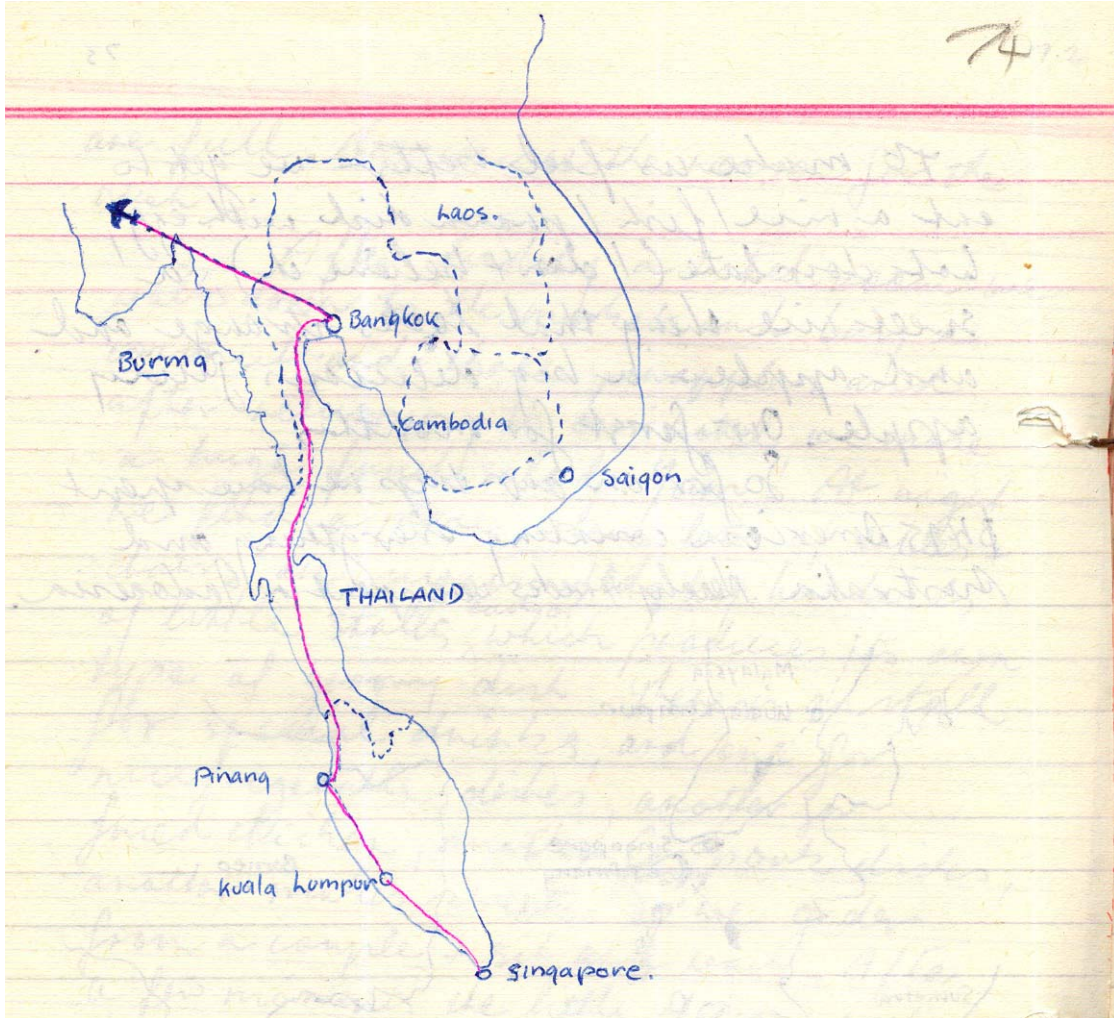


Thailand



During the night train to Bangkok someone tries to pull the Englishman's wallet from his pants pocket as he dozes. An argument ensues, neither can understand the other. The Englishman gets heated and four young Thais produce flick-knives with a sinister click, click. The English guy decides to cool it and we try to keep calm. The other occupants of the large crowded carriage do not blink an eyelid, I can only think its 'a bit of fun', welcome to Thailand.

After a terrible ride through the night, we fall into Bangkok station at 10 am Wednesday. After we find a place to sleep and sleep till 6pm. It's impossible to do anything else because of the terrible heat. At night we come out of hiding to see a little of Bangkok at night. We notice the films shown here seem extremely violent and all centre around knife-wielding Thai samurias.

One day is spent in the pool at the Malaysia Hotel with friends - most of the swimmers are from the Pepsi hotel (our cheap bug house). I notice our room has a hole in the wall just large enough for spying eyes to peek through. Great.