

send this reflection of the great respect, admiration and love for our Glorious Leaders throughout the world and especially where we are essential to survival. It is also a fitting testimonial to our consideration of our mendicants, of the undeviating fidelity to fact and reality in informing the public, and, of course, for the diligence of the government in seeing to it that our press is in a position to report accurately and fully, from independent knowledge, so that representative society can work as in theory it is supposed to. How fortunate we are in this best of possible worlds. Please return for my Agnew file. HW 2/4/73

Security Scenario Awesome As Agnew Visits Vientiane

By Lewis M. Simons

Washington Post Foreign Service

VIENTIANE, Feb. 3—Just a week ago 19 North Vietnamese soldiers, arch enemies of Laos, flew into Vientiane airport and spent an hour relaxing here before going on to peace-keeping duties in Saigon.

For all the lack of attention they received and the total absence of security measures, you might have thought they were just another group of friendly U.S. AID officials.

Today one of Laos' great friends, U.S. Vice President Spiro T. Agnew, flew into Vientiane airport and judging by the incredible security measures that surrounded his every move, you might have thought he was a North Vietnamese soldier.

In a city so sleepy that, according to one longtime French resident, the only way to die before your time is of boredom, the great American vice presidential protection machine was truly a thing to behold.

At 8:30 a.m., a huge, lumbering C-141 transport plane arrives from Bangkok — about an hour's flight away — where the vice president spent last night. A door at the rear of the plane's un-

derbelly opens and disgorges the vice president's bullet-proof Cadillac limousine.

Nearby, a four-engine turboprop of the Soviet airline Aeroflot, en route from Moscow to Hanoi, stands idle. Its Soviet passengers mill about the terminal building, drinking Pepsi-Colas.

But the U.S. vice president will not arrive at the same terminal used by other visitors to Vientiane, including the North Vietnamese army men. His plane will stop 50 yards away, at the

headquarters of Continental Air Services, a private American airline under charter in Laos by the Central Intelligence Agency.

The tarmac in front of the pink Continental building is aswarm with Secret Service men who arrived in the transport plane. They're identifiable among the numerous other Americans in Vientiane by their large brogan shoes, double-knit suits with golden emblems, resembling half anchors, in their wide lapels, radio earpieces which seem to grow out of the sides of their

heads, and the tiny microphones whose wires run down the agents' sleeves.

As the morning sun begins to heat the tarmac, two olive-drab U.S. Army UH-1 helicopters flutter into view and circle the tarmac, about 10 feet off the ground. They settle at one end, but their rotors are kept spinning.

About three dozen Americans in sports clothes and carrying cameras lounge along a chain-link fence topped with a single strand of barbed wire. One young mother has brought along her two small sons, dressed in Little League baseball uniforms. Next to the Americans, contained in a pen of iron pipes and ropes, wait the members of the press corps.

At 10:10, a sleek blue-and-white jet sweeps in over the Mekong River, makes a sharp descent and touches down. A Boeing 707 painted with the big black words "Unites States of America," it is called Air Force Two.

Gangplank, are wheeled up against the plane. The doors swing open. Mr. Agnew walks down the stairs and is greeted by U.S. Ambassador G. McMurtrie Godley. Secret Service men

dash out of the plane's rear door and scatter over the tarmac.

The two helicopters, machine gunners at their open doors, flutter back into the air and circle the airfield.

Agnew and Godley step into the long black Cadillac, and it and a long black station wagon, for the Secret Service men, speed out of the airport for the U.S. Embassy, followed by an entourage of other official American vehicles. All traffic has been held up from all routes the vice president will use during his five-hour stay in the city, and for perhaps the first time in history, Vientiane has a traffic jam.

At the embassy, a white cement block house-like building studded with dozens of air conditioners protected by steel-bar cages, the usual Marine security guards are backed up by Secret Service men, their hips bulging with heavy-duty revolvers. Atop the high, white watertower in the embassy compound, a sharpshooter armed with a rifle scans the area.

Most newsmen have gone off for a cool drink. One TV crew and two reporters stand across the road from the main embassy gate. A Secret Service man comes across the road. "Don't want nobody clogging up the road here while they're conversing," he says politely. "For security reasons. That all right with you?"

The offending newsmen unclog the location. For the entire one hour and 25 minutes the vice president and the ambassador are "conversing," this Secret Service man doesn't stop moving. He dashes to one end of the road, turns about, walks back, looks here, shouts there. "Hot enough for you?" he asks the newsmen with a quick smile. He sweats a lot.

A young man wearing black silk pajama trousers, a yellow T-shirt, long hair and no shoes suddenly appears on the road in front of the embassy. He somehow has penetrated the security barrier of Laotian police.

"What's going on?" he asks with a thick French accent. "Would you mind moving along quickly?" the sweating Secret Service

man replies. He moves along—quickly.

Another flurry of activity. Automobile engines cough, the helicopters are back circling the city, the TV camera switches on, motorcycles screech, fender flags flap as the cavalcade moves off to

Prime Minister Souvanna Phouma's home.

The high iron gate to the long sweeping ranch house is guarded by a platoon of armed and helmeted Laotian paratroopers, commanded by an officer in a red beret and genuine U.S. jungle-green fatigues. While the reunited press corps waits anew (many of them in coats and ties in the hope they may be invited into the vice presidential and prime ministerial presence) waiters scurry about carrying bottles of red and white French wines.

Then the newsmen are invited in—10 at a time.

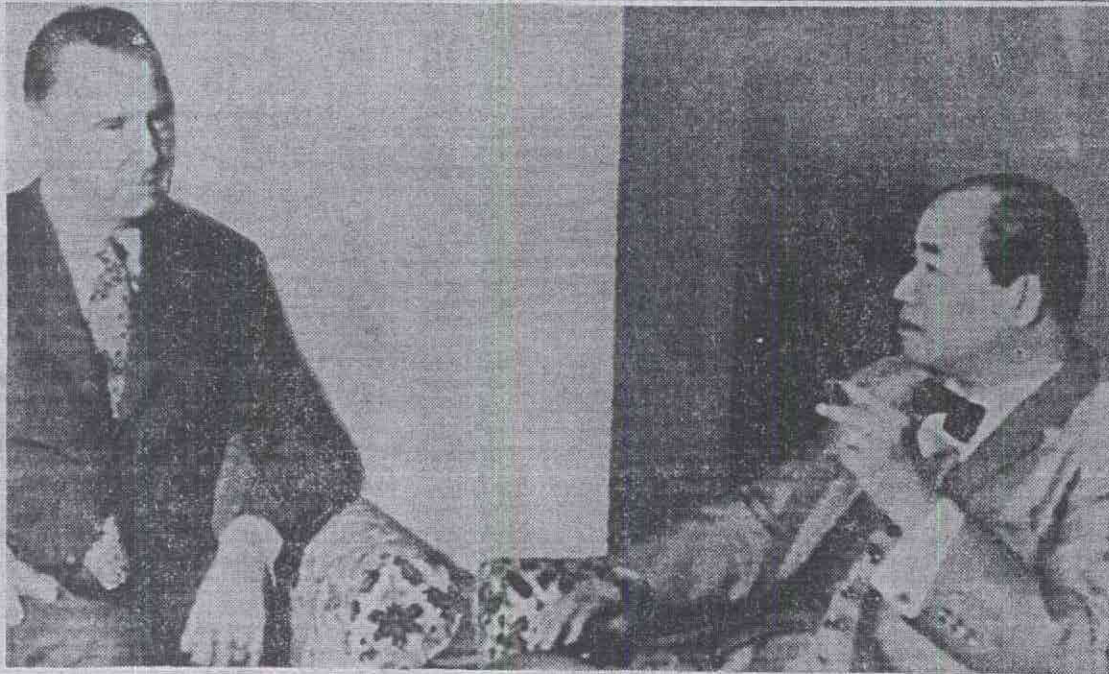
"Why only ten?"

"Security."

Inside the large but cluttered living room, arranged formally on brocaded couches and chairs, are the vice president, light-gray suited and suntanned; Souvanna, in gray silk with blue bow tie; and Godley, in dark pinstripes and narrow red tie.

While TV lights turn the cool, dimly lit room brilliant for a moment, the vice president is heard asking the prime minister in English, "What is the elevation of the Plain of Jars?"

Souvanna puffs happily on a cigar and smiles. Godley turns to Souvanna and says something in French, just as a security man tells



Associated Press

Vice President Agnew meets in Vientiane with Premier Souvanna Phouma of Laos before returning to Bangkok.

the newsmen "Time's up" and blocks out the reply.

The reporters file back outside to the lawn. "Will there be a statement by Mr. Agnew after the meeting?" one asks the U.S. embassy spokesman. "Yes," he replies, "my secretary is typing it up right now."

"How can a departure statement be typed now when the vice president and the prime minister haven't even begun their discussion yet?" The spokesman smiles.

After lunch, the whole process of Secret Service men scuttling, flags flying, helicopters circling and so forth starts in reverse.

Back at the airport press pen, a bald American known to resident correspondents as "Mr. Clean" and "Super Spook" walks about with an electric-powered zoom movie camera, accompanied by a Laotian who whispers to him frequently.

At the regular terminal building a Pathet Lao dele-

gation waits for one of their leaders to return from Hanoi. His plane is late, and they leave before the vice president arrives.

The vice president and the U.S. ambassador shake hands. He climbs back up to the plane, its motors already running, and almost immediately it is back on the runway and swiftly airborne toward Bangkok. The visit is over.

Oh, yes. The departure statement. "In our discussions," part of the vice president's statement said, Agnew assured Souvanna of continued United States support for his policies of national reconciliation and neutrality and his efforts to achieve a negotiated settlement in Laos.

"I was also able to express continued United States interest in assisting Laos in the post-hostilities period, together with other friends of Laos."

Since the departure state-

ment was written before the prime minister got a chance to speak, no mention was made of what he might have had to say.

Agnew Plans to Visit Manila This Week

Reuter

MANILA, Feb. 3—Vice President Agnew has included the Philippines in his current tour of Asia to explain the American post-Vietnam war posture, it was announced here today.

A spokesman said Philippines President Ferdinand Marcos will confer with Agnew on his arrival in Manila next Friday.

Agnew returned to Bangkok today after a flying visit to Vientiane. He is scheduled to leave Bangkok for Singapore Sunday to continue his swing through Southeast Asia.