

INFORMATION REPORT

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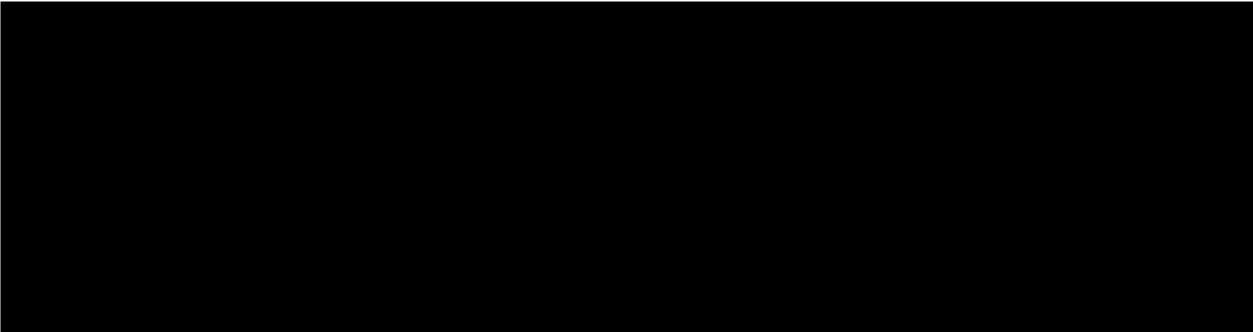
ORIGINATOR Thailand

SUBJECT Possible Soviet Link with **RETURN TO CIA LIBRARY**
 the 1951 Attempt
 of 29 June 1951

PLACE ACQUIRED 25X1A

DATE OF INFO.

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1. Before World War II Suphat Sukonthapirom¹ became friendly with a Thai named Chinda Chintanaseri² who was then writing articles for the newspapers Prachinit and Supharb Burut.
2. Towards the middle of 1949, Suphat who was then working at the Bank of Ayuthia, Ltd. in Bangkok, mentioned to Chinda that his salary was insufficient for his needs. Implementing his promise to help Suphat augment his income, Chinda supplied him with translation work for the Soviet Legation Information Bureau by which he earned from 500 to 600 baht per month.
3. In due course Suphat received an invitation to the celebration of the anniversary of the October Revolution at the Soviet Legation on 7 November 1951 where Chinda introduced him to Usachev, the Charge d'Affaires, and other Legation officials. A month or two later, at Chinda's suggestion, it was agreed that Suphat would do his work at the Legation instead of at home.
4. Since then he has done translation work at the Soviet Legation two or three times a week and has also been teaching the Thai language to Smirnov who, in addition to his other duties³, is the editor of the Soviet News Bulletin. Occasionally the two engage in political discussions which are often based on articles in the English language newspapers, Liberty and The Bangkok Post.
5. Suphat works in a small bare room customarily used for language lessons, the second room on the right on entering the Legation, to which he is escorted by the guard stationed at the main entrance. During his occupancy, the door is kept closed. Suphat has met no one with the exception of the guard and a woman who appears to be a receptionist, and he has never been allowed in any other part of the building. Since starting work there he has received monthly cash payments ranging from 800 to 1,200 baht per month.
6. His last visit to the Legation took place on 19 July 1951, the day before his arrest by the Thai Police, and his last known visit prior to the abortive coup was on 14 June.

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CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE AGENCY

- 2 -

7. Two days before Thai Navy Day, 1950, Suphat, seeking tickets for the dance, was advised by a naval officer named Vichien to obtain them from Lt. Manas Charubha.⁴ Thereafter these two became friendly and met from time to time in the evenings at one another's home. After leaving the Legation on the evening of 14 June, Suphat went directly to Manas' house where he remained until a late hour.

8. A naval officer⁵ implicated in the coup attempt confessed that the plotters were using Suphat as a channel of communication with the Soviet Legation. He also stated that the Soviets were passing propaganda to the Navy through Suphat.⁶

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1. [redacted] Comment. Arrested in mid-July 1951. [redacted]

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2. [redacted]
3. [redacted]
4. [redacted]

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5. [redacted] Comment. Unidentified.

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6. [redacted] Comment. These statements appear credible as they tie in so neatly with the account of Suphat's activities. Moreover, these facts were not known to the Police prior to Suphat's arrest.

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