



Ministry of Foreign Affairs,
Sri Ayudhya Road,
Bangkok 10400.

29 August B.E. 2548 (2005)

I wish to refer to your letter dated 5 November 2004 regarding the letter sent to H.E. Dr. Surakiart Sathirathai, the then Minister of Foreign Affairs, on 4 August 2004 by heads of delegation of several UN agencies, expressing concern over the lack of birth registration for children, particularly those of migrants, and its connection to future vulnerability to human trafficking.

I wish to inform you that the Thai authorities are well aware of United Nations agencies' concerns on the said matter and wish to reiterate that the Thai Government places great importance in preventing and suppressing human trafficking as evident that the issue was proclaimed in August 2004 by H.E. the Prime Minister of Thailand as a national agenda. Among various efforts, measures to tackle the lack of identity papers of some groups of children who were born in Thailand has been introduced to keep those children away from such vulnerability.

In this connection, I wish to provide you with the relevant information on Thailand's laws and policies on birth registration as follows:

1. The Civil Registration Act of 1991 and the Regulations of the Central Registration Office on Civil Registration of 1992 have clear process for birth registration of any child born in Thailand with or without Thai nationality.

2. On 26 March 2002, the Ministry of Interior has also issued guidelines to further clarify the matter regarding civil registration for aliens. According to the guidelines, birth certificates could be issued to children born of parents who are members of certain groups of aliens who have been allowed to reside in Thailand in accordance with Article 17 of the Immigration Act B.E. 2522 (1979) such as ethnic Vietnamese, Chinese, Laotians, Nepalese, hill tribe persons as well as displaced persons from Myanmar and

illegal migrant workers from the neighbouring countries provided that they are registered or be issued proper work permit from the Thai authorities concerned.

3. Furthermore, on 10 June 2002, the Ministry of Interior issued guidelines for all civil registrars stating that midwives may issue delivery certificates (equivalent to birth certificates) for children born in their hospitals or medical centres regardless of the parents' legal status in Thailand. This essentially means that children born of parents who are illegal migrants are also to be registered at birth.

4. In addition, the Ministry of Interior circulated a Note dated 26 May 2003 to Governors of Mae Hong Son, Tak, Kanchanaburi and Ratchaburi provinces, along Thailand-Myanmar border, to advise them that midwives or the local authorities could issue "Delivery Certificates" for children born of parents who are registered and reside in the temporary shelters along the border.

Attached herewith, please find, for your reference, a sample of the delivery certificate (Tor. Ror. 1/1) to be issued to children under the above categories 3 and 4.

I hope that the information provided would clarify Thailand's practice regarding birth registration and reflects our determination to prevent children from the vulnerability to human trafficking.

Yours sincerely,



(Kittiphong na Ranong)

Director-General

Department of International Organisations