

United Nations Secretariat. The United Nations mission arrived in Cambodia on January 23 and after consultations there and with government officials in Bangkok, announced early in February that the two countries had agreed to resume diplomatic relations on the Ambassadorial level, effective on February 20. It may be that the agreement reached on this particular issue will lay the foundations for generally improved relations between the two countries and for the eventual settlement of the disputes still outstanding.

Interim Constitution and Government

A few days prior to the successful conclusion of the Thai-Cambodian negotiations, an interim constitution for Thailand was promulgated by Royal Decree and on February 3 the 240 members of the Constituent Assembly were appointed, also by Royal Decree, to draft a permanent constitution. The appointment of the Assembly members was followed closely by the naming of Field Marshal Sarit as Prime Minister and by the announcement of the members of the new Cabinet. Former Prime Minister Thanom and former Foreign Minister Prince Wan have been appointed Deputy Prime Ministers.

Until the promulgation of the permanent constitution, the Constituent Assembly is empowered to act also as a legislature and together with the Prime Minister and Cabinet is responsible for governing the country. In addition, Prime Minister Sarit is empowered to "issue orders or take steps in repressing or suppressing either internal or external actions which may jeopardize the national security".

In a policy statement made recently to the Constituent Assembly, the Prime Minister stated that the monarchy and democratic principles would be upheld and that the interim Government would respect human rights and act with resoluteness in the interest of the people. He re-affirmed Thailand's adherence to the Southeast Asia Treaty Organization and to the United Nations, and promised that every effort would be made to promote understanding and closer co-operation among friendly countries, especially those in Southeast Asia.