

The Administration of H.E. General Prem Tinsulanonda the Prime Minister's Personal Collection in Digital Age

Ornuma Somboonsab

The National Archives of H.E. General Prem Tinsulanonda the Prime Minister
Thailand

Established in 1986 and fully opened in 1988, the National Archives of H.E. General Prem Tinsulanonda the Prime Minister, was founded through the initiative of Mr. Sampan Thongsamak, Deputy Minister of Education under the leadership of H.E. General Prem Tinsulanonda, the Prime Minister. Recognizing the importance of preserving historical records and documents related to individuals who have undertaken significant national missions, Mr. Sampan Thongsamak envisioned the establishment of this archive as nowadays in many countries, such archives are found and served as valuable resources for educational and research purposes across various historical fields. Noteworthy examples include the Presidential Archives in the United States and the archives of Tunku Abdul Rahman, former Prime Minister of Malaysia.

The National Archives of H.E. General Prem Tinsulanonda the Prime Minister had acquired a collection of personal documents concerning the former Prime Minister from Spokesman Division, the Secretariat of the Prime Minister. This collection consists of 182 records, including news, articles from diverse media publications and political newspapers, and 704 photos of the Prime Minister on missions conducted between 1980 and 1988. These documents not only illuminate the government's public administration but also make invaluable contributions to the study of history, society, economy, and politics during H.E. General Prem Tinsulanonda's tenure.

In addition, for the purpose of preservation and public service, the collection has undergone digitization and is now conveniently available online through the National Archives of Thailand archival system: archives.nat.go.th. The highlighted collection comprises the photography collection from Spokesman Division, the Secretariat of the Prime Minister. It includes photos of H.E. General Prem Tinsulanonda during his visits to civilians, military, and police forces in the northeastern area while combating the communist insurgency (1980 - 1982). Additionally, the collection features images of H.E. General Prem Tinsulanonda presiding over the opening ceremony for the Natural Gas Transmission Station in Rayong (1985), the Power Dam in Kanchanaburi (1986), and the Tinsulanonda Bridge in Songkhla (1986). Furthermore, it showcases H.E. General Prem Tinsulanonda's visits to various countries, such as Myanmar (1980), as well as his meetings with distinguished leaders from other nations, including Lee Kuan Yew, Singapore's former PM (1980 and 1982), the Ambassador of Myanmar

(1982), H.E. Tun Musa Bin Hitam, former Deputy Prime Minister of Malaysia (1982) and His Majesty Preah Bat Samdech Preah Boromneath NORODOM SIHAMONI, former King of Cambodia (1983).