

WXPost abs

Laos Feels Washington Edginess

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VIENTIANE, June 8—A few days ago, the manager of the French-owned Banque de l'Indochine here received a cable from New York's First National City Bank asking him to destroy all their blank travelers checks that he had here.

The cable was brief and gave no reason, but the manager understood. First National City had given similar orders to bank officials in Saigon and Phnom Penh shortly before those two cities fell to the Communists.

"A bank as big and important as First National City doesn't take a decision like this on its own," said a French officer of the Banque de l'Indochine. "They've obviously received advice from the State Department."

That advice, as the French banker saw it, was that the United States is quickly winding down its once-massive involvement and physical presence in Laos. Once Congress decides against renewing economic assistance—as many observers here expect—Americans are likely to be unwelcome and those few U.S. diplomats still remaining may have to leave in a hurry.

But the manager did not follow the instructions from New York. He cabled back that there was still no rea-

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