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KEY WORD: THAI/ MYANMAR/ CONSTRUCTIVE ENGAGEMENT POLICY

TAWEE ARAMRUANGKUL, POL.CAPT. : THAI POLICY TOWARD MYANMAR : A STUDY OF THE IMPLEMENTATION OF THE CONSTRUCTIVE ENGAGEMENT POLICY DURING 1991-1994. THESIS ADVISOR : ASST. PROF. CHAYACHOKE CHULASIRIWONGS, Ph.D. 196 pp. ISBN 974-643-880-9

This thesis is on Thailand's constructive engagement policy to Burma. However, the study's main objective is to understand factors which influenced the implementation of the policy during 1991-1994 by relevant Thai government agencies and organizations as regards economic and security matters. This study also makes a study on the nature and policy of each agency and organization, the result of which will be used as a basis for analysing the implementation of the policy. The research is made from documents, data and interviewings of government officials and people from private agencies.

From this study, it is found that the long common border between Thailand and Burma has created many complicated and sensitive problems leading to economic and security conflicts between both countries. Therefore, the effects on Thailand are not only from internal political conflicts and fightings among various groups in Burma, but also from other problems such as migration of refugees, and pressure put on Burma by various countries. Thus Thailand has to maintain the constructive engagement policy with the SLORC, when this military government is still secured and in control of internal situations, at the same time, Thailand needs the cooperation of the SLORC in the solving of many standing problems, particularly those related to the boundary, refugees, illegal immigration, and narcotics. However, in the implementation of this policy, the solving of conflicts, and general cooperation with Burma, various Thai government agencies and organizations are the main mechanism which act in concert within the framework of the policy. This will eventually bring order to the border areas, the setting up of bases for cheap production, the acquiring of goods, natural resources and labour in substitution for their shortages in Thailand. So that the expansion and the re-settling of the country's industrial bases can be fully accommodated. In addition, Burma's becoming a member of the regional organization in the future will enhance an advantage in negotiation, and will increase the potential in competition with other regional organizations.

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