mu 8 Sri Narang District, Amphur Champhanburi, Surin.
			4 Mu 11, Pon Klok District, Amphur Thantom, Surin.

NOTE:

No. 29 To be moved to the Ban Lad Buaw Kwa, Amphur Si Kieu, Nakornrajsrima.
 No. 31-33 *** teacher in the protection right group.

APPENDIX 9

LIST OF PEOPLE WHO WERE CHARGED "DANGEROUS TO SOCIETY" WHO ARE NOW HELD IN THE VOCATIONAL TRAINING BANGKOK II

NAMES	OCCUPATION	ADDRESS
1. Wiroj Chandaeng	a truck driver	Self Help Village "Nimkerlong" Mu 2, Amphur Bannangsta, Yala.
2. Kesorn Kaopong		77 Mu 7, Lamphoon District, Amphur Nasan, Surattanee.
3. Wichai Jindawong		52 Mu 3, Tachee District, Amphur Nasan, Surattanee.
4. Werasak Jai-ae		68 Ban Yasai, Ponsai District, Amphur Mukdahan, Nakornphanom.
5. Sawat Siri		107 Mu 7, Lamphoon District, Amphur Nasan, Surattanee.
6. Chan Maisri	a driver for the Government Transportation Organization	298 in front of railway station, Amphur Ban Pai, Konkaen.
7. Prasert Paison	a teacher	306 Mu 5, Nakornchum District, Amphur Muang, Kamphangphet.
8. Chaiwat Limsettanuwat		119 Mu 3, Ban Toong Setthee, Phran Kratai District, Amphur Phran Kratai, Kamphangphet.
9. Boonlua Bodhisiri		134 Mu 1, Tritrueng District, Amphur Muang, Kamphangphet.
10. Sien King-Kaew	a monk	127 Mu 1, Ban Bueng District, Amphur Muang, Surin.
11. Pricha Kongpakdee	a teacher of Rajaseema College	Amphur Muang, Nakornrajaseema.
12. Suksan Muannirut	a teacher at Kerat Technical College	114 Akarnsongklow Stannee Jera, Nakornrajaseema.
13. Weratat Maneesuwan	Student at Kerat Technical College	2286/1 Jomphol Rd., Amphur Muang, Nakornrajaseema.
14. Anon Bodhanukorn	" " "	1289/91 Jomphol Rd., Amphur Muang, Nakornrajaseema.
15. Tam Tranwan	a merchant	Ter. Charoeng Shep, Amphur Mukdahan, Nakornphanom.
16. Tid Tranwan	photographer	Hong Phap TV., Market, Amphur Mukdahan, Nakornphanom.
17. Tawiet Takong	a merchant	Nakornphanom.
18. Trion Phamhueng	a gardener	Nakornphanom.
19. Kon Ngienwan	a merchant	
20. Chatchai Yodpongpiat		26 Mu 5, Ban Hua-Suang, Nhong Ruk-Kang, Amphur Sanom, Surin.
21. Yothin Wengchalard		20 Sanom District, Amphur Sanom, Surin.
22. Butrdee Babyang		21/40 Mu 2, Sanom District, Amphur Sanom, Surin.
23. Surat Prathomkaew		
24. Uthai Nilchan		
25. Bai Kiewthaiseng	a farmer	131 Mu 4, Ban Silium, Chongmaew District, Amphur Chumphong, Nakornrajaseema.
26. Kanueng Ketklang	a teacher	37 Mu 2, Ban Silium, Mai District, Amphur Nonsung, Nakornrajaseema.
27. Hek Tranhueng	a gardener	Nakornphanom.
28. San Wengsathan	a merchant	126-7/5 Changsanid, Amphur Kuangnai, Ubon.
29. Prathwon Jai-aree	a barber	Ubon.
30. Chakar Burakorn	a farmer	Amphur Samrongthap, Surin.
31. Annuyay Thammaphet		42/3 behind Wat Cherapratarn, Amphur Fakkred, Nonburi.
32. Jalamporn Maklon		Uditaradit.
33. Sin Jintapracha	student	52 Mu 3, Wat Maprang District, Amphur Sikao, Trang.
34. Komol Benchuwong	worker	Nakornsrithammaraj.
35. Pra Maha Sawat Sukklap	a monk (a teacher)	Wat Cholapratarn, Fakkred District, Nonburi.
36. Boensuk Kaewkong	worker	Nakornsrithammaraj.
37. Ran Chuman	student	52 Mu 7, Kria District, Amphur Ranod, Songkla.

<u>NAMES</u>	<u>OCCUPATION</u>	<u>ADDRESS</u>
38. Phuang Ngermlium		58/6 Mu 2, Thapraja District, Amphur Sa-ard, Nakornsriathammaraj.
39. Prathwon Ngamkam		75 Ban Klongsinka, Mookee District, Amphur Pakchong, Nakornrajaseemar.
40. Chalong Henpholngam		
41. Suilim Sae Lin		
42. Un Suporn		11 Mu 9, Donyanang District, Amphur Porncharoen, Nongkai.
43. Sawang Sirikan		
44. Chuom Senee		Mu 3, Nampud District, Amphur Muang, Trang.
45. Chuen Jongthong	work in his own rubber plantation	108 Mu 8, Krachong District, Amphur Muang, Trang.
46. Juan Thinna	rubber plantation worker	50 Mu 3, Krachong District, Amphur Muang, Trang.
47. Waew Numuen	work in his own rubber plantation	147 Mu 1, Numpud District, Amphur Muang, Trang.
48. Boonsong Kwannimitr	" " "	" 138 Mu 3, Numpud District, Amphur Muang, Trang.
49. Jap Nakin	rubber plantation worker	30 Mu 5, Ban Krongnai, Krachong District, Amphur Muang, Trang.
50. Prasop Nuakam	work in his own rubber plantation	108 Mu 6, Krachong District, Amphur Muang, Trang.
51. Aiewphat Sae Aiew		Songkle.
52. Bowon Sanghanak		Chiengrai.
53. Kanna Sitsri		2/13 Ban Nongrua, Chaiwan, District, Sub-Amphur Chaiwan, Udon.
54. Udom Panjakorn		22/7 Ban Laoyung, Koklam District, Jaturapekpinan, Roi-ait.
55. Nokkaew Srikaew		168 Tanalai Rd., Amphur Muang, Chiengrai.
56. Sansakrit Srikaew	student at Chiengrai Teacher College	" " " "
57. Boonnom Panyoyai	school-boy at Samkee Withaya-kom, Amphur Muang, Chiengrai	Ban Kieng, Saw District, Amphur Chiengkong, Chiengrai.
58. Da Wingna		153 Mu 11, Sawangdindaeng District, Amphur Sawangdindaeng, Sakonnakorn. Bangkok.
59. Surin Suanpan	staff in Siam Continental Hotel	
60. Yon		Phetchaboon.
61. Arong Worawon	a teacher in Muslim School	Amphur Yarang, Pattani.

NOTE: No. 31 - 37 arrested in the same case as Fra Maha Sawat Sukklap.

SUPARP PASANG : From an interview in Prachachat (a weekly magazine),
13 th May, 1976.

Prachachat: Please tell us about the living conditions of the workers and labourers that you have seen.

Suparp : Life of workers is one of hardship. I myself have been a worker for some time, so as to understand their plight. They work hard all day long, sweating in the heat. But they are paid little, say, 18-20 baht per day with 8-13 hours of work, though they should get at least 25 baht as guaranteed by the labour law. In many factories at large, the wages are incredibly low, as low as 12-15 baht per day.

This minimum wages, 25 baht per day, was effected by the Sanya Thammasak government since 16th January 1975. According to the government, 25 baht per day was anticipated to be sufficient for a family with 3 members. But in reality it never was and has never been enough for a decent living. Generally, a worker has more than 3 persons in the family. Many of them have up to 5 or 6 children. Almost a year and a half has passed, the minimum wage has still never been revised while the cost of living climbs higher and higher every month every year. How can a worker possibly live on this pay.

Prachachat: Can you go deeper into it?

Suparp : Try to talk to the workers and listen to their grievance and you will know how great their suffering is. Even I myself, who have already known much about their misery, can't help being infuriated upon hearing about their sufferings, their being cheated and exploited. I just can't help but sympathize with them even though I understand well what the cause is.

The employers treat the workers like slaves, except that they pay them wages. They can dismiss the workers whenever they want, and often without paying them any compensation. And the workers' leaders are fired after every strike. This happens in almost every factory.

Being dismissed from work means you become short of rice for the pot. And there is not much opportunity for a worker to find new employment. To be unemployed is one of the worse thing that could ever happen, for it brings great suffering to both the worker and his family.

Even though according to the Labour Law, the employers are prohibited to dismiss or lay off any worker or any workers' leader after a strike, in reality the law is not enforced. When a worker is expelled, the Labour Department never lends him a hand. But it ironically takes issue against the workers if some of them have a strike which because of the ignorance of workers break the law. As you know, these workers know very little about the labour law and its complication. They will strike only if they are unbearably exploited. Yet the Labour Department treats them strictly while it ignores the illegalities of the employers.

Prachachat: As you have seen, in what ways don't the employers act as obliged by the law?

Suparp : If you look into statistical reports of the Labour Department you will see that in 125 factories out of 150 being surveyed, the owners usually ignore the law. What the Labour Department authorities did was only to issue warnings to those 120 factories, only 4 were notified that they must observe the law conduct, and only

one factory was subjected to a trial. All of this was reported shamelessly. Now you see how small in number are the factories that act in accordance with the law compared with thousands of factories all around Bangkok.

And there are hundreds of regulations that employers have to follow. But even the most important one--the wages-- is ignored, so what could you expect for other essentials like workers' minimum working hours and safety, the use of children's and women's labour, sick leave, the provision of doctors and nurses at the factory, drinking water, water closets, and so on. Though all these are only the minimum requirements as demanded by the law, yet they are totally neglected. I rarely saw employers treat their workers kindly, even in cases where the law insists that they do so.

Frachachat: And what have you and your friends done at Om-Noi?

Suparp : Om-Noi is a factory area where many workers work and live. Most factories there are of small and medium sizes. And the workers there are also exploited and mistreated. We have a 'Textile Labour Union of Samutsakorn (name of the province)' which is legally established for the purpose of protecting the workers' interests. It is well supported by all the workers.

This union has been established for just over two years. According to the labour law, it is a legitimate union. In every democratic country, workers have rights to establish organisations. And their organisation must build a strong bargaining power in order that it really protects the workers from abuse. The employers have the advantage over the workers since they have both money power and the law on their side. Moreover, the employers have formed an organisation to protect their interest.

But here in Thailand labour union are much restricted. The workers can organise only if they work in the same type of factories. They are even strictly supervised by the Labour Department. Workers are poor, and so are all the labour unions, including ours. We cannot help them as we would like to. Although our union is legally established, it is often suspected as the cause of all troubles.

'The Om-Noi Labour Union' is a consultative organisation for the workers on any matter dealing with the labour law. Most of the workers do not know about their legitimate rights; and the employers do not hesitate to exploit this situation. This is where we come in, to educate the workers on the labour law and their fundamental rights. We usually send a consultant to help them in their disputes with the employers whenever a strike takes place, or when any worker, especially any workers' representative, is forced to resign. We do as our motto says : "Devote yourself to serve your fellow workers."

The labour union's committee and members always work devotedly and patiently, without getting any benefit in return. They join the union in their free time despite the hard work at the factory, and even sometimes they have to skip work to accomplish the union's affairs.

We very well realize that we are not the ones who will free the workers from the bondage, rather we work closely with them to set up a strong organisation so that in the future they could stand on their own. As the workers are already deprived of their rights, it is very unfair when the government tries to prevent us, particularly the students, from helping the workers. It should, to the contrary, actively support this.

Our other intention is to learn more about the life of the workers. We appreciate many of their virtues such as love of labour, self-endurance, self-sacrifice, love for their fellow workers, frugality and courage in their struggles. Proud to say, we have been moulded in these wonderful surroundings.

Prachachat: And what were the results of your work or problems that you have encountered?

Suparp : We must give the achievements of the union the utmost importance, our own work is secondary, but of course both of them are closely related.

Since the students' uprising in October 1973, large-scale strikes have been held throughout the country. This shows how conscious the workers are of their democratic rights. In the past, the workers were so repressed and exploited by the fascist regime for such a long time that they dared not rise up to demand justice. Now, the workers can stand up face to face with their employers and voice their grievance.

One of the major events that took place was a strike led by Om- Noi's workers on June 1974. The strike lasted 7 days and 7 nights and many workers from other industrial zones participated. An increase in the wage was the issue. This was really their first political gathering since 1957. As a result of this, the minimum wages were revised from 12 baht to 16 baht, 20 baht and 25 baht respectively. By 1975, the labour law was proclaimed throughout the country. The 'Textile Union of Samutsakorn' was set up and became the main organisation to struggle for the workers in the Omnoi and the adjacent areas. We play the role of labour consultants and assist the workers in their negotiation with the employers. Since then, many strikes took place and naturally we were being blamed as the source for all the labour unrest.

In addition, in order to reduce the isolation of different group, our union tries to coordinate and initiate cooperation and unity among workers of various factories in the zone. For instance, when one of the factories is on strike, workers from other factories pay them visits, give them encouragement and assistance either in the form of food or money. Finally, "United Workers Funds" were set up to aid workers in long-term struggles. As the labour law allow only workers in the same type of factories to organise, a 'labour Council' was founded.

What the employers and the bureaucrats were really afraid of was that our union would lead the workers in a political struggle. This is unavoidable since the workers are always deprived of their democratic rights, deceived and most of all exploited by the capitalists and the ruling class. If the workers were not oppressed, they wouldn't rise up and the people wouldn't support them. But as can be seen from the past, strikes were often held to initiate government's action on such issues as minimum wages and food prices. In another incident, a crowd of 3,000 people rallied to demonstrate against police brutality. The police ruthlessly put down a strike of the Standard Garment Company in which one of the defenceless women workers was badly beaten up. A strike was organised at Thammasat University to demand justice for a woman worker at a cement tile factory who was killed by hooligans, etc.

The capitalists assisted by the bureaucrats would use every means to make strikes unsuccessful, sometimes by prolonging the negotiation; sending gangsters and hooligans to disrupt the strikes or even police to threaten us; and sometimes hiring labour representatives to disrupt the workers' unity and stir up hatred against the union. If the strike was successful because the workers were well organised and united the employers would conspire to force the labour leaders out of their jobs.

Right-wing white terror is mainly organised by Nawapol (an ultra-rightist group), village scouts, the capitalists, the bureaucrats and the police. Many a time, spies would be sent to mix up with the workers and threaten us openly.

We ourselves are not frightened by this. But as March 20 draw near, the day where a big rally would be held to demand the so -

complete withdrawal of the American bases, the rightists began to spread rumours that our union would lead the workers in this mass demonstration. We were also notified by the owner of the house to evacuate by the end of March. We believed that the owner of the house was forced to do so under pressure from high government officials at the district level.

As it would take us some time to find a new place, we decided to build a hut on some public land and use it as our temporary office. At the same time, we managed to rent a house to keep our belongings. And this is the place where they arrested us. On the morning of March 30, the four of us including five workers were arrested. Our house was ransacked by the police and all of our belongings were taken away. It is very clear that there has been an attempt in every way to destroy the union.

Prachachat: Personally, have you ever been threatened?

Suparp : Not only I myself, but many of the labour leaders were threatened with their lives. We have learnt that they even set up a murder squad specially for carrying out this task.

When I was a consultant of the Hara workers (manufacturers of dresses) I used to be threatened. But I was also well protected by the workers. The road to freedom is very rough and risky. One must be prepared to go to jail and even pay for it with one's own life. But we, the workers and the labour leaders are ready to stand up and struggle firmly and courageously to achieve economic justice.

Prachachat: How do you feel about your being arrested?

Suparp. : We are aware that to struggle for the cause of the poor there is no reward. But what we desire most is social and economic justice even though we may have to pay for it with our lives. Our arrest this time proves that the capitalists and the ruling class, angered by the workers' activities, have begun their scheme of repression. However, we are not put all by this at all. Our hearts and minds are dedicated in fighting injustice, and no power in the world can bend us from this ideal.

Nine persons, that is, the students and workers have been arrested this time. But there are millions of workers and thousands of students who will stand up and join in the struggle for a just society, a society in which there is freedom and justice, no more exploitation and oppression. Therefore, the capitalists and the bureaucrats would be sadly mistaken if they think that by stopping one labour grievance, everything would calm down. Such things will never happen. What the ruling class can do at the most is to accumulate more and more problems, and a day will come when everything is just too late.

Prachachat: What do you feel about the charges that you are accused of?

Suparp : We were accused and charged with three things:

1. communism;
2. anti-government activities, both internal and external threat to national security;
3. illegal possession of firearms.

The charges weren't that surprising as they are often used by the fascist regime in the past to suppress people who fought for justice. At present, the same charges are still adopted to convict people which proves that the present government is no different from the past.

Anti-communist laws cover wide range of activities, we can say, almost all anti-government activities. The government can easily wrong any person or whoever it deems as its enemy. But the truth cannot be distorted for ever and ever.

Prachachat: What hopes have you got for your case, especially when the new government is established?

Suparp : As a matter of fact, the anti-communist laws are political issues. It is the policy of the government in contrast to criminal laws. Local police dare not arrest anybody because it can escalate into a mass demonstration. Therefore, the order of our arrest must have come from a higher level. Our case shows clearly that the ruling class do not care any more to conceal their true motives. They will take every opportunity to suppress the workers. Under this condition, we feel that we have very little chance of being free again.

But if we are tried and convicted, we will not be moved a bit. We only feel sorry that we wouldn't be able to work with the workers as much as we have intended, but of course for a certain period only. If we are ever set free again, we would certainly rejoin the workers in their struggle. Whatever has happened in the past proves that we have done the right thing. In the midst of the workers, we feel very warm and well protected. We are very gratified for the love and affection they have shown, and even in jail, they have done so.

Frachachat: Do you have anything to say to the people outside?

Suparp : The future of the people is bright and prosperous, although the path leading to it is rough, full of poverty and exploitation. The struggle of the people, workers and peasants is a just struggle; one that is full of pride, hope and future promise. A day will come when the poor people will be victorious. And on that day, all the injustice and exploitation will be done away with. The ruling class may suppress the movement of the people but they cannot solve the problems of poverty and injustice.

Frachachat: Do you regret that you won't be able to participate labour day activities?

Suparp : The labour day which marks the victory of the working class in their struggle against the injustice turns up once again. We regret that we will not be able to celebrate this great day with our brothers and sisters, the workers, as we have done in the past. But deep in our hearts, every one of us is very delighted. What we can do at the most is to send our hearts and minds to unite with our brothers and sisters, the workers, all over the country. With the great unity among workers and peasants, with their firmness, courage and self-sacrifice in the struggle, victory will certainly be ours.

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ANNEX 11

THE USE OF ARTICLE 21 OF THE THAI CONSTITUTION (July - August)

The past two months (July - August) have proved that the Thai government will continue to use the Article 21 of the constitution to supposedly solve the problems of the country. The text of Article 21 is as follows:

"In the case where the Prime Minister deems it necessary for the prevention or suppression of an act subverting the security of the Kingdom, the Throne, national economy, or the state affairs, of an act disturbing or threatening public order or good morals, or any act destroying national resources or damaging public health, notwithstanding such act occurring before or after the day on which this Constitution is promulgated, or occurring within or outside the Kingdom, the Prime Minister shall, with the approval of the Cabinet and the Advisory Council to the Prime Minister, have the power to issue any order or take any action, and such order or acts as well as acts performed in compliance there with shall be considered lawful.

After having issued any order or taken any action under paragraph one, the Prime Minister shall inform the National Administrative Reform Assembly of it".
 25 July, 1977: Prime Minister Thanin Kraivichien exercised his absolute power under Article 21 for the EIGHT time. Twenty two government official previously posted at Aranyaprathet near the Cambodian border were summarily punished with jail terms ranging from 5 to 15 years for collusion in the massive smuggling of essential goods and weapons into the Communist country.

The 22 comprised of six police officers, thirteen customs officials,

one district officer, one tambon headman and one assistant vilage headman were charged on a number of courts including receiving bribes from provincial traders, falsifying documents to issue ID card to a Cambodian refugee, calluding in smuggling, negligence of their duties and endangering national security.

26 August 1977: Three young men were summarily executed by firing squads in three provinces (Ra-yong, Nong-khai, Nakorn-sawan) for seperate alleged cases of raping and brutally killing under aged girls, of 8, 12 and 15 respectively.

1. Jek alias Vichit Fanond, aged 23 was executed at Nakorn Sawan provincial prison, for allegedly raping and killing a 12 year-old girl in Nakorn-sawan province.

2. Samporn alias Sunthorn Simuang, aged 19, was executed for allegedly raping and murdering an eight year-old girl in Nongkhai province.

3. Udorn alias Dau Amrin, aged 23, was executed for allegedly raping and murdering 15 year-old girl in Ra-yong Province.