



OFFICE OF THE VICE PRESIDENT  
WASHINGTON

April 9, 1974

MEMORANDUM OF CONVERSATION

PLACE: OEOB  
TIME: 9:30 a.m.  
DATE: April 9, 1974

SUBJECT: Meeting with Ambassador Sjarif Thajeb  
of Indonesia

PARTICIPANTS: The Vice President  
Mr. Marsh

Ambassador Sjarif Thajeb

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This was largely a courtesy call to say good-bye. The Ambassador expressed the hope that the Vice President could visit Indonesia which was well received by the Vice President who indicated an interest in doing so.

The Ambassador reviewed developments in Indonesia, mentioning largely natural resources including tin, copper, oil, natural gas, and new technology rice. Population remains a problem as does inter-island shipping and inter-island aircraft flights. They need both new shipping and new aircraft to reach the 13,000 islands of which about 6,000 are uninhabited.

The Ambassador stressed need for Aid in the field of health, welfare, and education. He has a special interest in education since he is becoming the new Minister of Education in the Cabinet.

The Vice President warned on the Congressional attitude about Aid and expressed regrets that this was the situation, but he pointed out that we must be realistic.



The Ambassador mentioned the use of TV and domestic satellite in their educational program.

The Vice President inquired about replacement, and the Ambassador advised that it would be the Indonesian Ambassador to London. The Vice President expressed his desire to see him when he was officially installed.

The meeting went quite well, and the Ambassador departed with request to convey his best wishes to Mrs. Ford.

Prepared by:  Marsh



DEPARTMENT OF STATE

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Washington, D.C. 20520

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March 29, 1974

MEMORANDUM FOR MR. JOHN O. MARSH  
OFFICE OF THE VICE PRESIDENT

Subject: Appointment with Vice President  
for Indonesian Ambassador Thajeb

Indonesian Ambassador Sjarif Thajeb will be in Washington April 3-10 to pay farewell calls before returning to Jakarta to resume his duties as the new Minister of Education. The Embassy has requested an appointment for him to pay his respects to the Vice President at any convenient time during that period.

A meeting with the Vice President could serve to reassure the Indonesian leadership that our current sharp aid cuts do not signal any decline in U.S. support for Indonesian development efforts.

Thajeb's importance as an Indonesian leader is indicated by his appointment as Minister of Education at a time of mounting student unrest in Indonesia. Thajeb's links with both the military and the intellectuals make him a key figure in the current troubled atmosphere in Indonesia.

A biographic sketch of the Ambassador is attached.

*George S. Springsteen, Jr.*  
George S. Springsteen, Jr.  
Executive Secretary

Attachment:

Biographic sketch.

~~CONFIDENTIAL~~  
GDS

*w ltm 10/24/00*

## SJARIF THAJEB

Indonesian Ambassador to the United States

(Phonetic: SHAR-eef Tah-YEB)

Lt. General Sharif Thajeb, age 53, is in many respects typical of the present Indonesian leadership -- he is essentially a civilian professional, but has also had a highly successful career in the military.

Thajeb was born in 1920 in Aceh (AH-chay), at the northern tip of Sumatra. A medical student during World War II, he engaged in underground activities against the Japanese. He became an Army doctor during Indonesia's independence struggle, and rose to become Sector Commander. He participated in the campaign against Moluccan rebels in 1950. He holds an M.D. degree from a Dutch medical school in Java, and did post-graduate work in medicine from 1955 to 1958 at Harvard, Boston and Temple Universities, specializing in hematology and pediatrics. In 1961 he became chief of the Jakarta General Hospital, and treated Sukarno's children. He became rector of the University of Indonesia in 1962, and was named Minister of Higher Education and Basic Science in 1964. He was also promoted to Brigadier General in that year. In 1966 he was dropped from the Cabinet by Sukarno and was promoted to Major General, and became Chairman of the powerful Armed Forces group where he was a key figure in promoting Suharto's programs. He was named to his present position in the fall of 1971.

Ambassador Thajeb comes from a prominent Achenese family: one of his brothers, Ismael, is Indonesia's Ambassador to the UN European Office in Geneva, and another brother, Hadi, is the Indonesian Ambassador to Poland. Thajeb is married and has four children. He has travelled widely, and speaks English, Dutch, French and German.

January 1974.