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Cambodia

22 Dec. 1958 - 6 Feb. 1959

U.N. Press releases re Beck-Friis mission

UNITED NATIONS
Office of Public Information
Press and Publications Division
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(For use of information media--not an official record)

CAUTION: ADVANCE RELEASE
Not to be made public
Before 7:00 p.m. (EST)
Monday, 22 December 1958

Press Release SG/759
22 December 1958

SECRETARY-GENERAL NAMES REPRESENTATIVE
TO ASSIST CAMBODIA AND THAILAND

Following an exchange of letters regarding certain difficulties which have arisen between Cambodia and Thailand the governments of the two countries have invited the Secretary-General of the United Nations to send a representative to assist them in efforts to find a solution.

In response to this invitation the Secretary-General has designated Ambassador Johan Beck-Friis, Sweden, as his representative for the purpose. After a visit in New York Ambassador Beck-Friis intends to proceed to the countries early in January.

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CURRICULUM VITAE

of

Baron Johan Beck-Friis

Born in Stockholm, 1890
Entered Swedish Foreign Service in 1912
Minister to China 1936 - 1939
Minister to Norway 1940
Minister to Portugal 1941 - 1943
Minister to the Norwegian Government in London 1943 - 1945
Minister to Norway 1945 - 1950 (became Ambassador in 1947)
Ambassador to Italy 1950 - 1956, when retired from foreign service

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UNITED NATIONS

Press Services
Office of Public Information
United Nations, N.Y.

(For use of information media -- not an official record)

Press Release SG/774
15 January 1959

SECRETARY-GENERAL'S REPRESENTATIVE
TO LEAVE FOR BANGKOK TODAY

Ambassador Johan Beck-Friis of Sweden, who was designated by the Secretary-General as his representative to assist the Governments of Cambodia and Thailand in their efforts to find a solution to certain difficulties which have arisen between them, will leave New York this afternoon for Bangkok.

Ambassador Beck-Friis arrived in New York last Friday, 9 January, for consultations at Headquarters prior to taking up his assignment.

He will be accompanied by Geoffrey S. Murray, Director in the Department of Political and Security Council Affairs.

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Note: Letters to the Secretary-General from the two Governments regarding the difficulties which have arisen between them have been issued as documents of the Security Council (Docs. S/4121 and S/4126).

(Biographical information on Ambassador Beck-Friis can be found in Press Release SG/759.)

UNITED NATIONS

Press Services
Office of Public Information
United Nations, N.Y.

(For use of information media -- not an official record)

Press Release SG/776
21 January 1959

SECRETARY-GENERAL'S REPRESENTATIVE ARRIVES IN BANGKOK

(The following was received from a UN Information Officer in Bangkok.)

Ambassador Jchan Beck-Friis of Sweden, who was designated by the Secretary-General as his representative to assist the Governments of Cambodia and Thailand in their efforts to find a solution to certain difficulties which have arisen between them, arrived in Bangkok Tuesday afternoon (20 January).

At a press conference at the airport he expressed hope that, given good will and cooperation from both sides, a way would be found out of the present difficulties between Cambodia and Thailand.

In reply to questions, Mr. Beck-Friis declined to describe his mission as one of "mediator." He said he considered himself "to be at the disposal of the two governments." He added that there was no time limit to his mission.

The full text of his statement follows:

"Following an exchange of views regarding certain difficulties which have arisen between Thailand and Cambodia, the governments of the two countries have demonstrated their confidence in the United Nations by inviting the Secretary-General to send a representative to the area to assist the governments in efforts to find a solution. In response to this invitation the Secretary-General has designated me as his representative for the purpose.

"I have come to Thailand with an open mind and I shall be glad to cooperate with your government. I shall of course visit Cambodia as well.

"I warmly welcome this opportunity of seeing your lovely country again. I am hopeful that with good will and cooperation from both sides it will be possible to find a way out of the present difficulties."

Mr. Beck-Friis, who is accompanied by Geoffrey Murray, Director in the UN Department of Political and Security Council Affairs, was greeted at the airport by Prince Wan Waithayakon, Thailand's permanent Representative to the United Nations, U Nyun, Acting Executive Secretary of the Economic Commission for Asia and the Far East and Folke Enstedt, Swedish Consul General in Bangkok.

Today, Wednesday, Mr. Beck-Friis meets Field Marshal Sarit Thanarat, leader of the revolutionary party in power in Thailand, and then goes into closed discussions with Prince Wan and other officials of the Thai Ministry of Foreign Affairs.

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UNITED NATIONS

Press Services
Office of Public Information
United Nations, N.Y.

(For use of information media -- not an official record)

Press Release SG/777
23 January 1959

SECRETARY-GENERAL'S REPRESENTATIVE LEAVES BANGKOK FOR CAMBODIA

(The following was received from a UN Information Officer in Bangkok.)

Ambassador Johan Beck-Friis of Sweden, who is the Secretary-General's representative assisting the Governments of Cambodia and Thailand in their efforts to find a solution to certain difficulties which have arisen between them, left Bangkok today for Cambodia, following the first round of preliminary talks with the Thai Government.

He is expected to remain in Phnom Penh, the Cambodian capital, for about one week after which he will return to Bangkok.

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UNITED NATIONS

Press Services
Office of Public Information
United Nations, N.Y.

(For use of information media -- not an official record)

Press Release SO/780
30 January 1959

SECRETARY GENERAL'S REPRESENTATIVE RETURNS TO BANGKOK AFTER TALKS IN CAMBODIA

(The following was received from a UN Information Officer in Bangkok.)

Ambassador Johan Beck-Vrijs returned today to Bangkok following consultations with Cambodian Government officials in Phnom Penh. He will now resume talks with Thai officials.

Ambassador Beck-Vrijs, who is the Secretary-General's representative assisting the Governments of Cambodia and Thailand in their efforts to find a solution to certain difficulties* which have arisen between them, stated on his arrival today: "Ten days ago, I said here that I was hopeful that 'it will be possible to find a way out of the present difficulties.' Since then, nothing has happened to make me less hopeful."

The Secretary-General's representative was met at the airport in Bangkok by Prince Wan Waithayakon, Thailand's Permanent Representative to the United Nations, and by officials of the Foreign Office.

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* See Docs. S/4121 and 4125.

UNITED NATIONS

Press Services
Office of Public Information
United Nations, N.Y.

(For use of information media -- not an official record)

Press Release SG/782
6 February 1959

SECRETARY-GENERAL'S REPRESENTATIVE MAKES STATEMENT ON
RESUMPTION OF DIPLOMATIC RELATIONS BETWEEN CAMBODIA AND THAILAND

(The following was received here from a UN Information Officer in Bangkok.)

Ambassador Johan Beck-Friis, the Secretary-General's representative assisting the governments of Cambodia and Thailand in their efforts to find a solution to certain difficulties* which have arisen between them, made the following statement at a press conference in Bangkok today:

"When I first arrived in Bangkok on 20 January 1959 I expressed in a brief statement to the press my hope that, with god will and cooperation from both sides, it would be possible to find a way out of certain difficulties which were facing Thailand and Cambodia. I had in mind in particular the suspension of diplomatic relations then in effect.

"During my stay in the area I have engaged in similar activities in both countries, and especially I have entered into full and frank discussions with the appropriate government officials. I have visited some of the areas in which incidents had occurred in the past.

"I wish to emphasize however that my mission here has not been concerned with the past but with the future. I was not sent here to act as judge or arbitrator. My principal aim has been to help the two governments find a path toward better relations. Of course the key to this process has been the resumption of diplomatic relations, and I warmly welcome the joint communique which has been issued this morning in both Bangkok and Phnom Penh.

"This communique is the result of a careful review of the whole situation between each of the governments concerned and myself. It is also conclusive indication of the good will and cooperation which have happily existed on both sides. My hopes and expectations have been fully justified, and I now look forward to the day when the two ambassadors concerned will return to their posts.

*See Docs. S/4121 and 4126.

(more)

"The resumption of diplomatic relations should be regarded as the fruit of whole-hearted cooperation, tact and courtesy on the part of all concerned, the two countries and the United Nations. It is the culmination of earnest effort to achieve a happy solution. It should not be considered as an end in itself for, although it will mark the result of my own mission here, the resumption of diplomatic relations will be but the beginning, I trust, of a period of renewed confidence in the relations between these two countries.

"It is my firm belief that, in this improved atmosphere and with patience and understanding on both sides, Thailand and Cambodia will be able to resolve the remaining difficulties between them. There does not exist, as far as I can judge, one single question between the two countries which could not be settled by negotiations.

"Buddhist Thailand and Buddhist Cambodia have so much in common that there is in my opinion no reason why their future relations should not be not only correct but even excellent.

"The press in both countries can of course help toward restoring confidence by avoiding digging into the past and making unfair criticism. Nations like individuals are much better off if they go about their own business quietly and avoid finding fault with others.

"In conclusion I wish to commend both Thailand and Cambodia for following the path of peaceful negotiations which, as loyal members of the United Nations, they have so strictly revealed today their desire to follow."

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UNITED NATIONS

Press Services
Office of Public Information
United Nations, N.Y.

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Press Release SG/783
6 February 1959

STATEMENT BY THE SECRETARY-GENERAL CONCERNING AGREEMENT
BETWEEN THAILAND AND CAMBODIA, 6 FEBRUARY 1959

"I am very happy that the good offices of the United Nations, exercised by Ambassador Beck-Friis as the special representative of the Secretary-General, have assisted the Governments of Thailand and Cambodia in re-establishing good-neighborly relations with each other, as reflected in the re-establishment of diplomatic relations.

"I wish also to express on my own behalf and on behalf of Ambassador Beck-Friis my high appreciation for the confidence and cooperation we have enjoyed."

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Note No. 1935
6 February 1959

NOTE TO CORRESPONDENTS

Following is the text of a joint communique issued today by the governments of Cambodia and Thailand in Phnom Penh and Bangkok:

"At the suggestion of His Excellency Ambassador Johan Beck-Friis, a Special Representative of the Secretary-General of the United Nations, the two governments of Thailand and of Cambodia have resolved to re-establish diplomatic relations between the two countries, and the former Ambassadors, Somchai Anuman Rajadon and Ty Kim Sour, will return to their respective posts February 20th 1959."

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