

##C630357 : MAJOR INTERNATIONAL RELATIONS

KEY WORD: FOREIGN POLICY/THAI/CAMBODIAN PROBLEM/GENERAL/CHATICHAI

SUNAI PHASUK: THAI FOREIGN POLICY: A CASE STUDY ON THE POLICY FORMULATION PROCESS OF GENERAL CHATICHAI CHOONHAWAN'S GOVERNMENT ON THE CAMBODIAN PROBLEM (4 AUGUST 1988 TO 23 FEBRUARY 1991)

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This Study aims at analysing General Chatichai Choonhawan Government's policy regarding the Cambodian problem. The emphasis is laid on the Governmental politics, especially. The conflicts in Policy fomulation and policy implementation between General Chatichai's advisory team and the Foreign Ministry. The study also examines the effects of such conflicts upon the Thai foreign policy objectives.

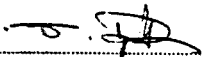
The research undertaken reveals that the major causes of conflicts in Thai foreign policies came from different viewpoints between the two agencies in the Thai government. The Prime Minister and his policy advisors adopted new approach by introducing "step-by-step" measures to solve the Cambodian problem and initiating a direct contact with the Heng Samrin regime. Furthermore, General Chatichai had announced a policy to turn Indochina from "a battle field into a marketplace." Amidst all these changes, the Ministry of Foreign Affairs still followed its approach which relied on cooperative actions with ASEAN, China, the United States and other countries to put political, economic and military pressures on Vietnam and the People's Republic of Kampuchea so as to achieve the comprehensive political resolution of the Cambodian problem. Over times, the Prime Minister and his policy advisors could manage to dominate and guide the direction of Thai foreign policies towards the Cambodian problem. These development, however, weakened the Thai position and obstructed the peace negotiation process because: (1) the policies initiated by the Prime Minister and his advisor had strengthened the People's Republic of Kampuchea while another key faction -- the Khmer Rouge -- had been excluded from the negotiation process; and (2) the Prime Minister and his advisors lacked proper diplomatic skills required to obtain a foreign policy objective.

Regarding the promotion of trade and investment with Cambodia, it is found that Thai businessman could not achieve much success or effectively reap benefit from economic activities mainly due to the prolonged armed conflicts in Cambodia.

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