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CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE AGENCY
INFORMATION REPORT

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COUNTRY Thailand

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SUBJECT Communist Tactics in Thailand

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1. Some political observers are puzzled at the apparent lack of Moscow-trained Thai Communists to aid in the Communist penetration of Southeast Asia. The Communists do not need a well-trained body of Thai Communist agents. In addition to the activities of local Chinese Communists, they are depending chiefly on the Communist encirclement of Thailand and the exploitation of the internal quarrels and political ineptitudes of non-Communist Thai groups, to produce a thorough disintegration of Thai resistance. At present, the chief offensive instruments being used by the Communists in Thailand are the labor unions and the Thai Press Association.
2. The Thai Press Association is infiltrated by Communists who are preparing to use it as an instrument of dominating the press. Aree Livira, the leading figure in the Press Association, is in reality a Chinese Communist. The power of the Press Association over newspaper reporters can be exercised through membership cards, rather like a labor union, and the expulsion of a reporter from the Association would deprive him of his job. To date, this power is not being openly exercised on behalf of the Communists, but it is being prepared and solidified for future use.

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This document is hereby regraded to CONFIDENTIAL in accordance with the letter of 13 October 1973 from the Director of Central Intelligence to the Archivist of the United States.
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