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DEPARTMENT OF STATE

Washington, D.C. 20520

BUREAU OF EDUCATIONAL AND CULTURAL AFFAIRS

DATE: April 27, 1972

TO: Miss Gen Koester
La Jolla, California

273-8078

Dr. K. B. Schmidt
at US SD 291-6430

FROM: *Angel M. Pascuzzi*, Program Officer
Voluntary Visitors Division, Telephone: (202) 632-8064

SUBJECT: Request for Assistance to International Visitors

NAME: Somdej Phra Vannarat

ACCOMPANIED BY: 3 (see enclosure)

POSITION: Chief Abbot of Wat Po, and
Supreme Patriarch Designate

COUNTRY: Thailand

DATES OF U.S. VISIT: May 15 - 26

TRAVEL PLANS FOR San Diego :

ARRIVE ON May 19 at morning via Bus from Los Angeles

LEAVE ON May 20 at 8 a.m. via plane for San Francisco

HOTEL: (making his own arrangements)

INTERESTS: Early afternoon of May 19 wishes to visit small typical church (Catholic, Jewish or Protellant) -- (A Spanish mission run by the Jesuits would be a good appointment)
SAN LUIS REY Arch Ec. Center For World Religions, U.S.D. 4:30 pm.

COMMENTS:

Enclosed are five copies of background information on this visit. Also enclosed is a copy of the travel schedule. I've requested additional bio and details on hotels. As soon as I get these, I'll pass them on to you. In addition to three members of his personal party, who will accompany him on appointments, the USIA film team filming his trip will also go with him (see enclosure). This includes the two cameramen and Khun Sumon from the USIS Film Section of Thailand and Paul Starzynski, USIA Officer from Washington, who is joining the group in Honolulu. Mr. Starzynski will hire any transportation needed for the group to go to appointments. He will be your point of contact for the group and he and/or Khun Sumon can assist with any protocol details, etc. I'll call you to discuss this. Thanks for your interest and assistance.

Enclosures:

As noted above.



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Background information on visit of Somdej Phra Vannarat:

Somdej Phra Vannarat -- 76 years old -- presently is Chief Abbot of the Wat Po (Reclining Buddha) and Supreme Patriarch Designate. Somdej is a title equivalent to Holy Father.

He has been invited for a three-day official visit to the Vatican and will meet with the Pope following his visit in the United States. He is traveling with a Thai commercial tour group of 60 people. His personal group, which will accompany him on appointments, are Phra Raj-Molee, Secretary; Dr. Sirote, Interpreter and Personal Physician; and Kitti Vudho Bhikkhu, Director of the Thai Buddhist University.

A documentary film is being made of his visit. The United States Information Agency is sending two cameramen from Thailand with the party to begin filming in Honolulu and throughout the trip. The tour has invited Khun Sumon of the USIS Film Section in Thailand to accompany the group. In addition another USIA officer, Mr. Paul Starzynski from Washington, will join the group in Honolulu and accompany them throughout the trip.

Important
Following are protocol points for all concerned with the visit: Priests do not shake hands. When greeting them, a bow will suffice. Separate chairs should be provided. They should not be seated side by side on a couch. Hours for their meals are between 6:30 and 7:30 a.m. and again between 11:30 a.m. and 12:30 p.m. This should be kept in mind when making appointments. Also, schedule must allow time for travel to and from hotels (where special food arrangements are being made by the tour). Khun Sumon can advise on details on greeting and seating as well as Mr. Starzynski.



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Schedule for Somdej Phra Vannarat:

¹⁶
May 15 -- Arrive Honolulu -- ~~China~~ ^{JAPAN} Air Lines 008 -- 2:00 a.m.

Hotel -- Sheraton (to be clarified)

Interests -- Meeting with Thai students at the East-West Center early the afternoon of May 15.

Sponsor -- Mr. Herbert Mitchell, Director
Department of State Reception Center
Suite 209
2227-A Kalakaua Avenue
Honolulu, Hawaii 96815
Telephone: 923-4981

¹⁷
May 16 -- Depart Honolulu -- ~~China~~ ^{JAPAN} Air Lines 008 -- 4:00 a.m.
Arrive Los Angeles -- 10:00 a.m.

Hotel -- (to be arranged)

Interests -- Early the afternoon of May 18 wishes to talk with leading official at UCLA, see evidence of U.S. interest in Thailand (such as Thai studies and museum), and visit with Thai students.

He has made his own arrangements for a visit to Disneyland, tour of the city, and a meeting with the Thai Buddhist Association.

Sponsor -- Mrs. Maurine Ruzek
Los Angeles World Affairs Council
Hilton Center, Suite 230
Los Angeles, California 90017
Telephone: 629-3166

May 19 -- Depart Los Angeles by bus for San Diego at 8:00 a.m.

FRIDAY

Hotel -- ^{Seminary?} (to be arranged)

by private car

Interests -- Early afternoon of May 19 wishes to visit small ~~typical church, Catholic, Jewish or Protestant.~~ ^{SAU Luis Rey AND U.S.D. Center for World Religions}
^{Mission}

FATHER Ralph
157-3651

Sponsor -- Miss Gen Koester
International Visitors Council of San Diego
444 Retaheim Way
La Jolla, California 92037
Telephone: 454-1824 or 232-6484

May 20 -- Depart San Diego -- Northwest Airlines or TWA -- 8:00 a.m.
Arrive San Francisco mid-morning

Hotel -- (to be arranged)

Interest -- Early afternoon visit to the Berkeley
Center of Buddhist Studies.

Sponsor -- Mrs. Bernice Behrens, Director
Department of State Reception Center
112 Federal Office Building
50 Fulton Street
San Francisco, California 94102
Telephone: 556-3990

G. Karmnicki
over 4/15

May 21 -- Depart San Francisco (airlines not known) -- 7:00 a.m.
Arrive Chicago 11:00 a.m.

Hotel -- (to be arranged)

Interests -- Early the afternoon of May 21 wishes to visit
the John Hancock Building, and visit major
religious leader.

Morning visit to the University of Chicago on
May 22 to talk with president, Thai students
and view campus.

Sponsor -- Mrs. Francoise Friedman
International Visitors Center of Chicago
116 South Michigan Avenue
Chicago, Illinois 60603
Telephone: 332-5875

May 22 -- Leave Chicago for Niagara Falls late afternoon

May 23 -- Depart Niagara Falls late afternoon for Washington, D.C.
Arrive Washington, D.C. 5:00 p.m.

Hotel -- Sheraton (to be clarified)

Interest -- Wishes to see Congress, White House and visit
Thai people and call on Vice President Agnew
on May 24.

Sponsor -- Miss Angeline M. Pascuzzi, Program Officer
Voluntary Visitors Division
Bureau of Educational and Cultural Affairs
Room 4327 - Department of State
2201 C Street, N.W.
Washington, D.C. 20520
Telephone: 632-8064 or 632-2421

May 25 -- Depart Washington, D.C. at 2:00 p.m.
Arrive New York at 3:00 p.m.

Hotel -- (to be arranged)

Interest -- Wishes to visit UN, Tourist Organization of
Thailand Office, visit with high religious
leader on May 26.

Sponsor -- Mrs. Grace M. Belt, Director
Department of State Reception Center
1601 Fisk Building
250 West 57th Street
New York, New York 10019
Telephone: 971-5647

May 26 -- Depart for London at 6:00 p.m.