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focus 1 (Normass/deepe)

Saigon, December 18—Americans in Southeast Asia are beginning to call Thailand the "carbon copy war." American officials ~~wok~~ working in Vietnam, but visiting Thailand for their vacations, are beginning to shudder at the sharp deterioration of events in Thailand and ~~the~~ <sup>its</sup> resemblance to the previous patterns in Vietnam in roughly ~~the~~ <sup>the</sup> 1962-1963 ~~period~~ <sup>period</sup> when the American advisory effort escalated. More American military and civilian advisors are being sent to Thailand, some of them with Vietnam experience.

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focus 4 2 (Norman/deepe)

These sources shudder <sup>ED</sup> when they heard recently that four Thai provinces have shifted from civilian to military administrators, as that sections of one province near the Malaysian border now has a night curfew because fifteen policemen were recently lost there and that the Communists are now intimidating government teachers, village officials and policeman as they once did in Vietnam in the early sixties to strengthen their grip on the <sup>Remote</sup> village populations.

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focus 3 (normass/deepe)

One basic problem these sources note is that the high-level Thai government officials refuse to ~~recon~~ recognize their seriousness of the problem; officially the Thai government views the insurgency as springing only from Chinese or Vietnamese nationals now living in Thailand, but long ~~es~~ exposed to their political apparatus of Hanoi and Peking. But, Americans in a position to know maintain that the insurgency is also widespread among the Thai nationals, making it thus more dangerous and insidious. Another problem, similar to Vietnam, is the large-scale ~~corruptio~~ corruption prevalent within the Thai government, which alienates the population and thus aids the Communist-inspired insurgents. These Americans believe the senior Americans working in Thailand are suppressing the news of the seriousness of the <sup>is</sup> situation (also ~~similist~~ similar to the Vietnam situation in 1962-63) for fear of alienating the Thai government officials they must work with.

American & military officers ~~in Vietnam~~ visiting Thailand predict, that unless radical changes are made there, they will be based in Thailand in three or four years fighting in the same jobs ~~positions th~~ they are now assigned to in Vietnam.

(Hank: this is the focus column on red bloc countries.

Sorriest I didn't get it mailed. Bev).