

WXPost
Indochina Roundup MAY 3 1975

Fighting Subsides in Laos; Ex-CIA Ally Holds Road

VIENTIANE — Fighting for the key crossroad at Sala Phoukoun, 125 miles north of here, has ended, military sources here said yesterday.

The sources said Communist-led Pathet Lao forces were about a mile from the crossroad, which was held by royalist troops under the command of Gen. Vang Pao, former head of the "secret army" of Meo tribesmen and Thai mercenaries trained by the U.S. Central Intelligence Agency.

Meanwhile, the sources said, about 50 Pathet Lao soldiers were said to have infiltrated the American-built base at Long Cheng, where Gen. Vang Pao has his headquarters.

Well-informed American sources said they had no evidence that North Vietnamese troops and tanks had taken part in the recent fighting around Sala Phoukoun as reported by Defense Minister Sisouk na Champassak.

Indochina Ties

Malaysia recognized the new government of South Vietnam and said it hoped the new government would join its neighbors in Southeast Asia to work for peace in the region.

It was the first member of

the Association of Southeast Asian Nations (ASEAN) to recognize the new government.

Foreign Ministry sources in Kuala Lumpur said ASEAN would discuss the participation of the new governments of South Vietnam and Cambodia in regional affairs at a foreign ministers meeting May 13 to 15.

The British Foreign office announced that it has formally recognized the new government in Cambodia. A spokesman said Britain was consulting with its allies on recognition of the new government in South Vietnam.

Danish Comments

COPENHAGEN — Danish Prime Minister Anker Joergensen said in Parliament that the end of the Vietnam war meant that "disagreements between us and the U.S. now belong to the past."

Earlier, U.S. Ambassador Philip K. Crowe had delivered a protest over remarks Joergensen made Wednesday about the U.S. role in Vietnam. The content of the protest was not made public.

Thieu's Pilgrimage

TAIPEI — Former South Vietnamese President Nguyen Van Thieu came out

of seclusion briefly to visit the tomb of the late President of Taiwan, Chiang Kai-shek.

Thieu led a delegation of Vietnamese exiles to the tomb at the mountain resort Tzuhu, 40 miles southwest of here. Taiwan's Premier Chiang Ching-kuo, the late president's son, was also there.

Thai Attack

BANGKOK — Thai authorities said Communist insurgents killed 10 police and guards in an assault on a construction project near the Burmese border.

Chinese Rally

PEKING — Ten thousand people joined Chinese leaders at a rally in the Great Hall of the People to celebrate the Communist victory in South Vietnam.

Wang Hung-wen, third-ranked vice chairman, led the 13 Politburo members at the rally. Defense Minister Yeh Chien-ying gave a speech in which he described the Vietcong triumph as "a most crushing blow at imperialism, colonialism and hegemonism."

From staff reports and news dispatches