Gun Kills Siam’s Young King; Palace Death Held Accident

Ananda Mahidol, 20, Ruled Ancient Country Since 1935—Was Set to Fly to U. S. —Brother, 18, Named Successor

By The Associated Press.

BANGKOK, Siam, Monday, June 10—Ananda Mahidol, 20-year-old Boston while his father, the late King of Siam, was found dead of a bullet wound yesterday in the royal palace, and twelve hours later the Siamese Legislature named his brother, Prince Phumiphon Aduldet, 18, as the new king.

The Siamese police director general told an emergency session of the Legislature last night that the king’s death was accidental and that the bullet went through the center of his forehead.

Ananda, whose death occurred almost on the eve of a projected trip to the United States, had been indisposed for the last two days. He arose at 6 A. M. yesterday and took some medicine. Nothing was known of his actions from then until his body was found by a servant in the bedroom of the Baromphin Palace about 9 A. M.

The historic night session of the Legislature unanimously selected Phumiphon Aduldet as the new king, rising together to signalize his election with a “Cha Yo, Cha Yo, Cha Yo”—the Siamese hurrah.

Phumiphon Aduldet was born in Boston while his father, the late King of Siam, was studying at Harvard University. He was a constant companion of his elder brother and attended school with him in Switzerland.

The Legislature also appointed a three-man Council of Regency to guide the new king in matters of state. Pride Panymyong, who was reappointed Premier three days ago, told the Legislature he would recommend a Premier to the regency, but legislative sources said there was little doubt that Mr. Panymyong would receive the post.

The entire nation was stunned by the news of Ananda Mahidol’s death. The young king had gained great popularity since his return from Switzerland last Dec. 5.

[In Berne, Switzerland, Paul Rey, director of the school where the King studied, said the monarch’s retinue had been worried before Ananda’s departure from Switzerland over the possibility of assassination. Asked]

Continued on Page 17, Column 4
a Constitutional requirement, Premier Panymyong and members of the Cabinet resigned, continuing to serve, however, while the Parliament considered the selection of a new Premier.

Ananda was proclaimed King March 2, 1935, under a regency, on the abdication of his uncle, King Prajadhipok, but he spent little time in his own land. Born in Germany on Sept. 20, 1925, he was taken to Siam at the age of 2. He studied there and went to Switzerland in 1933. He was educated in Lausanne, and most of his last twelve years were spent in Switzerland, except for a brief visit home in 1938. Prajadhipok died in 1941.

During Ananda’s minority a Council of Regency ruled Siam. It was made up of Prince Aditya, a nephew of Prajadhipok; Chao Phya Bijayendra Yodhin, a former army general, and Chao Phya Yommaraj, former Minister of the Interior, who died in 1938.

Bloodless Coup in 1932

The ancient absolute monarchy was replaced generally to the infiltration of Western ideas because of the custom of sending Princes and Sons of prominent families to Europe and the United States for their education.

Modern trends were evident in Bangkok even before the war. Hollywood movies, airliners linking Siam, which lasted from 1930 the country with Europe, heavy to 1932, was overthrown in a bloodless revolution three years before buildings and flourishing commerce.

Ananda ascended the throne, but civil life in the cities were signs of the Siamese revered him.

Ananda’s recently expressed desire to return to Switzerland was made by his French had invaded Siam from presence in the country heightened Indo-China in areas ceded by the Vichy Government to Siam during the war. The Siamese hoped to government announced that the King present this case to the United Na-

The King died at a time that the war. His mother and his royal party would leave for C-54 plane. The following Thursday in an Air 

Siam was invaded by the Japanese. The United States diplomatic attaché King was in Switzerland. A puppet in Bangkok were to have accom-

panied him. Ananda’s personal life in Siam, 1942, but the Americans con-

victed largely within the pal-

The war. This King was said to have exerted a strong United States announced formal

The ancient name of Siam was Chang last December the restored officially in September, King obediently followed the dic-1945. From 1939 until 1945 the tates of pomp and ceremony, and name of Thailand had been used.