

# A Call for Peace in Laos

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By PRINCE SOUPHANOUVONG

**PATHET LAO HEADQUARTERS, SAM NEUA, Laos**—American imperialism is under attack on every flank by the world's forces of progress. In order to stand up to this powerful movement and in order to camouflage his bellicism President Nixon proclaimed his doctrine of a new peace strategy.

The "Nixon Doctrine for Asia" fundamentally is nothing but the epitome of a policy of letting Asians fight Asians. In practice, it is translated into an intensification of America's war of aggression on the whole Indochinese peninsula—the most atrocious war in history which continues to cause great human and material losses to the peoples of Asia as it does to the American people.

In applying this doctrine to Laos President Nixon has brought escalation of the war to its highest level in comparison to what happened under previous Administrations. The U.S. Air Force, complete with strategic "B 52's" equipped with infra-red detection devices, is undertaking systematic extermination bombings, region by region. Operations by American-led puppet troops have dotted Laos with hundreds of Sonmy's.

In the so-called "Kou-Kiet" (Save The Honor) campaign, a typical application of the Nixon Doctrine, the U.S. Embassy in Vientiane, the agency that really directs the Laos war, has mobilized all of the Vang Pao (Cambodians from South Vietnam), "special forces" seconded by numerous Thai battalions and maximum support by the U.S.A.F. in attacks on the strategic area of Xieng Khouang and of the Plain of Jars.

From this supreme war effort Mr. Nixon hoped to obtain a decisive victory and reverse the situation in Laos, thus demonstrating the effectiveness of his doctrine.

But reality on the battlefield only produced 6,000 bodies of the local special forces, of the Green Berets and American advisers and mercenaries, and the wreckage of close to fifty American airplanes. That first test of the Nixon doctrine in Laos proved to be a failure.

But despite it the bellicist and stubborn Americans go on engaging in new adventures such as the so-called "Thanong-Kiet" (Pride) and other campaigns presently under way in which are employed local puppet troops, Thai mercenaries and Saigon puppets, plus the B-52's. It goes without saying that those new escalations continue to receive stinging ripostes. The so-called main support has suffered defeat after defeat; has not the U.S.A.F. lost over 1,500 planes in Laos?

At this moment, the Americans spe-

## Pathet Lao Leader Demands That U.S. Leave Southeast Asia



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cially help the Thailand leadership in putting up two mobile divisions to be ready for instant intervention in Laos.

Recently Mr. Nixon made public his alleged "new peace initiative" for Indochina. It amounts only to the impasse of an obstinate pursuit of the U.S. war of aggression in Indochina. Mr. Nixon arrogantly demands that the peoples of Indochina passively accept the occupation of their territory by the hundreds of thousands of soldiers of the U.S. Expeditionary Corps as well as the perpetuation of U.S. colonialism. This is only procrastination designed to permit Mr. Nixon's clique to win American elections.

Forced to make war for decades, the Lao people just as their Vietnamese and Khmer brothers sincerely desire peace. But it must be a genuine peace within true independence and freedom, such as laid down in the five-point political solution of the Lao Patriotic Front, in the ten-point solution of the National Liberation Front and of the Provisional Revolutionary Government of the Republic of South Vietnam, and in the five-point Declaration of the Chief of State of Cambodia, Norodom Sihanouk. At the same time, a door is thus provided, too, for a way out with dignity for the Nixon Administration from its Indochina war.

The gates of peace are wide open. All there remains for Mr. Nixon is to withdraw immediately from Indochina all American forces and respect scrupulously the right of the Indochinese peoples to self-determination. Peace then will be reestablished.

If Mr. Nixon were to insist on pursuing his adventurist war it would be up to him to assume the entire responsibility before the American people, so proud of its beautiful traditions of struggles for freedom and justice. The Lao people, together with the other peoples of Indochina, persevering in their just combat and benefiting from the sympathy and from the powerful support of the peoples of the world, will triumph, with absolute certainty, over the U.S. war of aggression and, with certainty, will defeat the Nixon doctrine.

The Lao people and the American people find themselves separated from each other by tens of thousands of kilometers on two sides of the Pacific. But in the effort of fighting the common enemy, that is the bellicist U.S. clique, our two peoples have become very close companions in arms.

May our two peoples combat together and together achieve victory.

Prince Souphanouvong is leader of the Pathet Lao, the Communist-affiliated Lao Patriotic National Front.