

Pathet Lao Protests

HONG KONG, Feb. 8 (Reuters)
—The pro-Communist Pathet Lao in an urgent protest has asked Britain and the Soviet Union to take steps to compel the United States to halt its "aggressive operation in Laos."

The protest, sent to the two as co-chairmen of the 1962 Geneva convention making Laos neutral, said that United States and South Vietnamese troops "are carrying out a new and extremely dangerous venture by invading Laos."

The protest was made Saturday and reported today by the official Pathet Lao press

agency. It said that the offensive was "grossly trampling upon Laotian sovereignty, independence and neutrality."

Cambodians Voice Hope

Special to The New York Times

PNOMPENH, Cambodia, Feb. 8—Cambodians who learned of the South Vietnamese attack in Laos voiced hope tonight that it would take pressure off their own country. The news reached here tonight, but for the last week there had been rumors and speculation about the penetration into Laos.

A French-language broadcast over the Pnompenh radio, included a communiqué from the presidency of the Council of Ministers that said: "The Government of salvation declares that it approves fully the measure taken by President Thieu because the Communist bases in Laos constitute a mortal danger to Cambodia. This measure contributes to shortening or ending the war."

But some Cambodian officials, however, while expressing enthusiasm for the drive into Laos to cut a section of the Ho Chi Minh Trail, showed anxiety about the short-term possibility that Communist troops would retaliate in Cambodia for the prestige they might lose in the Laotian operation.

Condemnation in Paris

Special to The New York Times

PARIS, Feb. 8—The Communist delegations to the Vietnam peace conference here joined with the French Government today in condemning the incursion into Laos by South Vietnamese forces as an extension of the war. Both the North Vietnamese and the Vietcong, however, refrained from threats to boycott the talks.

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Soviet Warns U.S.

MOSCOW, Feb. 8 (Reuters)—Tass, the Soviet press agency, warned the United States today that it had taken on grave responsibility before world opinion by deciding on "further dangerous expansion of aggression against the peoples of Indochina."

Peking Sees Provocation

TOKYO, Feb. 8 (AP)—Communist China, in a broadcast heard here today, described the South Vietnamese drive into Laos as a grave provocation against the Chinese people and said that it stood ready to give its firm support and assistance to the Indochinese.

Thant Deplores Operations

UNITED NATIONS, N.Y. Feb. 8 (AP)—Secretary-General Thant expressed fear today that operations in Laos by the North Vietnamese and now the South Vietnamese might be the death blow for the 1962 Geneva agreement. A statement issued by his office said: "The reported incursion into Laos of South Vietnamese armed forces supported by the United States Air Force is one more deplorable episode in the long history of the barbarous war in Indochina."

'Understandable,' Britain Says

LONDON, Feb. 8 (UPI)—Britain today termed the South Vietnamese action in Laos "fully understandable." A Foreign Office spokesman said that the British Government was in constant touch with the South Vietnamese and United States Governments on the situation in Southeast Asia.