

AMITY AND COMMERCE

Agreement concluded at Bangkok December 17 and 31, 1867, modifying treaty of May 29, 1856

Entered into force January 1, 1868

Senate advice and consent to ratification July 25, 1868

Ratified by the President of the United States August 11, 1868

Replaced September 1, 1921, by treaty of December 16, 1920¹

17 Stat. 807; Treaty Series 323

The American Consul to the Assistant Secretary of State

UNITED STATES CONSULATE

BANGKOK, *Decr. 31st, 1867*

No. 72

To Hon. F. W. SEWARD

Assistant Secretary of State, Washington, D.C.

Sir: I have the honor to inform the Department that I have received a letter from His Excellency Chaw Phaya Praklang, Minister of Foreign Affairs, informing me that the Royal Counsellors for the Kingdom of Siam desire to change article first of the Treaty Regulations,² and that the change shall go into effect on January 1st, 1868. The article alluded to is as follows, viz:

“Every shipmaster upon anchoring his vessel at Paknam will deliver into the custody of the custom-house officers all his guns and ammunition, and a custom-house officer will then be appointed to the vessel, and will proceed in her to Bangkok.”

The article as changed will require that the powder alone be left at Paknam, but that the guns be allowed to remain in the vessel. I have given my assent to the change, and all the other Consuls have done the same.

The change is a very advantageous one to shipmasters, as in [the] shipping and reshipping of their guns, some of which were heavy, was attended with much delay and expense; whereas they generally have but a few pounds of

¹ TS 655, *post*, p. 997.

² Regulations appended to treaty of May 29, 1856 (TS 322, *ante*, p. 987).

powder on board, which can be boxed up and put ashore in a very short time.

I have the honor to be, sir, your obedient servant,

J. M. Hood
U.S. Consul

Minister of Foreign Affairs to the American Consul

To Mr. J. M. HOOD, *U.S. Consul*,

Saying: That the Senabodee of the Kingdom of Siam have considered this matter, and have come to the conclusion that as they saw that Siam was near the water, and that trading ships could ascend to the city, for this reason they asked a clause in the treaties that all guns and powder should be landed at Paknam before the ship would ascend the river. The Ministers Plenipotentiary also were of the same opinion, and yielded this point to the Siamese in the treaties.

When a vessel came in and the Chaw Pausk-nan at Paknam received the guns and powder off the vessel *that* [they] found it very difficult to take care of the powder, and were afraid of an explosion, and for this reason they did not receive the powder from the vessel, but simply the guns. But now a long time since the Senabodee are of the opinion that the taking off of the guns at Paknam is a source of trouble to the vessels, for they took off guns belonging to many persons, and when the vessels *come* [came] down again it was often after night, and when the captains went for their guns the wrong ones were frequently taken, and when the vessel coming afterwards could not find her own guns, there was a fuss, and the Siamese officers had frequently to pay for the guns. Again, the powder was left in the vessels, and they coming up and anchoring in the river, there was danger of an explosion and injury to the citizens here.

Therefore the Senabodee have ordered me to write to all the Consuls and ask that the custom be changed from January 1st, 1868. We ask to take out the powder of the vessels at Paknam, but the guns can be left in the vessels and need not be taken out. If you are also of the same opinion, you will please inform masters of vessels and others under your protection to this effect. When the vessel comes to Paknam let them take out all the powder, but if they refuse to let the powder be taken out, and it remains in the vessel, and there arises any difficulty from that fact, we [beg to] claim indemnity according to the treaty.

Given Tuesday, December 17th, 1867.