

Warehouse Returned by Pathet Lao

The Pathet Lao returned yesterday without any explanation one of the three U.S. installations seized by militant leftist youths last month.

An embassy spokesman said the U.S. Information Service warehouse was returned at dusk after more than two weeks of occupation by the youths and pro-Communist Pathet Lao police.

Occupation of a General Services Organization warehouse and an American housing compound continued, however. The buildings and the USIS library were seized 16 days ago. The library was returned one week later.

The spokesman said the warehouse issue came up during a discussion of "other matters" between embassy officials and Foreign Ministry representatives.

The Pathet Lao, who asked to dominate the Laotian government, asked what was in the warehouse. When told it contained office supplies, the Foreign Ministry examined the building and turned it over an hour later.

Embassy officials then canceled plans announced earlier to suspend publication of a daily newspaper, printed in both English and Laotian, that is to carry information on the U.S.-Soviet joint space launchings today.

However, the spokesman said occupation of the other warehouse still would necessitate reduction in operations of the embassy's consular office and the USIS library to two days a week.

Agence France-Presse quoted a reliable source in Vientiane as saying that the three-man French military instruction mission in Pakse, 300 miles south of the capital, has been ordered out on 24-hour

notice by the town's new authorities.

The three men left by air for Vientiane, according to the source, who gave no indication why they were ordered out.

Thai Prime Minister Kukrit Pramoj said in Bangkok that the Laotian Foreign Ministry had asked withdrawal of the Thai consular staff from Pakse for security reasons.

Pramoj said the Laotians asked that the six representatives be pulled back to Vientiane but he ordered them to Bangkok instead. Relations between the neighboring states have soured recently after shooting incidents between Thai marine police and Pathet Lao troops along the Mekong River that divides them.

Laos' joint Political Council, also dominated by the Pathet Lao, asked the government to break off diplomatic relations with South Korea because of Seoul's ties with former Laotian leaders.

A council communique following its third congress last week in Luang Prabang affirmed solidarity with the struggle of the Korean people "to chase the occupying American troops out of South Korea with a view toward peaceful reunification of the country."

In South Vietnam, a national bank official said at a press conference in Saigon that Vietnamese are being encouraged to keep their money in the bank and prevented from taking out excessive amounts.

Government authorities have promised that all Vietnamese with money in Saigon banks would be able to retrieve it but likely not all at once.

To keep as much money on deposit as possible, Chau said, anyone requiring more than 10,000 piasters, about \$13, a month living expenses per person would be required to obtain special permission for the withdrawal.