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Takeover
MAY 12 1975
Feared
In Laos

**Premier Hints
At Accord With
Pathet Lao**

From News Dispatches

VIENTIANE, May 11—

The government of Laos today banned Laotian and foreign residents from leaving the country, appealed to the populace to remain calm and countered rumors that there would be bloodshed in the capital.

The orders, issued in a broadcast by the national radio, came amid fears that a takeover by the Communist-led Pathet Lao was imminent. Border police reported yesterday that more than 2,000 persons, including some high-ranking government officials, had fled.

Adding to the uncertainty was the appointment of Premier Souvanna Phouma of a Pathet Lao, Kham Ouane Boupha, to serve as acting defense minister. He had been deputy defense minister and replaces Sisouk na Champassak, one of four rightist Cabinet ministers whose resignations were announced Saturday.

Souvanna Phouma, leader of the shaky coalition government that includes rightists, Pathet Lao and neutralists, made a Constitution Day speech Sunday that indicated that fighting between rightist and Pathet Lao troops may come to an end, possibly through an agreement with the Pathet Lao, whose troops are advancing toward the capital.

"Important changes have taken place all around the kingdom which some had

not expected so suddenly, but they are here," Souvanna Phouma said.

He said it is necessary to look at the facts and prepare to reach "an accord with history."

"It is our great chance to preserve our country from further bloodshed, which surely would take place if one continued to ignore the march of historical events" he said. "Our population understands the situation well by instinct. We must stop the fighting. The war has reached an end."

Souvanna Phouma's remarks were ambiguous about how far he will go to adapt to the new circumstances that he elliptically described. The premier is

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noted as an expert in ambiguity, especially during the two years he has presided over the precarious three-sided coalition made up of adversaries in the intermittent war.

Diplomats believe that Souvanna Phouma is now prepared to make virtually any concession required by the Pathet Lao to preserve some element of coalition rule.

Laos is the only one of the four countries formed from French Indochina that is not yet Communist. Cambodia surrendered April 17 and South Vietnam April 30, and North Vietnam has been Communist since 1954. Fighting in Laos resumed last month after a two-year cease-fire.

There were only sketchy battlefield reports Sunday. Pathet Lao forces were most recently reported within 60 miles of Vientiane.

A revolt by about 160 officer cadets and trainees Sunday dealt another blow to the right-wing faction. The cadets, in battle dress, moved out of their camp just outside Vientiane and issued a communique expressing dissatisfaction with those among the military leadership that it called "bandits who loot the people." They said from now on they would take orders only directly from the coalition

government, not rightists.

Shops were shut Sunday, and most Laotians appeared unaffected and unconcerned with the political developments. There has been no obvious change in the day-to-day life in the capital except for a demonstration Friday in which students stoned the U.S. embassy.

Souvanna Phouma's King Sisavang Vatthana speech, in the presence of which was given in the open air near the National Assembly and marked the anniversary of the end of French colonial rule 28 years ago.

It followed the resignation of the four senior rightist Cabinet ministers and the removal of three top rightist generals from their posts as a result of leftist pressures.

The king arrived in a black Soviet limousine, Souvanna Phouma in an American Ford. Pathet Lao and rightist troops stood formal guard.

In the reviewing stand were top ranking Pathet Lao officials in formal white

high-collared suits, including Foreign Minister Phoumi Vongvichit. The two remaining rightist ministers were also present. Rumors that there would be student demonstrations kept the crowd small.

In an order issued to troops Sunday, Souvanna Phouma urged both sides to "absolutely refrain from engaging in any clashes" and told them not to "fall prey to rumors from any sources which may be intended to rekindle the fighting in Laos."