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Two Thai Sisters at Salve Regina College Return Today to Their Native Land, February 1, 1966

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FOR RELEASE

**TUESDAY,
FEB. 1, 1966**

**TWO THAI SISTERS AT SALVE REGINA COLLEGE
RETURN TODAY TO THEIR NATIVE LAND**

**Sister Benedicta Marie, R.H.M., and
Sister Mary Beata, R.H.M., who have been studying at Salve Regina College for the
past three and one half years, leave today to return to their native Thailand.**

**They will spend three days in Paris and
three days in Rome en route to Bangkok. They will find a marked contrast in climate
between Newport this week and Bangkok where the tourist is welcomed with leis of
jasmine, chrysanthemums and other exotic flowers, and where it may be
extremely hot even in mid-winter.**

**At Salve Regina the Sisters have been
studying the usual broad spectrum of liberal arts subjects, with a special emphasis
on English.**

**Homeward bound, their ultimate destination
is Ubon in northeast Thailand, where they will teach English and other subjects in
the high-school department of the Ave Maria School which enrolls over 1200
pupils, only 300 of whom are Catholics.**

MORE

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The Sisters' Order, the Religious

Handmaidens of Mary, have just completed a new dispensary, and Sister Benedicta Marie will work in it a few hours each day in order to interpret the Thai language of the patients to the nurses who will come from Ireland and Australia.

Although the Sisters will miss their Newport and other American friends, they will not lose the opportunity of seeing other Americans from day to day, since the U.S. presence is very evident in Thailand through military and economic aid personnel, several hundred Peace Corps volunteers, and two or three hundred evacuated families of U.S. officials who work in Saigon, Vietnam.

While Bangkok is the most sophisticated city in Thailand, Ubon is also a large metropolitan center of over one million population. The Sisters and their Christian charges are in a minority in Thailand because Buddhism is practiced by more than ninety per cent of the country's 30 million inhabitants.

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