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Thailand looks ahead. 1973

[Bangkok, Thailand?]: United States Information Service, 1973

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THAILAND LOOKS AHEAD



INTRODUCTION

This booklet provides a brief description of the support of the United States to Thailand's programs of economic and social development, from the beginning of that participation in 1951 to the present. In this period, through the United States Operations Mission (USOM) and its predecessors, the United States has spent approximately \$ 663 million in support of Thai government development and public safety programs. This amount does not include the \$ 1,100,000,000 in military assistance provided to Thailand since 1951. Nor does it include the \$ 75 million in economic assistance which the U.S. Regional Economic Development Office has provided to regional organizations in the past seven years. These institutions include the Mekong Coordinating Committee, the Asian Institute of Technology, the Southeast Asia Ministers of Education Secretariat, as well as other regional groups. The contribution of the Peace Corps to Thai development programs is not included. In 1973, 266 Peace Corps volunteers were working on Thai government approved projects.

Although a large amount of money, the \$ 663 million USOM contribution has never represented more than a small portion of what the Thai government has spent for these activities. For example, the Thai government budgeted about \$ 700 million for these purposes in 1973—a single year. The American contribution has been enough money and resources only to stimulate, to help start new activities—to put wheels in motion. Projects to which USOM offers support are Thai projects, not American projects. USOM acts as a catalyst for ideas and innovations which will help Thailand make the most of its development and public safety programs. It supports projects that accelerate Thai development, constantly striving for a multiplier effect, an effect greater than the mere proportion of dollars spent on a program. It seeks to help Thailand do what it would do anyway, but to do it faster, perhaps better, and to reach more Thai people sooner.

It is an objective of both governments for the Thais to assume complete responsibility in the end for every project. Success means that the Thai government will carry forward that activity out of its regular budget without foreign assistance, and that the special resources of both governments can be shifted to support new projects which will provide benefits in other areas and to different groups of people.

The true measure of success of any development program is how well it meets the real needs of the people. Identifying those needs and then devising ways to satisfy them is the process.

It is in that spirit that the governments of Thailand and the United States have worked together for twenty-two years.



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PARTICIPATION OF THE UNITED STATES OF AMERICA IN THAILAND'S DEVELOPMENT

THE PROCESS:

Thailand is the host country. The United States Operations Mission (USOM) is the guest.

The participation of USOM in any activity is invited by the Kingdom of Thailand, usually through the Department of Technical and Economic Cooperation (DTEC). Each American brought to Thailand to participate in the program is approved in advance by both DTEC and the agency to which he will be assigned. Prior to approval, a careful examination is made of the prospective guest's biographical data. Occasionally the individual is brought to Thailand for interview before the final decision. At times, new nominations are requested.

As a general rule, the United States provides for the dollar costs of the American participation; the Thai Government makes available the necessary local currency (baht) to support the employee and the program in which he serves. This is also the case in most of the other countries receiving U.S. economic assistance. The dollar contribution of the United States may include equipment and supplies needed for the first stages of the activity, and the dollar costs of training an individual sent to the United States or another foreign country. Expenses that can be paid in local currency, such as the travel of the training participant, are made available through DTEC. Thus, dollars are used where dollars are required, and baht are used for all other costs. In that way, dollars are available for the maximum number of projects or activities.

As a program begins to get established, usually after one or two years, the support of that program is shifted from DTEC to the Ministry most involved, and the continuing costs are then established as a regular item in the national budget. Eventually all funds for dollar and baht requirements are supplied through the Royal Thai Government's Bureau of the Budget. USOM's purpose is not to supplement the Thai Government budget; its objective is to help Thai leaders develop programs and institutions through which they can use the Thai Government's own funds more effectively.

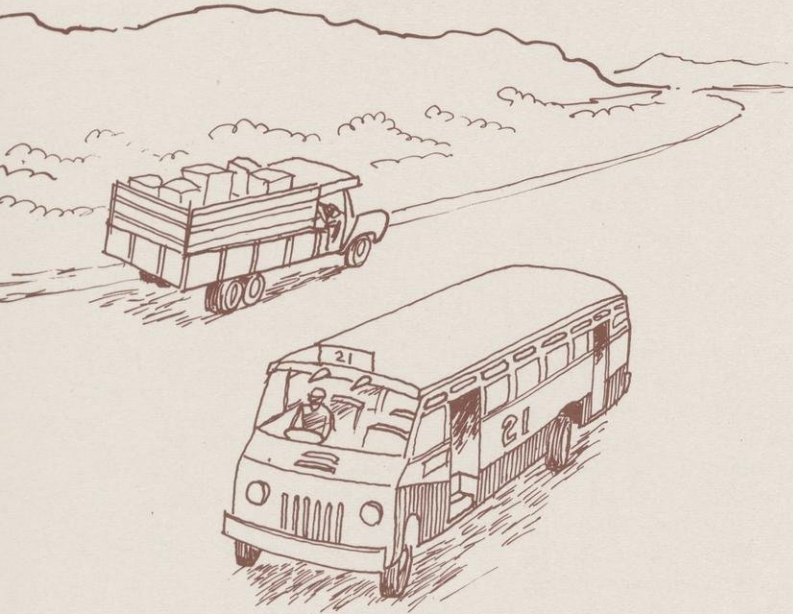
The amount of funds actually made available to the Thai Government in any given year is shaped by many factors, some of which are:

- 1) The success of the Thai Government and USOM in identifying and describing important activities—sufficiently so to compete successfully for funds with similar U.S. programs in other countries.
- 2) The time required to carry a project idea from its inception to implementation, often several years.
- 3) The readiness of Thailand to provide the required local currency and adequate personnel to carry out the proposed functions.
- 4) Ability of both governments to obtain in a timely way the necessary approvals at various levels of authority. This often is dependent on an assessment of what activities a new project might generate, and what the cost of success might ultimately be—in money, facilities, and people.
- 5) The total worldwide and appropriations by the U.S. Congress, of which Thailand's program represents one part.

YESTERDAY

Thailand's development and public safety efforts have now created a structure, particularly in rural areas, which will enable people to benefit quickly and directly from future programs, provide them an expanding opportunity to increase their incomes, and give them the chance to have a better life.

Highway building, malaria eradication, airport improvement, improved medical training, mobile trade training schools, local government administration, village radio communication, community development, and potable water - - these are several of the major projects now completed in which United States assistance played an important part.



HIGHWAY BUILDING ..

Two major highways which were constructed with USOM support have greatly assisted travel between various parts of the country. The 404-kilometer Friendship Highway, dedicated in 1958, linked Bangkok with Korat and provided efficient access to and from the Northeast. U.S. funding - - \$13.6 million. The East-West Highway was completed in 1961 with U.S. aid totalling \$14.5 million. It stretches 130 kilometers from Phitsanulok to Lomsak, part of a link between the North and Northeast. These highways help unify the nation and bring the farmer closer to the market.

GROUND SUPPORT TO THAI AVIATION ..

Several U.S. supported projects have aided Thailand in improving connections among airports throughout the country, greatly reducing the isolation of provincial cities. Projects have covered ground control, maintenance, navigation, and communication aids, meteorologic information, and training. Thailand is now able not only to certify its own navigational equipment in accordance with international standards but to offer this service to neighboring countries.



DEATHS FROM MALARIA



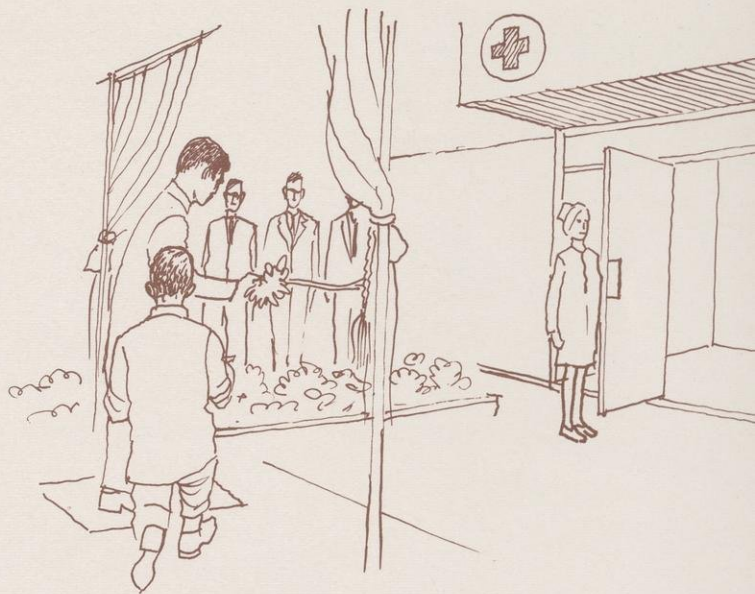
1951	1972
169.1	10.1
(per 100,000)	(per 100,000)

CHIANG MAI MEDICAL SCHOOL --

USOM assistance, totalling \$5.9 million, provided equipment, training, and expert assistance to help develop the Faculty of Medicine at Chiang Mai University into a first-class medical school capable of graduating 50 doctors and 50 nurses annually.

MALARIA ERADICATION --

When USOM began assisting Thai anti-malaria programs in 1951, this dread disease was responsible for 169 deaths per 100,000 population. Also lost were incalculable man-hours of labor from those victims who survived but were too debilitated to work to their full capacity. By 1972, when USOM assistance in this field was phased out as no longer needed, the death rate from malaria had fallen to approximately 10 per 100,000 -- a 94% reduction. U.S. expenditures totalled \$21.7 million.



SAFE DRINKING WATER --

The Sanitary Engineering Department (SED) of the Ministry of Health, beginning in 1966 with USOM assistance, has carried on a program to develop SED's capability to eventually bring safe drinking water to most of Thailand's rural areas. Much of that capability has been built through an initial project aimed at 600 communities in the North and Northeast. USOM provided equipment as well as the services of an American contracting firm. The U.S. contribution to the program was \$2,996,000. This activity is continuing and is now fully supported by the Thai Government.





COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT . . .

This is a fundamental Thai Government activity in rural areas. Beginning in 1957 as a national undertaking, USOM helped the Ministry of Interior build its Community Development Department to self-sufficiency by 1972. Having received vehicles and other equipment from USOM, as well as U.S.-sponsored training in Thailand and abroad, Community Development workers actively assist villagers in dealing with local problems and encourage them to participate in the activities of local government. Community Development received \$4,004,000 in USOM assistance; it now has 3,500 employees and a regular budget of \$5,500,000.

MOBILE TRADE TRAINING SCHOOLS . . .

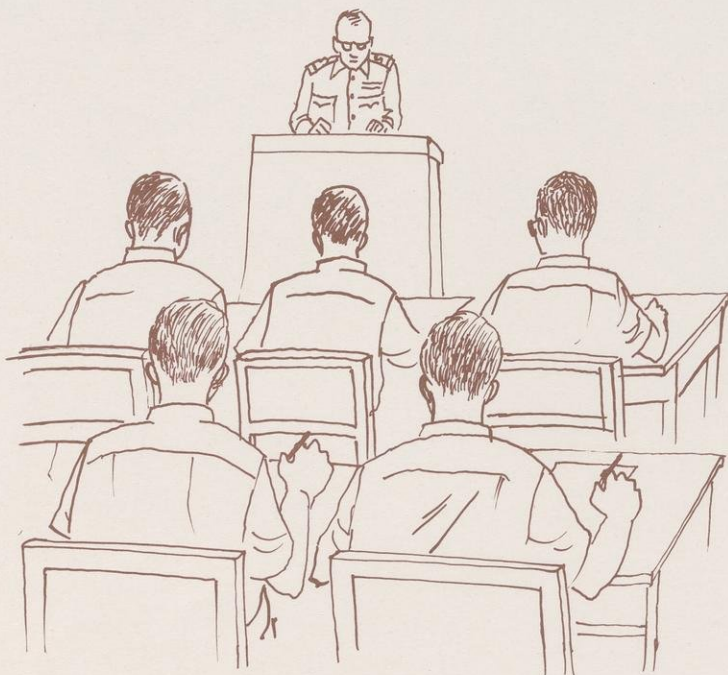
When people cannot go to school, the school goes to the people. 54 Mobile Trade Training Schools (MTTS) now operate throughout the country, each capable of giving 300 hours training each year to between 2,000 and 3,000 students per school, concentrating on the trades in demand in rural communities. USOM helped expand these schools to their present number by providing \$3.5 million in assistance from 1966 to 1972.



DEVELOPMENT

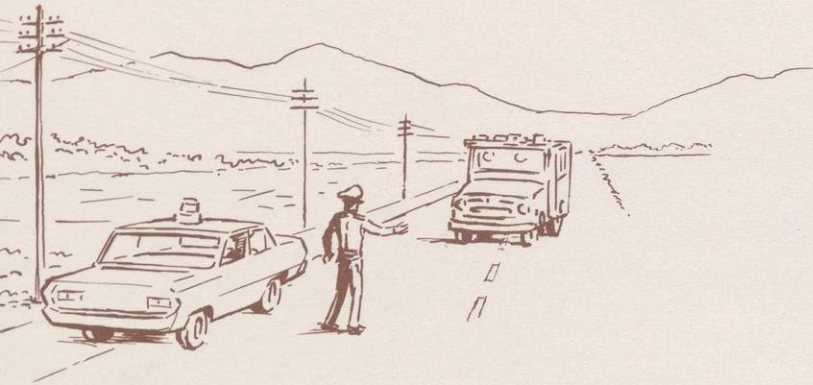
VILLAGE RADIO COMMUNICATIONS ...

To facilitate both routine and emergency communications throughout the country, a basic rural radio network was organized, with major assistance from USOM, to serve the Thai National Police Department and the Department of Local Administration. At the completion of the project in 1970, U.S. input totalled \$2,129,000; this helped pay for 4,850 radios installed throughout the country for telecommunication, as well as supporting facilities and training of the Thai staff.



LOCAL GOVERNMENT ADMINISTRATION ...

USOM assisted the Department of Local Administration (DOLA) in a program which trained 60,000 people from 1961 to 1971. U.S. funding of \$2,600,000 helped pay for transportation and other equipment for DOLA as well as for assistance to the highly successful Nai Amphoe Academy.



CIVIL POLICE AND SECURITY --

U.S. support to the Thai National Police Department began in 1957. Today USOM's support to the Thai public safety program is the largest of any country in the world. U.S. participation with advisors, foreign training of Thai Personnel, and basic equipment to help modernize the police force will, by the end of this year (1973), reach a total expenditure of \$77 million. This assistance has gone a long way toward improving security through the TNPD's on-going program of establishing a permanent presence at the tambol level.

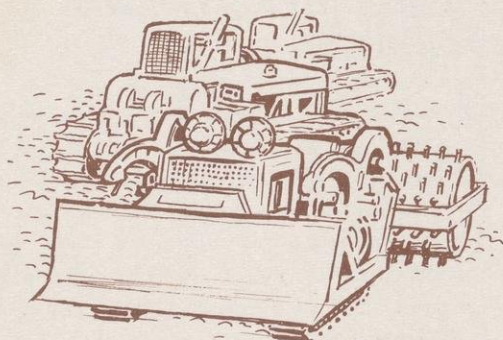
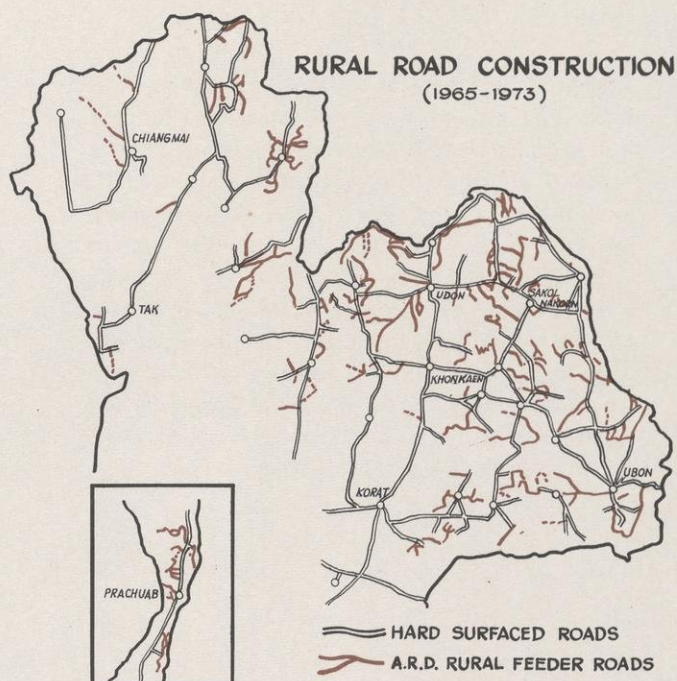
VOCATIONAL EDUCATION --

This major program effort of foreign assistance began in 1966 and will be completed in 1973. It includes participation by the Thai Ministry of Education, the World Bank, and USOM. Along with heavy equipment to support the agricultural activities of the project, the U.S. Government has supplied advisors and funded teams of agricultural and industrial vocational education specialists from the U.S. There are now 25 vocational schools, including 14 trade and industry institutes, one teacher training school, nine agricultural schools, and an agricultural teacher training college. USOM funding totals \$11,300,000.



ACCELERATED RURAL DEVELOPMENT (ARD) - - -

ARD began as a new Thai agency in 1964. It now has 5,000 employees, mostly outside of Bangkok, and an established budget of approximately \$18 million. Through 1973 the U.S. provided a total of \$59 million to this program. ARD is best known for the more than 5,000 kilometers of improved roads it has completed, and 2,500 kilometers of unimproved roads, which have greatly increased access to and from villages, thereby promoting sale of produce, as well as access to education, public security, and other government services. ARD is also active with farmers' cooperatives, tambol medical technicians, youth groups, well-drilling, and surface water projects such as dams and catchments.

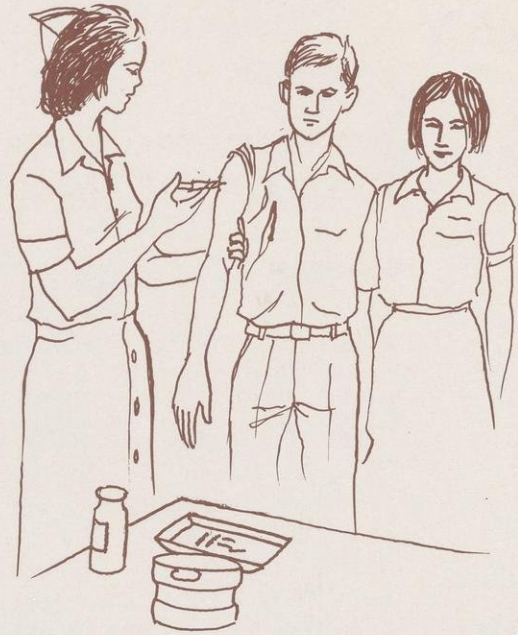


MOBILE DEVELOPMENT UNITS (MDU's) - - -

The MDU is a Thai innovation for which U.S. support began in 1964. It extends public works and rural improvement into insecure areas where ARD does not reach. Equipped with road construction equipment and other tools, much of it supplied by USOM, technicians of the 24 MDU teams not only build connecting roads and develop water resources, but also provide medical and educational assistance. Personnel are carefully selected from military and civilian agencies. USOM's contribution to this project now totals \$5.3 million.

RURAL HEALTH ...

Since the beginning of USOM operations in Thailand, U.S. assistance in the rural health field has included potable water development, cholera control, environmental sanitation, local health administration, and local hospital administration. The goal is to establish a well organized system of rural health centers available to a large portion of the population, providing family health services, nutrition education, disease control, and simple medical care, together with a two-way referral system to provincial hospitals and other health services. USOM participation through 1973 has totalled \$ 13.5 million.



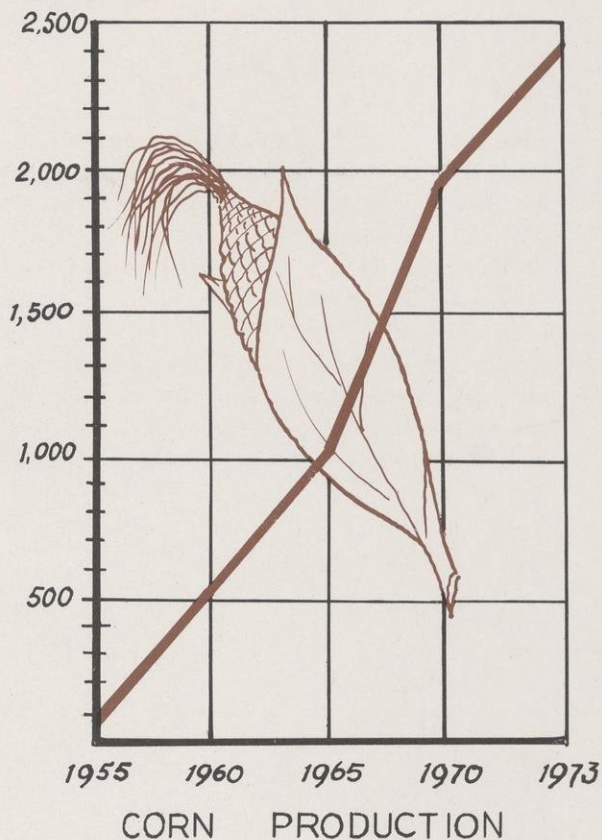
FAMILY HEALTH AND PLANNING ..

USOM assistance in this area, so far totalling \$7.8 million, supports the Thai Government National Family Planning Project whose objective is to reduce the population birth rate from 3% in 1971 to 2.5% or lower by 1976. Through the Ministry of Public Health and with the cooperation of many other government agencies, family planning services are now available in every province, and to an increasing number of people. The U.S. helps supply birth control devices, technical advice, training for improved health services and skilled manpower — doctors, nurses, and technicians.

AGRICULTURAL EXTENSION ..

Through village conferences, radio, television, and demonstration plots organized by the Agricultural Extension Administration, thousands of farmers have received training in modern agricultural techniques. Farmers groups, with over 262,000 members, and rural youth groups using 4-H Club methods have received advice in learning how to develop better crops. At present nearly 3,000 agricultural extension officials are at work throughout the nation. USOM to date has provided \$8.7 million of support with technical assistance on seed distribution, plant disease prevention, pest control, and related training. Today emphasis is shifting to assistance in agricultural planning, marketing, price policy, credit, and research.

THOUSAND
METRIC TONS



AGRICULTURAL RESEARCH ..

Since 1951, the U.S. has provided \$9.2 million to support Thai agricultural research. Principal projects included assistance to Kasetsart University and a program to develop thirteen experimental stations countrywide. The current major project is a USOM-financed contract with the University of Kentucky to support the Northeast Agricultural Research Center near Khon Kaen. Prime objective is to find practical solutions to farmers' problems and develop and train officers capable of using agricultural research findings to bring Thai farmers improved farming techniques.

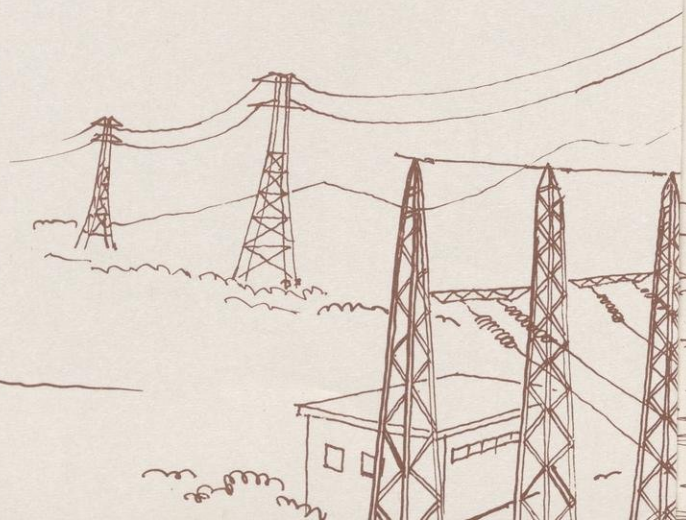


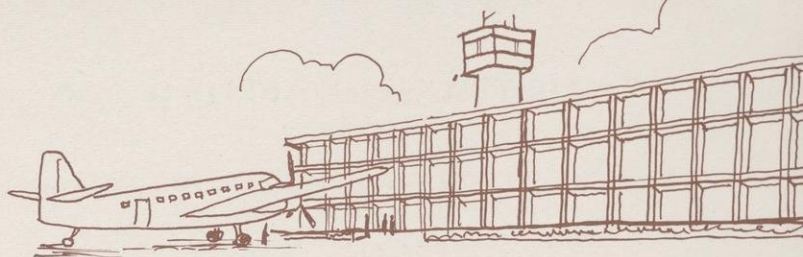


Development programs of the Royal Thai Government have been carried on over many years, assisted by USOM and other foreign contributors, national and international. Those programs created the underpinnings which should now make it possible for the majority of the Thai people to benefit more fully from the goods and services the modern world offers.

Emphasis by Thai organizations and the U.S. Government has been on roads, water facilities, airports, railways, electric power generation, a modern police force, and most important, a large number of especially trained professional people. Also, continued attention was directed toward social and economic developments—agriculture, health, education and the improvement of the administration of services for the people.

For the future, USOM will undertake to accelerate Thai initiatives outlined in the Third Five-Year Plan. Primary emphasis goes toward utilization of the new infrastructure provided by earlier programs—in a way that will directly improve the quality of living of all the people, particularly those who benefitted from the earlier programs.





In the Five-Year Plan, the Thai government declares its intention to move in such a direction. Stated priorities are :

- Acceleration of production of goods and services . . .
- Development of education, human resources and technology . . .
- Better utilization of existing construction facilities . . .
- Regional, urban and community development . . .
- Investment in support of economic preparedness . . .

The target as stated in the Plan is :

- To improve the standard of living of the rural population while reducing income disparities . . .

The United States Government recognizes the primary importance of these priorities and it joins the Thai Government in the effort to achieve its targets. In so doing, interest in Thai programs which maintain national security cannot be permitted to falter. While the primary emphasis of the Thai programs can now shift to development, and USOM's efforts along with it, some further support in the security area may be required.

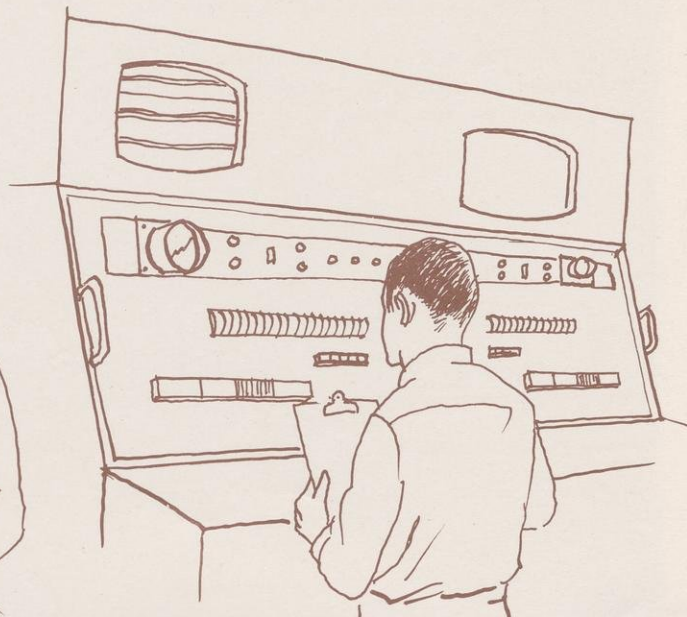
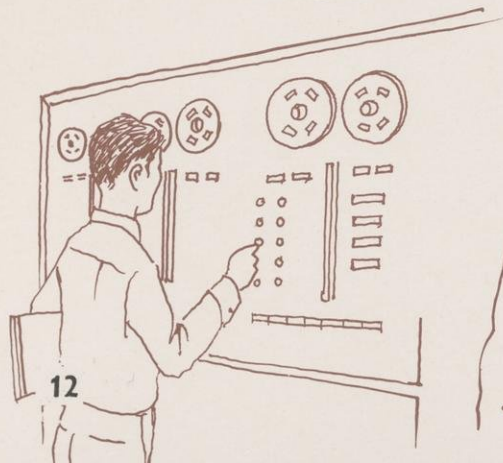
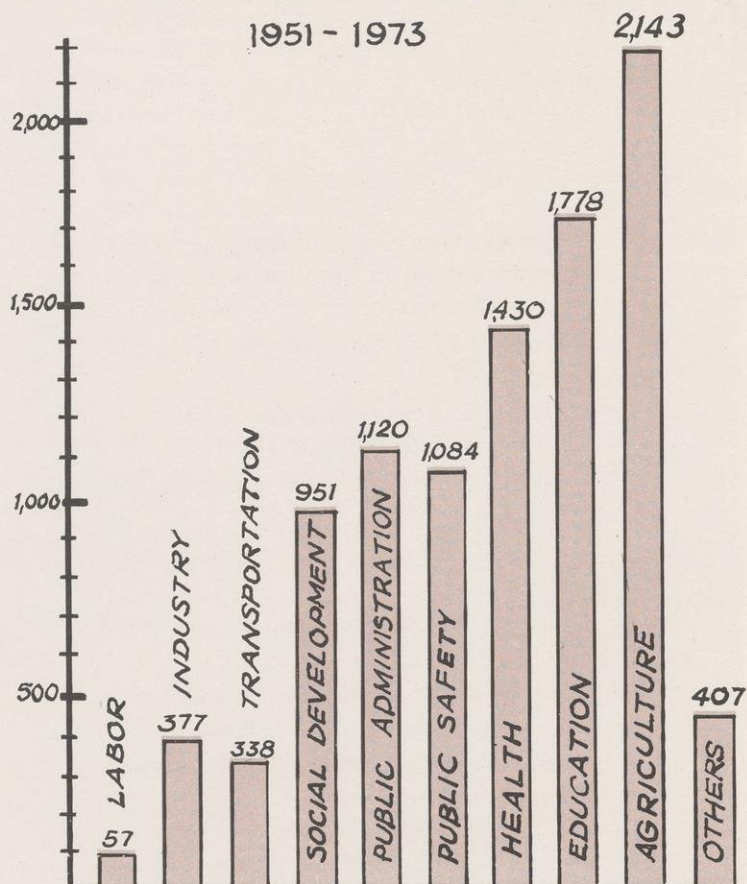


THAIS TRAINING ABROAD

1. Of the 43 countries having programs supported by the U.S. Agency for International Development (USOM in Thailand), more Thai technicians and professionals have studied in the United States and third countries than any other nation.
2. Since 1951, USOM has sent 9,685 individuals (as of June 1973) to countries outside of Thailand for training—5,673 to the United States; 4,012 to other countries.
3. Thai government elements which continued to pay their salaries and the Department of Technical and Economic Cooperation (DTEC) provided English training and international transportation; 1,083 participants received advanced degrees from American universities.
4. This group of individuals is supplemented by many thousands more who have studied abroad under other sponsorship, private and official.
5. Thai participants are now in the most productive years of their lives—ages 20 to 50—and constitute a major resource for building Thailand's future.

9685 THAIS TRAINED ABROAD BY FIELD OF TRAINING

1951 - 1973



INCREASING RURAL INCOME: HIDDEN PROGRESS AND ITS PRICE

No magic formula is seen for raising the incomes of rural people. Reliable data are not available, but indications are that the bottom half of the rural population of Thailand—some fifteen million people—has so far benefitted only marginally from the large national expenditure in roads, water, and other public works over the past ten to twenty years. This is understandable since by their nature such projects provide income for city people and for those in the rural areas that happen to live near these projects.

But now that the roads and other infrastructure provide a base, it is easier for the Thai government and private enterprise to reach the people who largely missed out on previous development benefits. The Third Five-Year Plan of the Royal Thai Government seeks to do this. The United States, through such activities as development of training systems, technical assistance, loans to expand agricultural credit, and promotion of private enterprise involvement, expects to help accelerate Thai efforts.

Increased income is not simply more money in the farmer's pocket. Development costs money; it must be paid for. Schools and teachers require

money from their government, the community, and directly from the people themselves. It is the same for hospitals and health services, for many agricultural and local police operations. The greater the national income, the more prosperous the community; and the more people gainfully employed the easier for the government to collect taxes and other revenues to pay the price of progress. Thus, the farmer will not get all his increased income in his pocket; part will be invested by the government in improved services and continued development—indirect, but very real, income.

USOM aims at helping the Thai people pay for their own wellbeing by programs such as helping to increase the ability of the Board of Investment to attract and guide new industry, of the Ministry of Commerce to expand exports, and of financial institutions to make loans. The job requires more foreign assistance than USOM can offer. Hence, the United States has joined other nations and international organizations under the sponsorship of the World Bank in a consultative group to promote, through low interest loans and grants, the raising and broadening of Thailand's income base.



SELF-RELIANCE AND FOREIGN ASSISTANCE

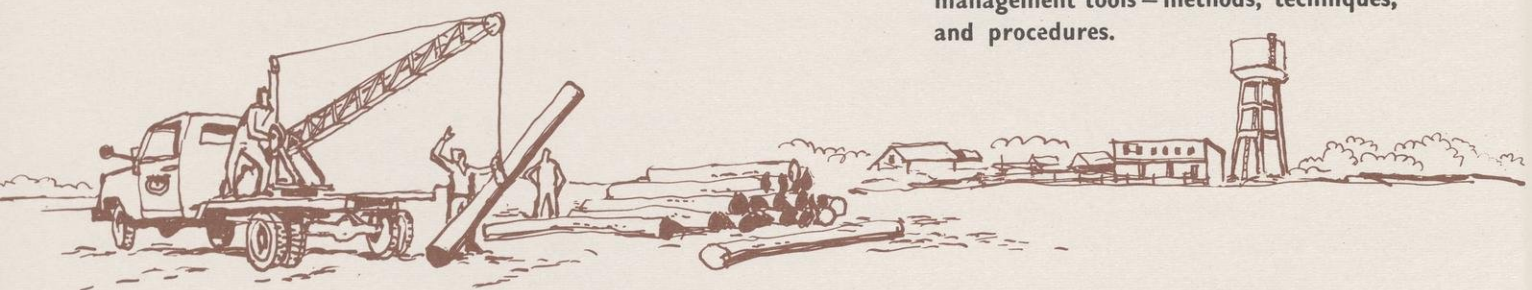
The final objective of a foreign assistance program is, theoretically, its own demise. In practice, this is somewhat elusive, since the variety of activities undertaken by any government continues to leave ample scope for advice from all reasonable sources. Nonetheless, in Thailand, certain projects undertaken by USOM and the Royal Thai Government have reached the stage where American involvement, while perhaps still helpful, is not necessary for successful operation, particularly if such resources could be used better for something else.

Evidence that a program is becoming self-reliant could include:

— Acceptance of an activity by the govern-

ment as a regular item in the national budget.

- Assignment of Thais to take over, on a progressive basis, full responsibility for the management and implementation of the given activity.
- Deployment of talent, equipment, and funds to tasks and geographic areas where the priorities are highest.
- Development of the necessary Thai institution which can support the activity as a replacement for foreign technical assistance.
- Establishment within the government of policies which maximize the flexibility of management tools — methods, techniques, and procedures.



ARD IS ACHIEVING SELF-RELIANCE . . .

ARD after eight years has established a regular item in the national budget of ฿ 384,250,000 (\$19.2 million). It has 5,000 employees, all employed since 1964. No employee is dependent on foreign funds.

THAI-AM TAKES OVER FROM AIR AMERICA . . .

In 1973, the prime contractor to assist the Thai National Police Department's Air Maintenance Division became the Thai Airways Aircraft Maintenance Company, Ltd. (Thai-Am). This project, spanning several years, was originally funded by the U.S. and Thai govern-

ments utilizing the services of Air America, incorporated with American and third country specialists. It is now funded entirely by the Thai government using a Thai company and Thai specialists.

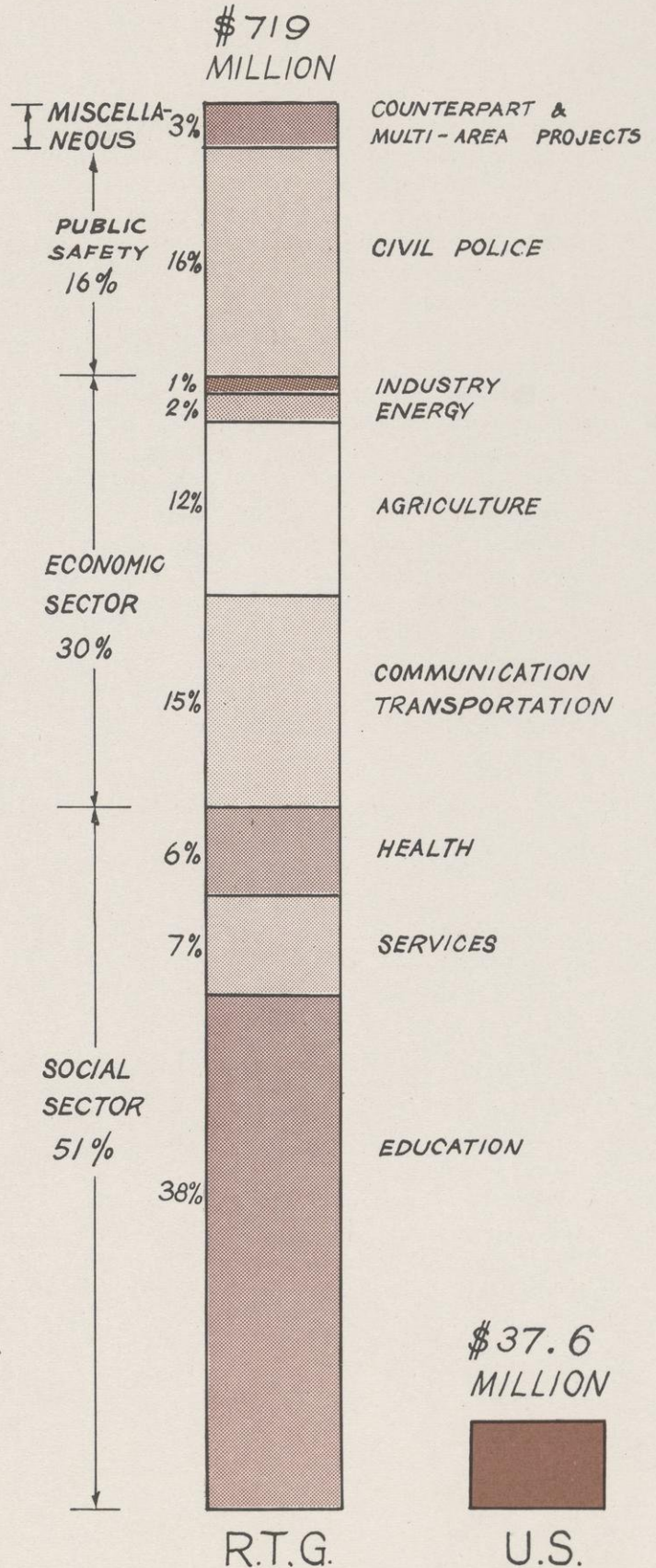
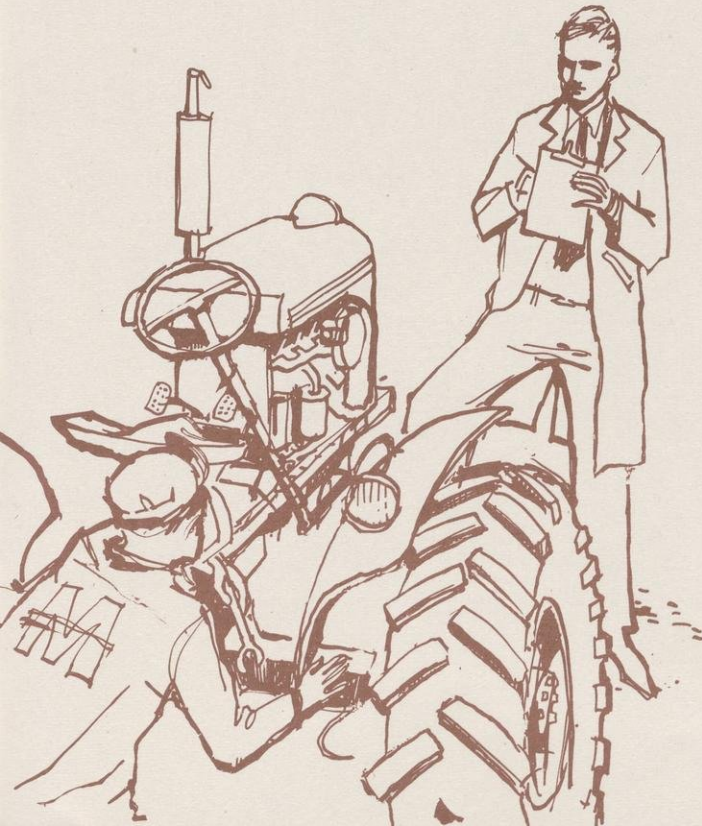


FISCAL YEAR 1973

THAI CONTRACTOR REPLACES THE AMERICAN CONTRACTOR

Working side by side, Universal Engineering Consultants Company, Ltd. (Thai) and Ralph M. Parsons Corporation (American) developed a water resources training capability in ARD. After two years the Parsons group phased out, leaving ARD backstopped by the Thai contractor. The American contract utilized 13 man-years of professional foreign advisors; the Thai contract, provided 75 man-years of Thai professional specialists. A similar arrangement with ARD has resulted in Universal Engineering in association with Mechanical Equipment Company, Ltd., being utilized for other services formerly requiring foreign organizations.

THAILAND
GOVERNMENT DEVELOPMENT
EXPENDITURES
(EXCLUDING FOREIGN LOANS & GRANTS)
AND
U.S. ASSISTANCE LEVEL
ESTIMATE FOR 1973



\$37.6
MILLION

IMPROVED NATIONAL SECURITY

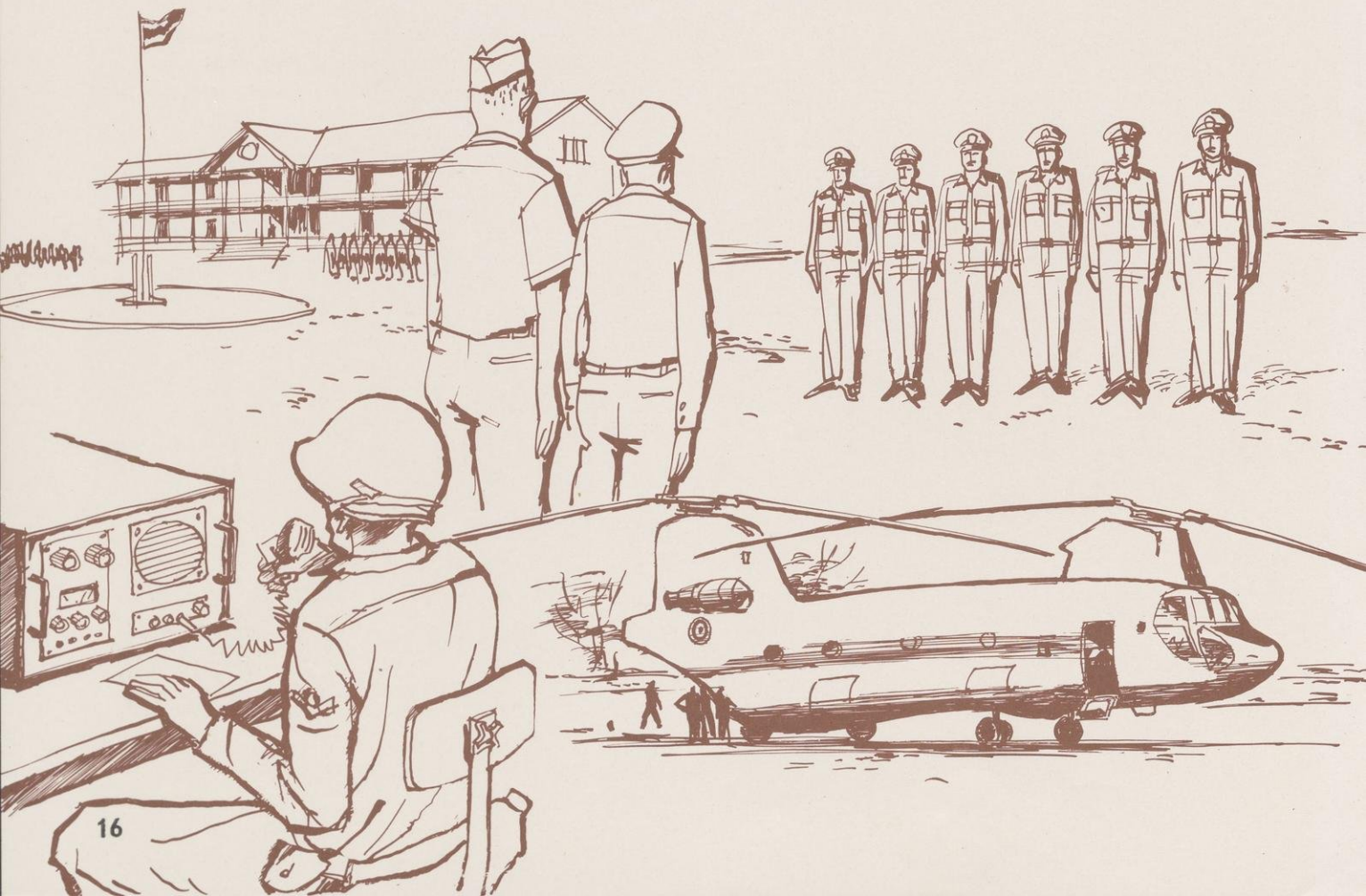
Security is a basic requirement for daily living and for national development. In some parts of Thailand, insurgent operations are a threat to security. For example, threats by terrorists against school teachers in the villages in some areas have prevented them from teaching with the obvious bad results.

The Thai National Police Department (TNPd) has responded to the security problem by increasing its manpower from 40,000 in the mid-fifties to 80,000 today. From 1965 to 1973, those elements of the National Police involved with rural security have increased their manpower from 34,000 to 60,000, about 75%. Furthermore, recruit training capability has been increased from 1,680 per year in 1965 to 15,000 today. Manpower is only half the story, however. Special counterinsurgency training schools have been established. Mobility has been radically

increased through provision of large numbers of vehicles and aircraft. Communications have been improved through installation and the use of thousands of fixed and field radios and transceivers. Furthermore, the TNPd is in the process of establishing a permanent security presence at the tambol level (group of villages).

All these activities have been a major part of USOM's assistance to Thailand. USOM has over the years allocated \$77 million to security purposes.

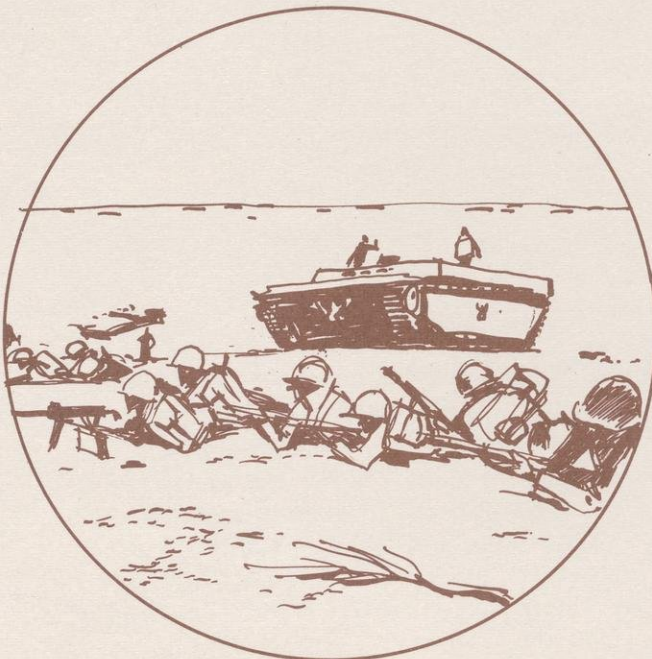
In addition to the police, the Royal Thai Army and Air Force also support Thailand's counterinsurgency effort. As noted in the introduction, they are supported not by USOM but by the military aid program of the United States, which is administered by the Joint U.S. Military Advisory Group/Military Assistance Command Thailand (JUSMAG/MACTHAI).

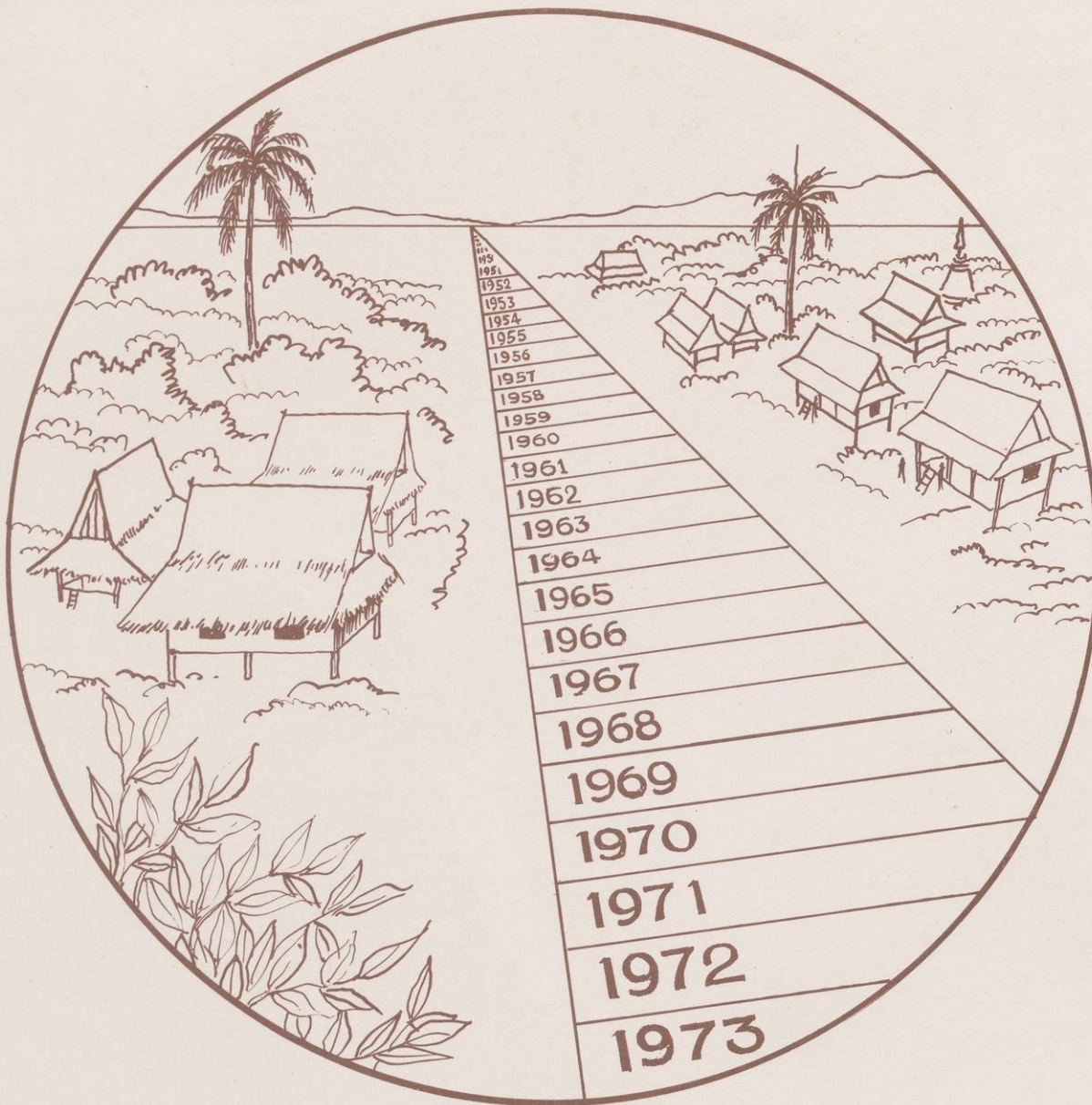




UNITED STATES MILITARY ASSISTANCE

Another American contribution to Thailand's development and security, aside from the economic assistance described in this booklet, has been the \$1,100,000,000 in military assistance provided to Thailand since 1951. Most of this assistance has been in the form of equipment and supplies.





U.S. ECONOMIC AID

United States government assistance to Thailand over the past 22 years has been primarily in the form of grants. The total of \$663 million includes approximately \$80 million in low cost, long term loans.

During this period, the Thai government has spent many times this amount on the same development and public safety programs that USOM has supported. As previously noted, the Thai government budget for 1973 alone for these programs is over \$700 million, more than the total USOM contribution over the years. In addition, the government of Thailand has spent approximately \$271 million above and beyond its regular budget in the past 22 years on projects undertaken jointly with USOM and its predecessor agencies.



United States Information Service