

**INFORMATION REPORT INFORMATION REPORT**

**CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE AGENCY**

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COUNTRY Thailand/Malaysia/Red China      REPORT NO. OO-B 321/11249-68  
 SUBJECT James Thompson Rumored To Be Alive      DATE DISTR. 1 MAY 1968  
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**THIS IS UNEVALUATED INFORMATION**

SOURCE US citizen, faculty member of a major US university.

1. A recent report from Hong Kong, which came to me from a well-known and reliable businessman who makes his home in Manila but who was in Hong Kong recently on business, states that a Colonel James McGowan - presumably a UK citizen - was in Hong Kong on his way to Communist China in an attempt to expedite the release of Mr James Thompson, the well-known US businessman from Bangkok who disappeared from the Cameron Highlands of Malaysia over a year ago. My friend reported that McGowan was in Hong Kong on 23 Mar 68.
2. According to my friend, Thompson is said to have engineered his own disappearance as part of a plan for Thompson to personally contact Phanomyong Pridi, ex-Premier of Thailand known at that time to be in exile in Canton, China where - with other revolutionaries - he was plotting to overthrow the present Thai Government, including the elimination of the Royal Family. Thompson's mission was to dissuade Pridi from proceeding. According to my informant, Thompson was successful in his efforts with Pridi, whom he had known and worked with during World War II, but was unable to convince the other members of the revolutionary group who immediately either detained him by force or kidnaped him and took him to Red China. The distinction would have to be made on the basis where the Thompson-Pridi conference took place. In any event one Kurt Auslinger, nationality unknown, is said to have been among the kidnapers.
3. My informant also told me that Thompson was known to have been alive on 5 Dec 67, but has been undergoing extensive brainwashing. He is scheduled to reappear shortly, according to the same rumor.

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