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OF THE SUPREME COURT

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The objective of this research was to study the relationship between the Thai press and Thai government during a political conflict. It concentrated on the press' performance and public duty in publicising the facts and how this affected the political conditions and government process.

This was a qualitative research in which news stories from issues dated from 20 August to 10 November of Thai newspapers, including Thai Rath, Matichon, Siam Rath and Naew Na were collected and analyzed for headline, content and extent of data provided. In addition a sampling of individuals involved in conflict arising from the appointment of a new Supreme Court President for the year 1991 were interviewed as well as chief reporters from the various newspapers.

The research revealed political conflicts arising from the appointment of the President of the Supreme Court for 1991 and the activities of newspaper in selecting certain facts to initiate an agenda setting and stimulate an increase in the conflict. These actions were taken to force the government to release facts previously withheld facts from the public, stimulate public discussion and increase pressure on the government and involved departments. These actions would not directly cause the government to make a final decision, while causing confusion among the decision-makers.