

**Remarks by His Excellency Mr. Noppadon Pattama,
Minister of Foreign Affairs of the Kingdom of Thailand,
at the Reception in Commemoration of
the 175th Anniversary of the Thai-U.S. Relations,
Ministry of Foreign Affairs, 28 April 2008, 18.30 hrs.**

April 28, 2008, 6:28 pm

Your Excellencies Prime Minister Samak Sundaravej,
Under Secretary Chris Padilla,
Ambassador Eric John,
Excellencies,
Distinguished Guests,

Good evening, and welcome to the Ministry of Foreign Affairs. It is an honour for the Ministry of Foreign Affairs to host this reception to commemorate 175 years of a very special relationship – a bond forged by multi-dimensional cooperation and deep-rooted friendship – between Thailand and the United States – the elephant and the eagle.

I am very pleased to be joined by all of you, who as Friends of Thailand and the United States, have helped contribute to the strength and vibrancy of our two countries' close ties. I also thank the Ambassadors and other members of the diplomatic corps who have joined us for this celebration.

Since Siam and the United States signed the Treaty of Amity and Commerce in 1833, the relations between our two countries have grown from strength to strength. Through times of peace or crisis, through thick and thin, our cooperation has continued to prosper, deepen and broaden in virtually all areas.

So, today I need not say too many words to describe the state of the relations between Thailand and the United States: Our relations are true and stand the test of time.

All this was made clear to me during my visit to the United States last month – in my various meetings and conversations with Secretary Rice, and many distinguished representatives in the U.S. Administration and U.S. Congress as well as with the U.S. business and academic circles.

We are close allies who work together bilaterally and regionally. We are close partners who share values, not least in democracy and free trade.

As Foreign Minister speaking in the presence of my Prime Minister, I can assure you that as the United States' oldest ally in the region, Thailand is determined to further broaden and deepen our ties with the United States.

Earlier this afternoon, the Thai-U.S. Business Summit was held at Government House. A number of leading American businessmen, who are also here with us, have travelled half-way across the globe to participate in the Summit to explore with us the

full range of opportunities in the Thai-U.S. business partnership. This is just one of many promising activities that we can do together to achieve concrete results.

Excellencies,

Today's reception not only marks the 175th anniversary of the Thai-American ties. It is also to honour everyone who has played a part in building this partnership.

Let us celebrate this moment by reflecting on how we might best carry our existing excellent friendship forward, so that we may navigate the future with full confidence in the strength of our friendship to see us through any storm.

Today, the world is alarmed by the food crisis. I can assure you that we don't have food and drink crisis in this room.

I wish you an enjoyable evening.

Thank you.
