

crease their population with the hope of regaining their homeland, and to fill the void left by the deaths of millions of their countrymen during the rule of the Khmer Rouge.

Sombhong Pattawichaiporn, executive director of the Planned Parenthood Association of Thailand, currently responsible for birth control programs in the Laotian camps, recently hinted at plans for coercing refugees into birth control by threatening to withhold their food rations! At present, the U.N. High Commissioner for Refugees grants a weekly ration of 3,500 grams of rice to each refugee over nine years of age and 2,000 grams to those younger than nine. Sombhong, along with Dr. Thawat of the Community Development Association, believe that the food rations given by the U.N. refugee agency encourages the refugees to have too many children, and have publicly stated so.

It is not surprising that agencies and individuals in the zero population growth movement would also be pushing zero economic growth. As it happens, Mechai himself is an executive in both the World Wildlife Fund International and the World Wildlife Fund of Thailand. Mechai's rural development schemes being carried out by the Community Development Association, are based strictly on the "small is beautiful" approach, using the "appropriate technology" methods that have been popularized by the World Bank and IMF.

What Mechai introduced into the poorest areas of Thailand, especially the rural northeast, is a scheme whereby impoverished villagers would be forced to practice birth control in order to receive a loan or some other form of assistance. The Community Development Association introduced into rural villages a 50,000 baht fund, divided into 10 baht shares. A vasectomy entitles a villager to 80 shares; female sterilization gets 40; IUD users get 20; pill users get 10; and condom users only get 5. Villagers were then advised on buying chickens, water buffalo, pigs, rain barrels, etc. Obviously, this "development plan" will not only keep those villagers hovering around subsistence levels, but will eventually cause these Thai villagers to die out for lack of offspring. Perhaps this is what the NESDB had in mind all along, since they never considered actual rural development based on the modernization of agriculture a "viable investment." Instead, the NESDB chose to impose the World Bank-IMF model of population reduction and labor intensive farming and production. And to legitimize this backwardness, Mechai's "family planning" groups applaud the lack of people as "quality of life," just as the World Wildlife Fund's environmentalists praise the lack of development as "conservation of nature."

### References

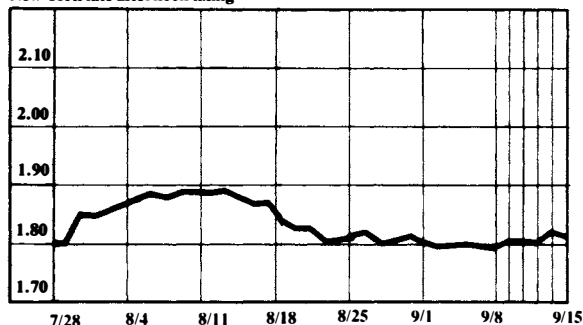
Krannich, Ronald L. and Caryl Rae, *The Politics of Family Planning Policy, "Thailand—A Case of Successful Implementation,"* Center for South and Southeast Asia Studies, University of California at Berkeley, 1980.

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## Currency Rates

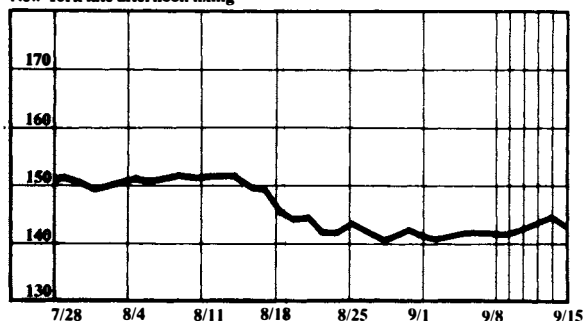
### The dollar in deutschemarks

New York late afternoon fixing



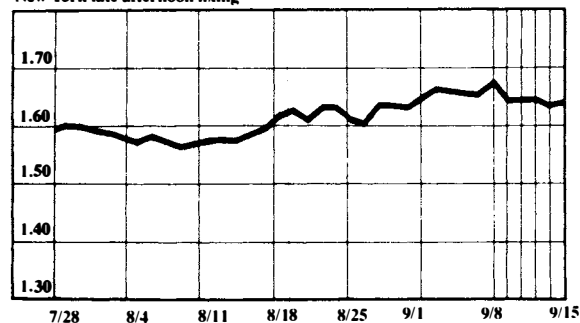
### The dollar in yen

New York late afternoon fixing



### The British pound in dollars

New York late afternoon fixing



### The dollar in Swiss francs

New York late afternoon fixing

