

2 FACTIONS IN LAOS ACT TO END STRIFE

Pact Halting Troop Clashes
Is Reported Signed

MAY 8 1975

VIENTIANE, Laos, May 7 (AP)—The two opposing groups in the Laos coalition Government signed an agreement today to stop the clashes that have disrupted the Laotian cease-fire since mid-April, Government sources said.

The agreement was reached after a Cabinet meeting called to discuss a fresh outbreak of fighting on Route 13, the road to the royal capital Luang Prabang, north of Vientiane, which is the administrative capital. Military sources reported that pro-Communist Pathet Lao

troops backed by four tanks pushed rightist forces southward 17 miles from the key road junction at Sala Phou Khoun on Monday night.

Reports today told of further fighting around the town of Ban Pha Tang, 80 miles north of Vientiane, the site of a cease-fire line in 1961.

Deputy Premier Phoumi Vongvichit, for the Pathet Lao, and Leuam Insisiengmay, for the Vientiane side, agreed to order their troops to stop fighting, the sources said.

Parade Is Canceled

The Cabinet also agreed to prohibit political demonstrations throughout the country and to cancel a Constitution Day military parade scheduled for Sunday, for fear of provocations from political organizations that have been protesting inflation and carrying on a campaign against ministers who represent the rightist side in the Cabinet.

The coalition Government, set up under terms of agreements reached in Paris in February, 1973, includes ministers from the Pathet Lao, the rightist administration in Vientiane and so-called neutralists.

A rightist prince who once served as Minister of Culture and Religious Affairs was killed last night by a hand grenade thrown by an unidentified motorcyclist, the police reported today.

Prince Boun Om, 59 years old, a member of the coalition Government under Premier Souvanna Phouma in 1961, was killed instantly in his car when the grenade went off. He was the brother of Prince Boun Oum, a former Premier who is now the king's representative in the southern provinces.



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Fighting was reported in
the Ban Phatang area.