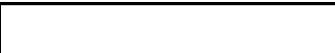


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30 March 1955



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Office of Current Intelligence

CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE AGENCY



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State Dept. review completed

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SUMMARY

SOUTHEAST ASIA

1. Thai premier lukewarm over close co-operation with Burma
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LATE ITEM

4. USSR rumored to want neutral belt in Europe (page 5).

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25X1A [redacted]

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SOUTHEAST ASIA

- 25X1A 1. Thai premier lukewarm over close co-operation with Burma:

[redacted]
The Thai deputy foreign minister has informed the American embassy in Bangkok that Premier Phibun desires to maintain friendly relations with the Burmese people, but not necessarily with their present government. Moreover, the premier views sympathetically the pleas for assistance from both Karen insurgents and Chinese Nationalist guerrillas in Burma.

Comment: The Thais have been aiding both the Karens and the Chinese guerrillas in the belief that they would serve as a buffer between Communist China and Thailand.

There has been a Thai-Burma rapprochement during the past year, but this report indicates that Bangkok is not sanguine about this development. Thai suspicions of the Burmese may well be rekindled at the Afro-Asian conference, where Burma is likely to be ranged more often than not on the side of Peiping in opposition to Thailand.

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LATE ITEM

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4. USSR rumored to want neutral belt in Europe:



Comment: There has been Western press speculation recently that Moscow desires a neutral belt in Europe. Moscow may be propagating this line in order to encourage West German hopes for unification and thus discourage support for rearmament.

Moscow's recent moves to encourage the belief that it would sign a treaty for a neutralized Austria also appear intended to stimulate German interest in neutralism.

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