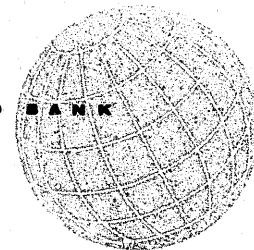


FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

WORLD BANK



INTERNATIONAL BANK FOR
RECONSTRUCTION AND DEVELOPMENT

1818 H STREET, N.W., WASHINGTON 25, D. C. TELEPHONE: EXECUTIVE 3-6360

UN 63/284

February 19, 1963 SUBJECT: Bank Officials awarded Thai Decoration Posthumously

Mr. John B. Shearer and Mr. Vance Rogers, who were killed in a helicopter accident in Thailand on August 25, 1962, while on duty there for the World Bank, have been posthumously awarded the Most Exalted Order of the White Elephant, Second Class.

At the Thai Embassy in Washington, D.C., at five p.m. today, Ambassador Visutr Arthayukti will present to Mrs. Marjorie B. Rogers, on behalf of the King of Thailand, the decoration awarded to her late husband. Mrs. Ann Edith Shearer, widow of Mr. Shearer will receive her husband's decoration from the Thai Ambassador in London.

At the time of the accident both Mr. Shearer and Mr. Rogers were acting as advisers to the Government of Thailand. Both men were killed when the helicopter returning them to Bangkok from a mission up-country crashed with loss of all aboard.

Mr. John B. Shearer, a British subject, was born in 1904 of British parents in the Hainan Province of China. He went to school in Greenock, Scotland, took a B.A. at Trinity College, Oxford, and an M.A. at Glasgow University. He served in the Indian Civil Service from 1929 to 1949 in a variety of posts dealing with financial administration. In November 1950, he joined the Ionian Bank as Manager for Greece and remained until 1958 when he joined the Commercial Bank of the Near East. In May 1962 he agreed to join the World Bank, to serve in Thailand as Chief Adviser to the National Economic Development Board. He is survived by his wife, Mrs. Ann Edith Shearer of West Poundgate Manor, Crowborough, Sussex.

Mr. Vance Rogers was born in 1908 in Atlanta, Georgia, and attended the Universities of Ohio, Chicago, Hawaii and London. He took a B.A. in Economics and Business and a diploma in Social Anthropology. Mr. Rogers entered the U.S. Government Service in 1934 and served in a wide variety of posts in the National Resources Board, the Resettlement Administration and the Soil Conservation Service. After a period in the late 'forties in the Caracas office of IBEC in Venezuela, he rejoined Government Service and worked as Director successively of the U.S. Aid Offices in Haiti, Panama, Mexico and Peru. He joined the World Bank in April 1962 and went to Thailand in July as Chief Adviser to the Northeast Committee, which is charged with the development of a low-income region in the northeast part of Thailand.

Besides Mrs. Rogers, he is survived by a son, Bryant W. Rogers of Atlanta, Georgia, and twin daughters, Lynn Vance and Jean Ann.