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# Thailand's Foreign Policy and Measures to Mitigate the Impact of the Israel-Palestine Conflict: An Analytical Overview

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# **Thailand's Foreign Policy and Measures to Mitigate the Impact of the Israel-Palestine Conflict: An Analytical Overview**

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## **Abstract**

This scholarly examination delineates the contours of Thailand's foreign policy framework, exploring the nuanced strategies implemented to ameliorate the repercussions stemming from the protracted Israel-Palestine conflict. As a nation historically committed to a non-interventionist and neutral posture in international affairs, Thailand offers a unique paradigm of diplomatic engagement amid global conflicts. This paper probes the historical antecedents of Thailand's foreign relations, articulating how these foundations inform contemporary diplomatic maneuvers and strategic decisions. Furthermore, it scrutinizes the ramifications of these policies on both regional stability and broader international cooperation, emphasizing Thailand's role as a mediator and proactive participant in fostering dialogue and resolution. Through a meticulous analysis, this study aims to illuminate the implications of Thailand's actions within the complex geopolitics of the Middle East and assess their contribution to international peace efforts.

The research found that the factors affecting foreign policy formulation of Thailand to mitigate the Impact of the Israel-Palestine Conflict

### 1) The Internal factors

Thai Government was still main factor to decision-making to take action with supporting from Thai Bureaucracy were main actors for foreign policy formulation.

The expression of Thai Government, disapproval, condemned using

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violence, safety and welfare of Thai people were still main attitude factors for foreign policy formulation.

The Democratic Political Ideology as Thailand, Equal rights (Human right) and freedoms, acceptance majority and respect the minority voice, these principles were important factors for foreign policy formulation.

The Thai government and The Thai Parliament, Mass Media and the others were still an important the political institute for foreign policy formulation.

The political behavior of Thai people expressing to this situation, concerning, supporting and request to the government were important public opinion factors for foreign policy formulation.

Eventually all factors; Actor, Attitude, Ideology, Institute, Public opinion would be brought to the last factors, that was the public policy formulation process and to determine as public policy.

## 2) The external factors

Neighboring countries levels: The neutral foreign policies and the Calling on all sides to stop using violence and respected international humanitarian law are important factors to bring to foreign policy formulation. Especially, the foreign policy to mitigate the Impact of the Israel-Palestine conflict.

Regional levels and Global levels: Two Country Solution was the two-state solution to the Israeli–Palestinian conflict proposes to resolve the conflict which this one are important factors to bring to foreign policy formulation. Especially, the foreign policy to mitigate the Impact of the Israel-Palestine conflict.

The research found that the things that in foreign policies and measures to mitigate the impact of the Israel-Palestine conflict in Thailand are

The foreign policy Thailand remains Neutral in the conflict between the two countries that arise and still supports the Two-State Solution.

And there are the important 2 measures that Thai Government must urgently take action: The evacuation of Thai people from Israel by using coordination with the Israel government or friendly countries and international organization and including coordinate to friendly countries to supporting the release of arrested Thai people as hostage who were kidnapped

And also, there are general 9 measures are the meetings to update the situation and prepare to provide assistance to Thai people and sent officials from the ministry to support the embassy mission in Tel Aviv, Israel, and then opened additional hotline numbers from 30 lines to 60 lines and Open chat line channel “Requesting assistance for Thai people in Israel” including the Facebook page “The Department of Consular Affairs is concerned about Thai brothers and sisters in Israel” by the Ministry of Foreign Affairs

The Thai government has established measures to coordinate contact with relatives of those held hostage to encourage them and be ready to provide assistance by the Ministry of Labor and the Ministry of Social Development and Human Security to help financial assistance to compensate both the injured and

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deceased for evacuees who return to their hometowns and has carried out other related matters and including setting up a help center in various provinces and set the telephone number 1694 for coordinate tracking.

**Keywords:** Foreign Policy; Diplomacy; International Cooperation; Neutrality; Thailand

## 1. Introduction

The Foreign policy is important to preserve national independence and sovereignty to maintain stability to promote national ideals to promote good eating to promote dignity to promote peace and order and also a searching for power for the country. Therefore, the foreign policy is intended to determine actions to preserve national interests and the people of one's own state.

There are many forms of foreign policy implementation, such as neutrality, Pro- or one-sided, Non-aligned, isolated, collaborative, and all-round alliance. (Dating every country) with the objective is to maintain national independence and sovereignty to maintain stability to promote national ideals to promote good living to promote dignity to seek power and to promote peace and order.

In the world, all countries have foreign policy. Usually, the countries which governed by a parliamentary system will have the cabinet which has the Prime Minister as the head will determine foreign policy or the countries which governed by the presidential system. The president will determine foreign policy by receiving advices from the Minister of Foreign Affairs and leading figures in the legislative.

Thailand, Thai Foreign policy was determined under concept from the constitution of the kingdom of Thailand, section 66 on Chapter VI: Directive Principles of State Policies.

*“The State should promote an amicable relation with other countries by adopting the principle of equality in its treatment towards one another and not interfering in internal affairs of one another. The State should cooperate with international organizations and protect national interests and interests of the Thai people in foreign countries”*

Source: chrome

extension://efaidnbmnnnibpcajpcgclefindmkaj/https://cdc.parliament.go.th/draftconstitution2/ewt\_dl\_link.php?nid=1460&filename=index

In part of directive principles for Thai Foreign policy from the Cabinet's policy statement to Parliament, Monday, September 11, 2023

“...The government will create a role on the world stage. Giving importance to conducting diplomatic relations with various countries in a balanced way, based on the country's interests as a priority. Strengthen relations with neighboring countries and maintain Thailand's leading role in the region and sub-region. Including creating cooperation with groups of countries.

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International economic and development organizations to strengthen confidence and stability in Thailand.”

Source:<https://www.mfa.go.th/th/page/%E0%B8%99%E0%B9%82%E0%B8%A2%E0%B8%9A%E0%B8%B2%E0%B8%A2%E0%B8%81%E0%B8%B2%E0%B8%A3%E0%B8%95%E0%B9%88%E0%B8%B2%E0%B8%87%E0%B8%9B%E0%B8%A3%E0%B8%B0%E0%B9%80%E0%B8%97%E0%B8%A8-2?menu=5d5bd3c715e39c306002a888>

Conclusion, Thai Foreign policy was determined by concept in constitution of the kingdom of Thailand and the Cabinet's policy statement to Parliament.

From the violent situation arising from the conflict between Israel and Palestine during October 7 - 10 ,2023. It had greatly affected the feelings of many countries in the world, resulting in many countries having to adjusting attitude and behavior towards such situations, especially superpower country, China, USA, EU, including Asian, Middle Eastern countries etc.

Thailand has always had good relations with both sides, especially with Israel which has pioneered relations for 70 years since 1953 after World War II, and after which friendly relations have continued for a long time. For Palestine, Thailand was one of 131 countries to officially recognize the state of Palestine on January 19, 2012, and then Thailand was the first country in Southeast Asia to recognize the state of Palestine, and after that, Thailand and Palestine have begun to establish their relationship with each other.

Since the violence from the conflict between Israel and Palestine have begun since October 7 - 10 ,2023, Thai Government expressed to disapproval and also condemned the act of using violence in the conflict situation and then concerning about Thai people who have been living in the violent areas.

Therefore, the best important and effect tools that can support that situation is the foreign policy that it will be able to mitigate the effects of the conflict between the two countries and in order to maintain good relationship with both countries that has been together for a long time and in order to preserve the state interests of Thailand.

But what are the affecting factors to Thailand's foreign policy formulation to mitigate the impact of the Israel-Palestine conflict? including, what is the measures to support to mitigate the impact of this situation.

From the aforementioned problem, therefore led to the study of “*Thailand's Foreign Policy and Measures to Mitigate the Impact of the Israel-Palestine Conflict: An Analytical Overview*” with the objectives are 1) To study the factors affecting the determination of Thai foreign policy and measures to alleviate the effects of the Israeli-Palestinian conflict: an analytical overview. 2) To study policies and measures to alleviate the effects of the Israeli-Palestinian conflict in Thailand. And 3) To suggest measures to alleviate the impact of the Israeli-Palestinian conflict on Thailand.

Hopefully, this research will be able to answer the questions and provide

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good suggestions for both academics and further research.

## **2. Research Question**

- 1) What are the affecting factors to Thailand's foreign policy and measures to mitigate the impact of the Israel-Palestine conflict: An analytical overview?
- 2) What are the things in Policies and measures to mitigate the impact of the Israel-Palestine conflict in Thailand?

## **3. Objective**

- 1) To study the influence factors in Thailand's foreign policy formulation and measures to mitigate the impact of the Israel-Palestine conflict
- 2) To study the things in Policies and measures to mitigate the impact of the Israel-Palestine conflict in Thailand
- 3) To suggest Policies and Measures to mitigate the impacts of the Israeli-Palestinian conflict in Thailand.

## **4. Literature Review**

Jame M. Rosenau (1969) said that there are 2 factors affecting in foreign policy formulation

1) Internal factors, It consists of various actors, attitudes, ideology, public opinion, characteristics of related political institutions. Including the policy process.

2) External factors refer to the environment outside the state. Both at the level of neighboring countries, regional and global levels.

And also Rosenau (1971, 94-116) presented the origin or Factors affecting foreign policy determination what this is the cornerstone of the study of foreign policy. At a later stage, this time he divided the various factors into 5 variables including:

1) Personal characteristics of leaders/decision makers such as values, knowledge and abilities.and past experiences

2) Role and position The place of decision makers in the political system

3) Government structure and strength

4) Society, which is a variable or factor within the country that is outside the government sector. (Non-governmental)

5) System, which refers to the external environment. or events that occur in different places country

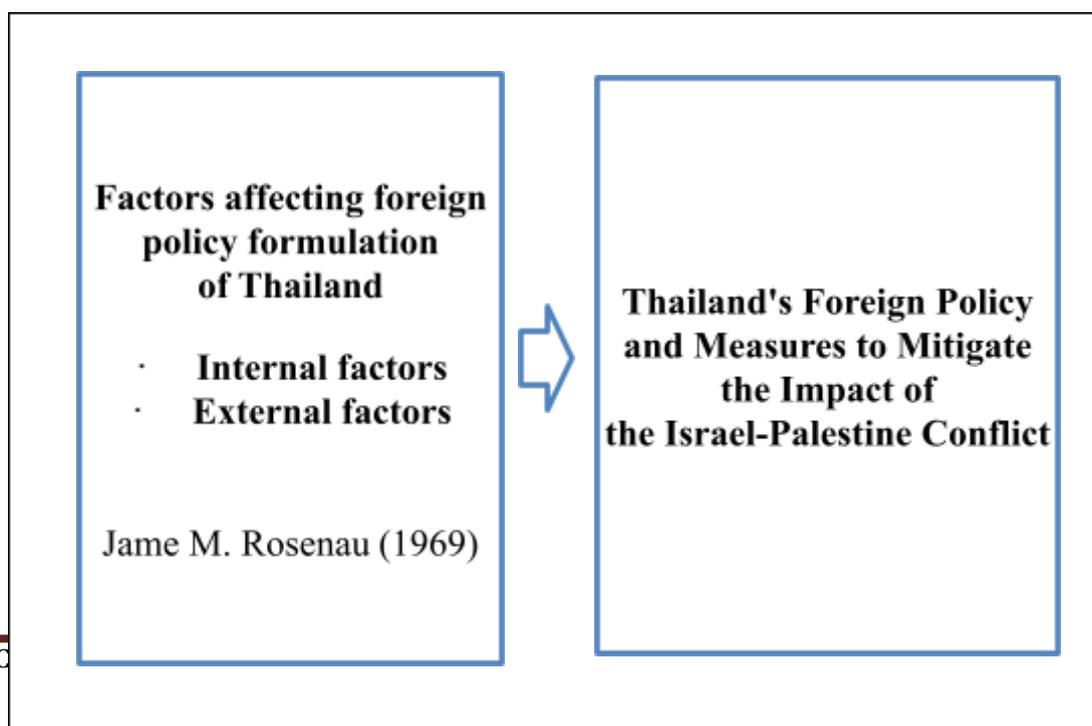
Chulacheeb Chinwanno (1999, 72-99) who analyzed Thailand's foreign policy during the Cold War between 1950-1990 by pointing out environmental factors: external and internal that affect policy making different countries in Thailand at different times. As a result, Thailand's foreign policy guidelines are the direction also varies.

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Kullanan, Kunthic (2017) studied “The State of Thai Foreign Policy Studies: A Brief Survey” found that the studies of Thai foreign policy rely mainly on the sources approach, which aims to construct causal relationships between various factors and foreign policy in general or in specific cases. And then, Most studies of foreign policy in Thailand focus on analyzing factors that influence policy making, including internal factors such as the attitude of leaders, The role of the military and government agencies, the role of interest groups, political parties and public opinion along with the analysis of external factors, such as the structure of the international system The role of great powers including important situations in the region.

Itthiphon Kotamee. (2023) studied “To maintain the supreme power of the Thai people.”: Policy Practice of Foreign Policy by Khana Ratsadon from 1933 to1938. Proceedings of PSMP International Conference, 2023 found that Siam aimed to maintain its neutral status in order to achieve independence as it was the top priority of the People's Government under the new regime focusing on “maintaining the balance of power”. It became an approach that the Minister of Foreign Affairs, Pridi Banomyong emphasized to ensure that the policy was in accordance with the peace policy under the leadership of Prime Minister Phraya Phahon Phonphayuhasena. During this time, Pridi was in charge of traveling and negotiating with great powers. With careful consideration, we will find that the unity of government bodies yields extensive benefits, even though the majority of the actors seemed very immature as they cooperated with a number of progressive civil servants. One of them was Prince Wanwaitayakorn Worawan, who was an adviser to the government.

## 5. Conceptual Framework



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## 6. Methodology

This Study is to aim for studying the factors affecting to Thailand's foreign policy and measures formulation to mitigate the impact of the Israel-Palestine conflict and the things in foreign policies and measures to mitigate the impact of the Israel-Palestine conflict in Thailand, as Qualitative research

The study could set the tool with the dept interview questions for finding the influent factors to Thailand's foreign policy and measures to mitigate the impact of the Israel-Palestine conflict and including documentary research for finding foreign policies and measures to mitigate the impact of the Israel-Palestine conflict for Thailand.

Data Collecting, The dept interview questions was generated and administered to experts in foreign policy such as academics, diplomats, and others. For documentary research was generated and administered to the important documentary such as, the research, thesis, academic article, government document and the others.

Data verification before data analysis The data examination that is most commonly used in qualitative research is triangulation, divided into four types: (Graneheim, 2004); Miles & Huberman, 1994).

### 1) Data Triangulation

#### 2) Triangulation of the researcher side (Investigator Triangulation)

#### 3) Theory Triangulation

#### 4) Triangulation of data collection methods (Methodological Triangulation)

For the qualitative data analysis method is divided into 2 parts:

#### 1) Analysis of data to create conclusions

- Analytic Induction

- Analysis by classification of data types (Typological Analysis)

- Analysis by comparing data (Constant Comparison)

#### 2) Content Analysis

It has three important characteristics: it uses systematic quantitative methods and emphasizes objectivity; (Objectivity) and based on a theoretical framework This lecture will focus on the content as it appears. There is no emphasis on interpretation or finding hidden meanings. However, the researcher must not have bias or include his or her own thoughts and feelings (Mayring, 2001; Williamson & Long, 2005).

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## 7. Result

The results of the dept interview from the experts in foreign policy found that the factors affecting foreign policy formulation of Thailand to mitigate the Impact of the Israel-Palestine Conflict are.

*The Internal factors: Actor, Attitude, Ideology, Institute, Public opinion and Policy process.*

*Actor factor:* We found that Thai Government was still main factor to decision-making to take action for foreign policy formulation of Thailand to mitigate the Impact of the Israel-Palestine Conflict and Thai Bureaucracy, the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Thai embassies and consulates in various countries were supporting factor for Implementation to achieve the objective of foreign policy to mitigate the Impact of the Israel-Palestine Conflict.

*Attitude factor:* We found that the expression of Thai Government, Prime-Minister expressed to disapproval and also condemned the act of using violence in the said conflict situation. Moreover, the Prime Minister attached utmost importance to safety and welfare of Thai people and would do everything possible to ensure that Thai people who wish to return to Thailand quickly and safely. These attitudes are the important factor to bring to foreign policy formulation. Especially, the foreign policy to mitigate the Impact of the Israel-Palestine conflict.

*Ideology factor:* We found that Political ideology in the democratic political system as Thailand which has the basis of ideas and beliefs related to the equal rights (Human right) and freedoms of people in society acceptance of reason majority acceptance and respect the minority voice, these principles of The Democratic Political ideology were still an important factor to bring to foreign policy formulation. Especially, the foreign policy to mitigate the Impact of the Israel-Palestine conflict.

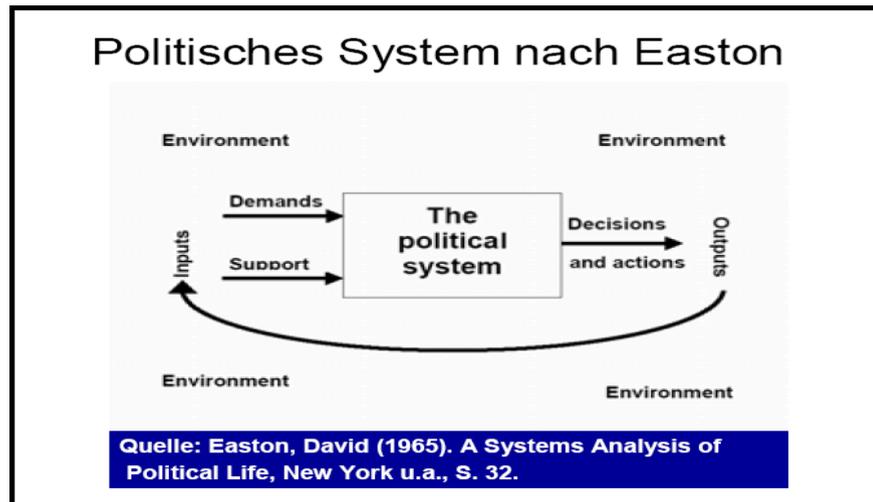
*Institute factor:* We found that the political institute, The Thai government and The Thai Parliament, both remain the country's main factors in determining foreign policy. In this conflict situation The Thai government through the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and the others Ministry are responsible for implementing government policies. Including, Mass Media paid attention and present such news and information continually to the people and also reflects the public's opinions on the said situation. These institute factors are still an important factor to bring to foreign policy formulation. Especially, the foreign policy to mitigate the Impact of the Israel-Palestine conflict.

*Public opinion factor:* we found that public opinion or political behavior of a democratic system of Thai people expressing this situation. Most of the people expressed concerning about the situation because they had relatives living in those violent areas. So, they supported and requested to the government to expedite the process of evacuating Thai people there to Thailand as quickly as possible. These expressed behaviors of Thai people are important factors to

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bring to foreign policy formulation. Especially, the foreign policy to mitigate the Impact of the Israel-Palestine conflict.

*Policy process factor:* We found that these all factors; Actor, Attitude, Ideology, Institute, Public opinion would be brought to the public policy formulation process and to determine as public policy, eventually. By the public policy formulation process can be explained by using the David Easton's Systems theory.



Picture: Systems theory in political science

Source: [https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Systems\\_theory\\_in\\_political\\_science](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Systems_theory_in_political_science)

- Step 1. changes in the social or physical environment surrounding a political system produce "demands" and "supports" for action or the status quo directed as "inputs" towards the political system, through political behavior.
- Step 2, these demands and supporting groups stimulate competition in a political system, leading to decisions or "outputs" directed at some aspect of the surrounding social or physical environment.
- Step 3, after a decision or output is made (e.g., a specific policy), it interacts with its environment, and if it produces change in the environment, there are "outcomes."
- Step 4, when a new policy interacts with its environment, outcomes may generate new demands or supports and groups in support or against the policy ("feedback") or a new policy on some related matter.
- Step 5, feedback, leads back to Step 1, forming a never-ending cycle.

2) The external factors: The environment outside the state; Neighboring

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countries levels, Regional levels, and Global levels

*Neighboring countries levels:* We found that South East Asia, there are some countries *encouraged Palestine*, because of many countries have people who practice Islam.

The ASEAN Foreign Ministers Meeting issued a statement. “Call on all sides to stop using violence and respected international humanitarian law. ASEAN was ready to support negotiations to create peace between Israel and Palestine and call on all sides to protect and guarantee the safety of civilians and unconditionally released hostages, including ASEAN people, as soon as possible.”

Malaysia encouraged Palestine and calls on the United States to stop supporting Israel, even though Malaysia did not have diplomatic relations with Israel, The Philippines which were the only nation in Asia to vote in support of the establishment of the state of Israel, encouraged Palestine. Indonesia did not have diplomatic relations with Israel. Including, Thailand, Vietnam, Myanmar, Singapore, Brunei, Laos and Cambodia monitored and expressed concern over the situation of violence and disapproval and also condemned the act of using violence and called on all sides to exercise restraint and restored negotiations quickly and these countries pursued neutral foreign policies.

Regional levels and Global levels: we found that the past to the present, the conflict between Israel and Palestine Many countries in the world have been affected by this conflict all along. Many countries have different foreign policies in this conflict, such as some countries pursue neutral foreign policies or pro-partisan policies or non-partisan policies or isolation policies or cooperative policies or merge into partners or friendly policy in all directions (all countries).

Two Country Solution is the two-state solution to the Israeli–Palestinian conflict proposes to resolve the conflict by establishing two nation states in former Mandatory Palestine. The implementation of a two-state solution would involve the establishment of an independent State of Palestine alongside the State of Israel.

In the view of the international community in regional levels and Global levels, the Two-State Solution is the best way to create lasting peace in the Middle East. and it is an approach that most countries support. Especially countries that simultaneously recognize the existence of both Israel and Palestine.

There are many Intergovernmental bodies to supporting a two-state solution, such as G7, European Union, G20 leaders, 22 countries in Arab League

And then there are Governments to supporting a two-state solution, such as USA, China, United Kingdom, Germany, India, France, Canada, Australia, New Zealand, Saudi Arabia,

In another side, there are governments opposing a two-state solution, such

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as Israel and Iran.

The results of the document research found that the things that in foreign policies and measures to mitigate the impact of the Israel-Palestine conflict in Thailand are

1) The Thai government's foreign policy towards the Israeli-Palestinian conflict is that Thailand remains Neutral in the conflict between the two countries that arise and still supports the Two-State Solution, which means living side by side by allowing both sides to negotiate to find solutions and find joint solutions that are sustainable and peaceful. Same as a superpower country and other countries in all regions around the world.

2) The Thai government has set measures and guidelines for the evacuation of Thai people from Israel, which is to evacuate as quickly as possible if there is an ongoing severe situation using coordination with the Israeli government, such as evacuating Thai people from the affected areas. The impact is to stay in a safe area and seek friendly countries to evacuate Thai people, including the government through the Royal Thai Air Force, which is ready to evacuate Thai people at any time, 24 hours a day, as well as the Thai Embassy charter plane from Israel was coordinated to evacuate Thais from the said area. But this depends on the willingness of Thai people in this situation whether they want to return to Thailand or not.

3) The Thai government has established measures to coordinate the release of arrested Thais. It is carried out through Thai embassies in friendly countries. and including relevant international organizations in order to join in supporting the release of innocent Thai people, for example, assigned to the Thai Embassy in Kuala Lumpur coordinated with the Palestinian Representative in Kuala Lumpur to express concern and request sympathy for the release of Thai people who were kidnapped who are innocent and have nothing to do with the situation that occurred.

4) The Thai Government by the Ministry of Foreign Affairs had Meetings were held continuously during the violent situation to update the situation and prepare to provide assistance to Thai people in that situation.

5) The Thai government by the Ministry of Foreign Affairs has sent officials from the ministry to support the embassy mission in Tel Aviv, Israel to take care of Thai workers' and help in the mission to evacuate Thai people.

6) The Thai government has established measures to coordinate contact with relatives of those held hostage to encourage them and be ready to provide assistance in every way.

7) Thai Government by the Ministry of Foreign Affairs We have opened additional hotline numbers from 30 lines to 60 lines, including adding an Openchat line channel called the room "Requesting assistance for Thai people in Israel" which can accommodate up to 5,000 participants, and have opened a special Facebook page "The Department of Consular Affairs is concerned about Thai brothers and sisters in Israel" to provide information regarding assistance.

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and is a channel for Thai brothers and sisters to contact and inquire.

8) Thai Government by the Ministry of Labor and the Ministry of Social Development and Human Security established measures for evacuees to return to their hometowns and has carried out other related matters, such as financial assistance to compensate both the injured and deceased. They also set up a help center in various provinces and set the telephone number 1694 so that relatives of the evacuees can coordinate tracking as well.

## **8. Conclusion and Suggestions**

### **Conclusion**

The factors affecting foreign policy formulation of Thailand to mitigate the Impact of the Israel-Palestine Conflict

#### 1) The Internal factors

Thai Government was still main factor to decision-making to take action with supporting from Thai Bureaucracy were main actors for foreign policy formulation.

The expression of Thai Government, disapproval, condemned using violence, safety and welfare of Thai people were still main attitude factors for foreign policy formulation.

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The political behavior of Thai people expressing to this situation, concerning, supporting and request to the government were important public opinion factors for foreign policy formulation.

Eventually all factors; Actor, Attitude, Ideology, Institute, Public opinion would be brought to the last factors, that was the public policy formulation process and to determine as public policy.

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Neighboring countries levels: The neutral foreign policies and the Calling on all sides to stop using violence and respected international humanitarian law are important factors to bring to foreign policy formulation. Especially, the foreign policy to mitigate the Impact of the Israel-Palestine conflict.

Regional levels and Global levels: Two Country Solution was the two-state solution to the Israeli–Palestinian conflict proposes to resolve the conflict which this one are important factors to bring to foreign policy formulation. Especially, the foreign policy to mitigate the Impact of the Israel-Palestine conflict.

For the things that in foreign policies and measures to mitigate the impact of the Israel-Palestine conflict in Thailand are

The foreign policy Thailand remains Neutral in the conflict between the two countries that arise and still supports the Two-State Solution.

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The Thai government has established measures to coordinate contact with relatives of those held hostage to encourage them and be ready to provide assistance by the Ministry of Labor and the Ministry of Social Development and Human Security to help financial assistance to compensate both the injured and deceased for evacuees who return to their hometowns and has carried out other related matters and including setting up a help center in various provinces and set the telephone number 1694 for coordinate tracking.

### **Suggestions**

1) The direction or style of foreign policy in such violent situations is neutral and continues to supporting the Two-State solution.

2) The all measures must urgently take action efficiently by integration

3) The policy decision-making process theory should be studied along with studying factors affecting foreign policy making.

3) The Policy evaluation theory and The policy recommendations theory should be studied along with studies of factors affecting foreign policy making.

4) The concept of international regimes, Complex interdependence, Dependency Theory, Decision-Making Theory, Integration, and national Interest must serve as guidelines for analyzing Thai foreign policy operations.

### **9. Acknowledgement**

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