

Laos and Cambodia: Some Complications Lie Ahead

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WASHINGTON, Jan. 24—Division among Cambodians who oppose the Government have complicated efforts toward a Cambodian cease-fire, Administration officials said today. But the situation in Laos, they said, was simpler since leftist opposition to the Vientiane Government is vested in the Pathet Lao.

The views were put forward by Henry A. Kissinger at his news conference and by lesser officials in interviews. Speaking of Cambodia, Mr. Kissinger said that the situation there was "complex, because there are several parties headquartered in different countries."

Mr. Kissinger also said, however that "it is our expectation that a de facto cease-fire will come into being" in Cambodia "over a period of time relevant to the execution" of the Vietnam peace agreement.

President Nixon's adviser for national security said that the United States had a "firm expectation" that the Vietnam cease-fire would soon be matched in Laos and that there would be an informal halt to the fighting between Cam-

bodian Government forces and their enemies.

Resignedly, Mr. Kissinger referred to "the innumerable Cambodian factions." American experts on Cambodian affairs said that what he was apparently referring to were the various elements within the Cambodian Opposition, which feud among themselves and have leadership apparatus in Cambodia, though the titular head of the Cambodian Opposition is Prince Norodom Sihanouk, who lives in exile in Peking.

Sees Laos Withdrawal

These elements include Cambodian Communists who have been in the country for years and were opposed to Prince Sihanouk before he fell from power in Cambodia. In addition, there are Hanoi-trained Communists who returned to Cambodia in 1970 after 15 years in North Vietnam. And there are independents, the experts said, in addition to opponents of the

Phnom Penh Government who owe their loyalty directly to the Prince.

"Whom do you deal with under circumstances like that?" one expert said.

Mr. Kissinger said that a formal cease-fire in Laos would, in turn, "lead to a withdrawal

of all foreign forces from Laos and, of course, to the end of the use of Laos as a corridor of infiltration."

In addition to the prospective truces in Laos and Cambodia, the Presidential adviser discussed those provisions of the Vietnam agreement that affect the two less populous Indochina nations.

The military provisions of the agreement include a ban on the use of Laotian or Cambodian base areas to encroach on the sovereignty and security of South Vietnam. They also provide for the withdrawal of all foreign troops from Laos and Cambodia.

How the Pact Puts

As summed tersely up by the White House press office today, the political provisions of the Vietnam agreement include:

"Reaffirmation of the 1954 and 1962 Geneva agreements on Cambodia and Laos.

"Respect for the independence, sovereignty, unity, ter-

ritorial integrity and neutrality of Cambodia and Laos.

"Ban on infiltration of troops and war supplies into Cambodia and Laos.

"Ban on use of Laotian and Cambodian base areas to encroach on sovereignty and security of one another and of

other countries.

"Withdrawal of all foreign troops from Laos and Cambodia"

Laos and Cambodia also stand to gain from eventual United States postwar aid in Indochina, but Mr. Kissinger declined at his news conference to say what the aid would amount to.

Mr. Kissinger noted that the Geneva agreements on Laos and Cambodia had affirmed "the neutrality and right to self-determination of those two countries." Therefore, he said, they were "consistent with our basic position with respect also to South Vietnam."

Elaborating on the provision concerning "foreign troops," he said: "It is clearly understood that North Vietnamese troops are considered foreign with respect to Laos and Cambodia."

Western officials have com-

plained for years that the presence of substantial North Vietnamese forces in the two countries complicated their respective internal conflicts immensely, strengthening the unified leftist insurgents in Laos and the fragmented opposition elements in Cambodia.