

NOTE
Contribution to the Year-book on Human Rights 1959 (UNO)

The Legislative and Judicial Council has been communicated a letter of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs to the Under-Secretary of State for the Office of the Prime Minister, dated 27th January, 2503 submitting for consideration a request of the United Nations dated 15th January 1960 No. SO 213 (1-2) asking informations to be used in the periodical Year-book on Human Rights 1959. Referring following informations may be given.

CONSTITUTIONAL PROVISIONS.- As indicated in the report for 1958, the power is in the hands of the Revolutionary Party under the Interim Constitution 1958. The policy of the Government is to replace it by a definitive Constitution, but the constitutional experiences have been so deceiving that it is deemed convenient to study carefully at first the present conditions of the country.

Experience has proved also, as says a declaration of the Constituent Assembly, that "the people have to be prepared for democracy, a pearl which the people must first learn to appreciate". It is proposed consequently that, instead of making the Constitution as a whole, questions shall be taken by the Assembly separately (Kind of democracy suitable for Thailand, Kind of selection or appointment of the members, etc.....)

Meanwhile however the system of Announcements of the Revolutionary Party having legal force used at the beginning of the Revolution, has come to an end in the first week of 1959 and bills voted by the Constituent Assembly as usually, especially for the budget, have been used again.

Besides the country is in a complete economic transformation, due to many initiatives in the creation of new industries or commercial enterprises. Those economic transformations are already apparent in the very aspect of Bangkok where new roads, bridges, public or private high buildings of several floors replacing wooden houses or slums, and many other small improvements modify the city. This non-interrupted construction gives the welcome impression that in the laborians town there is no longer place for unemployment of both sexes as was the case before.

The final result of the transformation is that Thailand will be able to obtain by its efforts and works a legitimate place amongst the fully developed nations. The progress so evidently accomplished have assured a hearty collaboration of the citizens, contributing by their hard work and accepting willingly increase of taxes by revision and by the methodical use of loans necessary for the initial program and granted by friendly countries.

All the means undertaken for the realization of that program are framed within the democratic principles in which the Government reiterates and shows its deep faith.

A constant policy of the Government is to promote the Social Welfare: a special Ministry under that name is in prospect; they have received the help of an expert of the United Nations. In matter of communications which raise in Thailand as in other countries a lot of questions interesting all people, a drastic measure has been taken which was not without transforming the daily life. There was in Thailand since many years the professions of Sam-Lo (three wheels) small vehicles used in the Far East and drawn by a man; these vehicles have been suppressed, so protecting at the

same time the safety of the traffic and the dignity of citizens who were taken as animals. Other undesirable professions have been banned, such as opium smoking in shop or prostitution in licensed brethels. Suppression is combined with appropriate measures to cure the addicts or to teach reputable professions to prostitutes. Hooliganism which is a chronic evil in the societies in way of transformation has been severely repressed whilst the hooligans were also receiving good educational teaching and professional knowledge. (Vocational and Training Institute).

In the course of the year 1959 the Government has had to solve a delicate problem which was created in Northern provinces by Vietnamese refugees the abnormal pressure of which did disturb the balance of the country. In this question, the Government has shown above any discussion its loyal preoccupation to respect the Human Rights, and especially the right of self-determination of foreigners. The refugees have been requested without pressure to make known the country to which they wanted to be repatriated. Those Vietnamese have indicated the popular Republic of North Vietnam. Thai Government has not objected, but since owing to its politics, it has no relations with North Vietnam as well with other Communist countries of the Far East, the complicated operation of repatriation has been placed in the hands of the local Red Cross. Representatives of the Vietnam Red Cross have been received to work with the Thai Committee and help in the registration of repatriated and of their properties. Special ships have been prepared with best conditions of food and health (doctors, etc.) for the transfer of the Vietnamese.

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