



Q: In what way were you impressed by the thought ?

A: In what way? First, I was impressed with the idea of encouraging the development and continuation of crafts in Thailand. I think it's a very important thing. We've lived all of our professional life in Asia and I've never seen-in another country in Asia-such well developed craftwork. And I think that it's very important to preserve that. And it's difficult in the modern world to keep that going because either it isn't so much appreciated or it doesn't bring sufficient money to the people who do it to make a living from it. And I think that there's always a danger of it dying out as it has in other countries. And for that to be encouraged at such a high level is a very good idea. I think because the Queen, because her Majesty supports that, I think everyone will support it. And I think that's a very excellent idea. The combination of that-that is the value of handicrafts is very impressive ; it's also very impressive to take people who otherwise wouldn't be able to advance their lives and to give them an opportunity to have a completely different kind of life. I think that's very impressive. For instance, I was told that the original intention behind the project was to bring people in for just a few years and to have kind of a rotation but people like it so well-and they like the life so much-that they stay. And they have about 400 people there and it's kind of a lifetime work for them to stay. There are a number of handicapped people-that also impressed me. Her Majesty has brought in a number of people from the villages who are handicapped and given them this opportunity too. It's a good project.

Q: What is the most beneficial project you have been to?

A: Oh, there are many projects that are beneficial. In addition to that handicraft project you mean? Other projects important?

Q : Yes.

A: Again, that's a little bit like asking me what part of Thailand I like the most. I think they're all useful, worthwhile, and very good kinds of projects. Again, the idea of bringing attention to worthy things is, I think, an important way of getting work done. And Thailand, I think, is a little unique in having a royal family that is so interested in helping its own people. And it's unique in having a royalty that's so involved in the land and the people. And it's so unique in having a royalty that is so important to the people. And the combination is very useful; the combination is very useful for encouraging development and for encouraging such things as stopping the degradation of the environment, for instance, which I personally am very involved in-very interested in. I think as much as people can be encouraged to help themselves and not to do the things that they shouldn't be doing, - if royalty can encourage that, then I think that is very worthwhile. So I can't think of any of the project that their Majesties are involved in that wouldn't be a very good project and that it would-in many ways-be equally important and equally good to do. I think for me it's just interesting that the kinds of things that they think are important are important, and from my own personal point of view happen to be the things that I am interested in myself.

Q: Do you have the chance to meet the Queen very often?

A: No, not very often. Not very often. I have seen her on the occasions that other diplomats also see her

on the occasions like the dinners, the special occasions when other people also see her.

Q: Like the International Tribute. That night was excellent. Did you have a chance to take part?

A: Yes, yes. I think that all the diplomats did ... all of us who were in town were there. It was a very spectacular night. It really was.

Q: What impressed you most?

A: Er ... Thai people are very good at creating beautiful spectacular things. And that night was a good example, it really was; it was very impressive. You know, the lights outside were just incredibly glorious and inside it was beautiful ... and the show itself was wonderful. Another example of that is the textile museum in the U.S. ... sponsored ... and people have sponsored a wonderful exhibit at the Thai Cultural Center here that we went to a couple of weeks ago. And at the opening of that, Princess Sirindhorn was there ... and there was a show at the beginning before we went through the textile exhibit - and that show was probably the best example of showmanship that I've seen here. It was really marvellously done. It was really ... it was the sort of thing that I wish that foreigners could see more often. It was wonderful example of showing - in a beautiful way - things that are Thai - very, very nice.

Q: You've been to many countries, I believe ...

A: Well, you know, we've been doing this for a while, so ...

Q: And along the way you've stayed in Japan, England and Thailand - three countries with a King and Queen. Could you tell us the differences between the Royalty ...

A: That's an interesting question. Well, there definitely is a difference. I think that in Thailand royalty is ... oh, that's a hard question (laughs). I think in Thailand royalty is more involved than in other places. I would suggest that it's perhaps a matter of their personalities, combined with a need to see things for themselves - they're very modern in that sense. And I would presume that they would try to pass this direct interest on to their children. In fact, I have seen that to some extent in the few opportunities I've had to be with their Majesties' children and to see how they also operate. It's interesting that in the three different countries, royalty is definitely treated differently. There's a different kind of relationship and it seems to work well in each country. It seems to work within the expectations of the people, and it seems to work well. It certainly works well here in Thailand.

Q: One last question about the Queen. What impressed you the most about Her Majesty?

A: What I think impressed me most was her interest in the people and how she indicates that interest by walking among the people, so to speak, and showing the Thai people that she's interested in them and what they're doing. And helping them too. I think that's very impressive.

Q: Thank you very much Mrs. Lambertson for taking the time and trouble to be with us here today and for sharing your valuable experiences with us.