

## C432025 : MAJOR INTERNATIONAL RELATIONS

KEY WORD: ASEAN FREE TRADE AREA/ THE ROLE OF THAILAND/ ANAND PANYARACHUN'S GOVERNMENT

SAVEK MEELARPKIT : THE ESTABLISHMENT OF ASEAN FREE TRADE AREA : A STUDY OF THE ROLE OF THAILAND UNDER ANAND PANYARACHUN'S GOVERNMENT. THESIS ADVISOR : ASST. PROF. CHAYACHOKE CHULASIRIWONGS, Ph.D. 212 pp. ISBN 974-583-926-4

This thesis's major objective focuses on the study of the role of Thailand under Anand Panyarachun's government (March 2, 1991 to January 28, 1992) in making the establishment of ASEAN Free Trade Area (AFTA) a success in the fourth ASEAN Summit Meeting held in 1992. This is to show that the attempt to have a joint political will of all ASEAN member countries has greatly effected the establishment than the internal and external environments at that time.

The summation of this study is in line with the established assumption in that the environments created only encouraging conditons as well as facilitating ASEAN member countries to work for an economic-grouping; however, the acceptance and joint-signing of the AFTA documents resulted from the ability of Anand Panyarachun's government in exercising diplomatic role to inspire all top leaders and ministers of ASEAN member countries particularly Indonesia, to have a joint political will on such matter. The said success provided an additional conclusion as follows :

- 1) the success of generating the foreign policy of a state depends on the top leader and various ranking officers who have personal competency and joint effective work within a facilitating environments;
- 2) the accepted and signed ASEAN Free Trade Area can be a great success provided that all ASEAN member countries have a joint political will and a sincere cooperation without aiming to protect their national interests and disregarding the common interests of the region.