

MANIFESTO

OF THE PATRIOTIC FRONT OF THAILAND



PUBLISHED BY THE OFFICE OF THE REPRESENTATIVE
ABROAD OF THE PATRIOTIC FRONT OF THAILAND

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PATRIOTIC FRONT

OF THAILAND

PROGRESSIVE BOOKS & PERIODICALS LTD.
721 GERRARD STREET EAST,
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ABROAD OF THE PATRIOTIC FRONT OF THAILAND

MANIFESTO
OF THE PATRIOTIC FRONT OF THAILAND
TO COMPATRIOTS OF THE WHOLE COUNTRY

Dear compatriots,

For the past many years, and especially during the Sarit-Thanon rule, U.S. imperialism has stepped up its aggression against Thailand in the economic, political, military and cultural fields and turned it completely into a new-type colony of U.S. imperialism.

U.S. imperialism has subjected our country to unjust bondage by using various forms of "aid" as levers and through unequal treaties. Aided and abetted by the traitorous Sarit-Thanon administration, it has sent hordes of so-called specialists and officers to exercise control over Thailand in all fields. It has directed this vassal administration to follow U.S. policies in suppressing the Thai people and in taking a hostile attitude towards our neighbours and all the people of the world struggling for national independence and progress. It has subjected the Thai people to exploitation, plundering large amounts of wealth from Thailand every year. It has, moreover, been spreading corruptive and decadent culture to poison the minds of our youth. Since May 17, 1953, U.S. imperialism has sent into Thailand some ten thousand troops to be stationed at and to control all im-

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Laos and south Vietnam. This has not only resulted in the considerable loss of lives among our kith and kin, but has sullied the good name of our country and thus turned our country into a U.S. imperialist tool for aggression. What is more, U.S. imperialist officials and troops are lording it over in Thailand, manhandling, injuring and even slaughtering our people, and outrageously raping our women. They trample underfoot Thailand's laws and insult Thai officials, army men and the police in public. The situation is worsening increasingly.

Apart from colluding with and selling out our country to the United States, the Sarit administration, during the entire period of its rule, practised totalitarian dictatorship, frantically oppressing and exploiting the people. It ruthlessly and savagely arrested, imprisoned and slaughtered innocent people. It avariciously appropriated and squandered state funds and led an extremely extravagant and dissipated existence. Our people are well acquainted with these vile and dirty acts of Sarit. Now the Thanom administration has inherited Sarit's policies of enforcing the traitorous dictatorship and robbing the state. By instituting investigation into some of Sarit's already exposed cases of corruption, Thanom has tried hard to proclaim himself to be clean and honest so as to mitigate the people's resentment, divert their attention and shirk his own and his clique's share of responsibility. However, it is clear to everyone that Thanom and Sarit are in fact jackals of the same lair.

During the past year and more, the Thanom administration has gone ahead with its policies of selling out our country to U.S. imperialism. It has tailed after U.S. imperialism in pursuing the policy of war preparation. It has granted privileges to foreign monopoly capital groups to plunder the resources of our country and amass profits. It has

permitted U.S. imperialism to station even more troops in Thailand and to turn our country into its military base. It has forcibly sent Thai troops to participate in aggressive wars in Laos and south Vietnam. It has accepted wider and fuller control and intervention by U.S. imperialism in our education system. It is still maintaining its military and police dictatorial rule. It menaces and deprives the people of their right to freedom. It ruthlessly and barbarously suppresses patriots who hold dissenting views. It has intensified the oppression and exploitation of the people and has committed crass corruption and embezzlement. For instance, it has increased business tax, land tax and enforced other exorbitant levies. It has even extracted free labour on the pretext of "local development projects", wantonly fleecing the people. Monopolization and embezzlement remain, only the signboards and the persons running the firms change. The appointment of a new manager and a change in the composition of the board of the lottery office, the scramble for profits from the pork business and for concession rights among the transportation companies for bus routes, the scandal of placing orders with the bureau of road management to asphalt the highways in the whole country and Thanom-Praphas's grabbing of illegal gratification from the oil companies — all this shows that far from subsiding, monopolization and embezzlement are growing day by day.

As a result of the U.S. imperialist aggression against Thailand and the crimes of the Sarit-Thanom gangster clique in practising their traitorous dictatorship and robbing the state as mentioned above, the broad masses of our people have been thrown into an abyss of poverty and suffering.

The peasants are the backbone of our country, but the majority of them have run into heavy debts and are on the brink of bankruptcy owing to oppression and exploitation by

the landlords and blood-sucking usurers. Apart from having to bear the burden of exorbitant rent and interest, the peasants are made to suffer by the slashing of prices and are swindled in the weights by monopoly concerns and middlemen. They are subjected to heavy levies and many other kinds of extortion by local officials and hooligans. Furthermore, natural disasters such as droughts, floods or pests are frequent occurrences, resulting in the decline or complete loss of agricultural output. However, the administration has not given any serious attention or provided any solution to such a state of affairs. Rendered homeless, a large number of peasants are forced to leave their villages to sell their labour or become beggars.

The mine workers are in an even more miserable plight. They receive meagre wages for their hard labour, while the cost of living is high. Moreover, many employers have tried to hold the workers in bondage and turn them into their slaves forever by various means and intrigues, such as making them addicts to gambling, narcotics or even placing them in the clutches of the under-world.

Transport workers have to do very hard and strenuous labour under hazardous conditions. But instead of getting their due wages, they are always subjected to harassment and extortion by the police. In particular, tens of thousands of taxi drivers and motor-tricycle riders in Bangkok and Thon Buri are facing unemployment owing to the persecution by the Thanom puppet government which has ordered a ban on such vehicles.

Agricultural workers, i.e., rubber plantation and farm workers undertake heavy and tiring labour with little rest and low wages. As a result of exploitation and squeezing by the employers in every possible way coupled with the soaring cost of living, the agricultural workers are in dire straits.

Some employers even seek the aid of the under-world to compel the agricultural workers to do backbreaking labour and make them live like slaves. The press has termed such places as "infernos"

The fishermen have no limits placed on their working hours. Their strenuous labour is so poorly paid that they can hardly keep body and soul together. Most of them are in abject poverty unable to eke out an existence and in perpetual insecurity.

Poor people in cities, such as handicraft workers and small traders and pedlars, can hardly make both ends meet. They do small business with tiny funds. They have to pay extortions, high rents and exorbitant taxes. They are forever extorted and fined by government officials, so that they suffer losses in their business and run into heavy debts. Their life has been made most difficult and insecure.

The problem facing students is the lack of school facilities and high cost of education. Students are often forced to make donations and pay extortions. Always harassed, they are unable to receive adequate education and have to face unemployment on leaving school.

The professional workers receive no help or support in their jobs. Their rights are restricted within the framework prescribed by the ruling authorities, making it impossible for them to play their part effectively and give full scope to their abilities. Moreover, they have to pay heavy taxes. Most of them are in serious straits and are heavily indebted.

Most of the junior government officials, teachers, and armymen and policemen are the constant victims of factional struggles. Far from getting promotion or a rise in salary according to their ability, they are subjected to unwarranted trials of patience and punishment. They get meagre salaries for their long hours of work and are unable to make a living.

Therefore, they have to look for side incomes in order to support their families. They are obliged to seek advance payment of salaries at reduced rates and borrow money from all available sources. Their debts are piling up.

Owing to the Thanom administration's traitorous policy of encouraging foreign capital to grab profits from Thailand in total disregard of the adverse effects and damage to the national industries, national capital which has to face severe competition and pressure from foreign monopoly capital, is thus hampered in its development. Furthermore, the Thanom administration has imposed exorbitant levies on national capital and issued all kinds of decrees to squeeze, play the devil with and gradually swallow it up, or drive it to bankruptcy.

As stated above, the aggression by U.S. imperialism and the Sarit-Thanom administration's crimes of traitorous dictatorship and unprecedented corruption have brought frightful miseries to the Thai people. All this cannot but arouse the resentment of the broad masses of the people, who have come forward and strongly demanded a complete change to solve the present state of affairs. In particular, those who love their country and cherish democracy and are in deep suffering are waging struggles in various forms in order to find a way out. Some of them are carrying out struggles on their own, whereas others have come to realize the need of getting organised to wage struggles against the enemy. The present situation demands that all patriotic people unite as one to form a strong, unified organization and wage a thoroughgoing struggle against the enemy in order to save national independence and improve the people's livelihood. Only in this way can our country be free of disasters and our people win genuine liberation.

Actuated by a sense of responsibility to our dear motherland, we, who sincerely and ardently love our motherland and democracy, cannot remain indifferent in the face of the flagrant aggression, oppression, exploitation and plunder of our country's wealth by the enemy and traitors. Therefore, we have set up a political organization — **THE PATRIOTIC FRONT OF THAILAND**. Its purpose is to fight for the realization of complete independence, democracy, peace, neutrality and prosperity of Thailand. It has set forth the following six-point programme:

1. Fight for national independence.

Abolish the military, economic and technical "assistance" treaties between the United States and Thailand and all other treaties which the United States has employed to place fetters on Thailand, and drive all imperialist troops and aggressive forces out of Thailand so that Thailand may achieve independence and put an end to its present status as a new-type colony of U.S. imperialism.

2. Fight for the people's democratic rights.

Overthrow the fascist dictatorial administration which is subservient to U.S. imperialism, abrogate the martial law, free political prisoners and other people unwarrantedly arrested and imprisoned by the traitorous government, annul the constitution which is being used by the lackeys of U.S. imperialism to curb the people's right to freedom, establish a government of patriots and democrats and promulgate a constitution laying down and guaranteeing the rights to freedom to the whole nation so as to ensure a genuine democratic system for Thailand.

3. Pursue a policy of peace and neutrality.

Withdraw from the Southeast Asia Treaty Organization, cease intervention in the affairs of the neighbouring coun-

tries, refrain from joining any military bloc, live in amity with the people of all other countries, especially those of neighbouring countries, develop friendly relations with the countries which treat us as equals, support other peoples in their struggle for national independence and progress, cooperate with all peace-loving forces in the world, oppose the warmongering policies of U.S. imperialism and strive for world peace.

4. Develop the national economy.

In order to promote agriculture, build water conservancy works, take preventive measures against various natural calamities, ensure the peasants reasonable prices for their agricultural produce and help the poor peasants; assist and protect national industry and commerce, abolish unreasonable taxes and all bureaucratic monopoly set-ups, restrict foreign capital aimed at grabbing profits from Thailand, and establish an independent and self-reliant national economy.

5. Improve the people's livelihood.

Suppress and mete out severe punishment to embezzlers, government officials and corrupt elements who abuse their power and influence and oppress the people; distribute land to the peasants to enable them to earn a living, and suppress the crimes of encroaching upon and seizing peasants' land; adjust and guarantee the wages and salaries of workers and junior functionaries, civil servants, teachers, armymen, policemen and professional workers to ensure that they can make ends meet.

6. Develop education and public health service.

Oppose the corruptive culture of imperialism and promote a fine national culture, provide adequate school premises for students, cut down tuition fees, abolish extortionate payments for enrolment in schools, extensively develop

public health and sanitary services beneficial to the people, and take measures to prevent and root out diseases that prey upon the people, especially the rural inhabitants.

We of **the Patriotic Front of Thailand** welcome all patriotic and democratic compatriots, irrespective of sex, age, occupation, groupings, political organization, nationalities, or religious belief, to join our Front. We are also willing to cooperate with all individuals, groupings, organizations and political parties that share or agree to the above views in the struggle against our common enemies.

Dear compatriots, for the cause of our dearest motherland, our ancestors sacrificed their lives and shed their blood to safeguard our independence and passed it on to our generation. But our motherland has now been sold out to U.S. imperialism by the Sarit-Thanom clique and reduced completely to a new-type colony of U.S. imperialism. So it is high time for us to get united as one and wage a relentless struggle against the enemies of our nation. Only when all compatriots, groupings, political associations, and parties are organized and united, bring together their efforts and struggle unremittingly and valiantly in various forms against our enemies, can we drive U.S. imperialism out of Thailand and overthrow the traitorous, dictatorial and brigand puppet administration, and only then can an independent, democratic, peaceful, neutral and prosperous Thailand finally emerge. Although we are confronted with many difficulties in our struggle owing to the enemies' brutal and savage suppression of the patriotic and democratic movement, the experiences at home and abroad have taught us that the people should be united as one, weld themselves into a strong force and be determined to fight resolutely against the enemies, so that no force or enemy can defeat our

people, and the enemy will undoubtedly be smashed by the united strength of the people.

Down with U.S. imperialism and its lackeys!

Long live the united strength and struggle of the patriots!

Long live an independent, democratic and prosperous Thailand!

The Patriotic Front of Thailand

January 1, 1965.



