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**CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE AGENCY
WASHINGTON, D.C. 20505**

**TO: Department of State - EA/TB
Mr. Moncrieff J. Spear**

FROM: FE/TBL - Mr. Stuart Methven

SUBJECT: Jim Thompson Case

In reference to your memorandum of July 31, 1968 relating to a letter allegedly describing the whereabouts of Jim Thompson, a thorough check has revealed no new or additional information which would add to what is already known and has been communicated to your office. We share your skepticism of this, and similar reports concerning Thompson, and do not intend to pursue the matter further at this time. You may pass this information on to Mrs. James Douglas and to Mr. Henry B. Thompson, along with the assurance that Jim Thompson had no connection, official or otherwise, with this Agency.

*On Thursday Aug. 15 I phoned Mr Henry Thompson the gist of this memorandum emphasizing with exact words the portions underlined. He mentioned possibility of a check by some friendly consulate in Canton, but and I replied that to the best of my knowledge there was no such consulate in Canton, but that because of hearsay and rumors travelers existing China via H.K. it is by no means accessible as far as information reporting is concerned and that it believe that "through check" can be accepted as true.
Carl Methven
EA/TB
Aug 15 '68*

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July 31, 1968

MEMORANDUM

TO: CIA:TBL/FE - Mr. Stuart Methven, Room 5-E-18

FROM: EA/TB - Mr. Moncrieff J. Spear, Country Director,
Thailand/Burma

SUBJECT: Jim Thompson Case

On July 22 Mrs. James Douglas, Jim Thompson's sister, called to say that her brother, Mr. Henry B. Thompson, had received through the mail a Xerox copy of a report on "CIA stationery" from "a very reputable Englishman" who does business in Canton. The gist of the letter was that Jim Thompson was in Canton in the company of former Thai Prime Minister Pridi. Subsequent checking with Mr. Henry Thompson revealed that the letter was dated April 10, 1968 and that it has now been destroyed "because it should not have been given to me".

Both Mrs. Douglas and Mr. Henry Thompson are skeptical about the report but nonetheless feel that they owe it to themselves and Jim Thompson to check it out. They have, therefore, asked me if we could have Bob Jantzen look into it. I told them that we too were skeptical about this report but could appreciate how they felt about it and would undertake to have it tracked down and let them know of any results.

Could you have this checked out in the field please and advise me of the results so that I can pass them on to Mrs. Douglas and Mr. Henry Thompson.

EA/TB:MJSpear:lm

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~~CONFIDENTIAL~~OPTIONAL FORM NO. 10
MAY 1962 EDITION
GSA FPMR (41 CFR) 101-11.6~~CONFIDENTIAL~~

UNITED STATES GOVERNMENT

Memorandum

TO : EA/TB - Mr. Spear

DATE: July 22, 1968

FROM : EA/TB - Carl J. Nelson *CJM*SUBJECT: New Rumor Reported by Henry Thompson that Jim Thompson
Had Been Seen in Hong Kong

In response to the attached note, I telephoned first Mrs. Douglas and secondly Henry Thompson, telling them that we had not received any new word of this story but that rumors of this kind first appeared as early as April 1967, or possibly earlier, and that the sources in those earlier cases had been pretty well discredited.

I also mentioned to Mrs. Douglas that our files included a published letter signed by Prince Sihanouk and addressed to the President of the FLN, Nguyen Huu Tho, stating that he had received a letter from Mrs. Earl Galleher asking for assistance in locating Jim Thompson and commenting that it seemed likely that Mrs. Galleher had been imposed upon by some purveyor of a false rumor. I mentioned this merely to show that Prince Sihanouk has taken note of the case. Mrs. Douglas said she knew all about this.

Then, at Mrs. Douglas' request, I telephoned Henry Thompson in Reisterstown, Maryland. He said that someone had sent him a Xerox copy of a CIA report which stated that a British businessman, who had come out of Communist China last December, had reported that Jim Thompson had been seen in Canton and was still alive there and in touch with Pridi Panamyong. The report went on to say that Jim Thompson had persuaded Pridi to abandon plots to assassinate members of the Royal Family but that other members of Pridi's staff did not trust Thompson and were preventing him from leaving Canton. He said the Xerox report which he has now destroyed because "it should not have been given to me" was dated April 10.

Thompson asked that the U.S. Government check this story out and, if it seems at all plausible, ask the British or Australians on a very confidential basis to try to check it

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out in Canton. Thompson thought that one or the other might have a Consulate in Canton.

I commented that the fact that we do not have this story in our file implied to me that, if the document he had seen was genuine, it had possibly not been distributed because it was considered unfounded or the source considered very unreliable. However, I said I would report his conversation and that if more information on this particular rumor came to us, I would let him know.

Henry Thompson was very doubtful that anything would come of this story but felt that some check ought to be made. He is currently leaving for York Harbor, Maine where his telephone number will be (207) 363-3120.

Attachment:
As Stated

after Tues.

cc:
EA - Mr. Bundy

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Mr. Spear

DEPARTMENT OF STATE
ASSISTANT SECRETARY

re Jim Thompson case -- new rumor

Mrs. James Douglas called this morning to say that about a month her brother (Henry B. Thompson, Beaverbrook Farm, Reisterstown, Md. 301-252-0238) had received through the mail a xerox copy of a CIA report on CIA (dated April) stationery from a very reputable Englishman who does business in Canton. The gist of it was that Jim Thompson was in the company of Pridi Panomyong, Prime Minister of Thailand during the war, who recruited Thais to go into Korean War, who was a friend of Jim Thompson's. Pridi was taken out of Bangkok and never been allowed to return to Thailand. He has been in Canton all these years, apparently supported by the Thai Govt.

This report says that Thompson is in Canton with Pridi who will not let him leave until he has persuaded Pridi's friends not to murder the Royal family.

Mrs. Thompson says she doesn't put any credence in this rumor, but apparently her brother does. Mrs. Thompson said that she had asked Mrs. Jantzen (whose husband is CIA station chief in Bangkok) about it and Mrs. Jantzen said her husband surely would have known about it if there were anything to it. Mrs. Thompson wonders if someone here could be in touch with her brother on the details in the letter (which he destroyed because whoever sent it to him said it would be dangerous to keep it. Mrs. Douglas did not have details about any postmark, etc. It is her brother's son who has been named heir and will be going out soon. I said

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DEPARTMENT OF STATE
ASSISTANT SECRETARY

I would pass this along to the officer handling the matter here, and that someone would be in touch with her soon.

Mrs. Douglas will be home until about noon today and then out until about 5 p.m. I ~~was~~ said I did not think anyone would be calling her today in any event.

Mabel 7/22/68

Phone: 312-234-0075

Action taken by Carl Nelson: July 22, 1968
I first phoned Mrs. Douglas. She listened to my comments on unreliability of previous versions of this memo. Then urged that I call Henry Thompson.

I then phoned Henry Thompson, who was out to lunch. His wife said he would call back. CIA had a report last Dec. said he had been seen in Canton and was still alive.

- ▶ asked Chuck on report dated April 10. 2erox
- ▶ Henry will beat York Harbor Maine Area 207 - 363-3120.