

THE WORLD MOVES WITH USSM



News Update 28 November 2008

Bangkok Airports in “State of Emergency”

Since Tuesday night, anti-government demonstrators have been blocking Suvarnabhumi International Airport and since Thursday they have shut down Don Mueang Airport. The protestors have isolated the capital and left thousands of tourists stranded.

The Prime Minister Somchai Wongsawat declared on Thursday evening a ‘State of Emergency’ at the two Bangkok airports and authorized the police to storm the hijacked sites to clear these areas from protesters. This could result in a very unpleasant and violent confrontation.

Please note the following when having shipments to or from Thailand at this moment or in the next few days:

1. The airports are closed for passengers and cargo. All inbound and outbound flights have been cancelled until at least Saturday evening. Should the matter be resolved by Saturday, it will still take the two airports a few days to ‘get back on their feet’. Cargo that is currently in these airports will remain there until the airport is operational again.
2. The ports are currently not affected by the protests. However, depending on the intensity of the confrontation between the police and the demonstrators in the next 2-3 days, the union staff at the ports (especially at PAT, Klong Toey, Bangkok facility) might go on strike to show their sympathy, which they have done before in the past few months.
3. If the eviction of the protesters is executed with force and blood-shed, Union strikes might also occur throughout the infrastructure of the Bangkok area.

The situation is changing rapidly and should you have shipments to or from Thailand, please stay in contact with Andy Flynn for further updates.

Andy Flynn
General Manager - Thailand
UniGroup Worldwide UTS
444 Port Authority of Thailand
Building B, 5th Floor, Room 5/7
Tharua Road, Klong Toey
Bangkok 10110, Thailand
+66 2 671 8355 - Main line
+66 8 9788 5526 - Mobile
+66 2 671 8352 - Fax
andy_flynn@unigroupworldwide.com