

Message Text

UNCLASSIFIED

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ORIGIN EA-09

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 TRSE-00 /010 R

DRAFTED BY CUSTOMS:KADEHART/EA/TB:FJTATU:MGH

APPROVED BY EA/TB:GBROBERTS

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FM SECSTATE WASHDC

TO AMEMBASSY BANGKOK IMMEDIATE

UNCLAS STATE 270917

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: OVIP

SUBJECT:

1. PLEASE DELIVER FOLLOWING FROM DEPUTY DIRECTOR KENNETH DEHART TO MR. JAMES A. CONLON, DIRECTOR, U.S. BUREAU OF ENGRAVING AND PRINTING, C/O MR. KASEMCHITTA ASAWACHINDA, BANKNOTE PRINTING WORKS, BANK OF THAILAND, BANGKOK.

2. BEGIN TEXT: JOHN STOIDES CALLED--EXTREMELY CONCERNED AND AGGRAVATED THAT 2 FRN IS BEING PRINTED PRIOR TO DECISION ON AUTOMATED CURRENCY HANDLING AND SEAL CHANGES. FEELS TAGGING CHANGE WILL BE AUTHORIZED IMMINENTLY AND ISSUANCE OF TAGGED NOTES WILL MAKE 1976 SERIES A COLLECTOR'S ITEM. THIS CONCERN IS SHARED BY TASK FORCE, GOVERNOR CALDWELL AND CHAIRMAN BURNS. JOHN FEELS BAD FAITH ON PART OF BUREAU IN NOT HAVING PLANNED CHANGES BROUGHT TO THE ATTENTION OF TREASURY OFFICIALS PRIOR TO ANNOUNCING THE NEW NOTE. FEELS ANY DELAY IN TAGGING PROJECT IS A RESULT OF TRYING TO ACCOMMODATE BUREAU'S DESIRE FOR RED INK NEW FR SEAL, ETC.

3. ADVISED WE ARE TOO FAR ALONG ON \$2 NOTE TO CHANGE; COULD NOT INCORPORATE SEAL, NEW PLATES, ETC., AND MEET APRIL 13 ANNOUNCED DATE. I EMPHASIZED THAT \$2 NOTE IS UNCLASSIFIED

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NOW A REALITY WHEREAS TAGGING IS STILL A PROJECT. WHEN TAGGING IS APPROVED, THERE WILL BE A TRANSITION PERIOD TO CHANGE ALL DENOMINATIONS AND THE \$2 NOTE WILL BE INCLUDED WITH OTHER DENOMINATIONS. IN THE MEANTIME, AMPLE REGULAR 2'S WILL HAVE BEEN PRODUCED TO PRECLUDE COLLECTOR'S ITEM ASPECT.

4. FEEL DEPARTMENT WILL BE DRAWN INTO THIS. SINCE YOU ARE WITH TOM GAINOR YOU CAN DISCUSS. ADVISE ME OF ANY POLICY CHANGE--AT WORK OR HOME (301) 587-7686. KISSINGER

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Disposition Approved on Date:
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Margaret P. Grafeld
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