

Americans leave Laos— U.S. embassy sealed off

United Press International

VIENTIANE — United States diplomats burned official documents and evacuated about 160 more Americans — including embassy personnel — from Laos yesterday, which is similar to what preceded Communist takeovers in South Vietnam and Cambodia.

American sources said, however, the United States still intends to maintain an official presence in Laos.

Laotian employes of the United States, meanwhile, sealed off the American embassy for several hours. They demanded their pay, while students and Communist troops continued to surround the huge U.S. Agency for International Development compound.

Communist and dissident government troops maintained their watch on Kilo-

meter 6, an American housing complex outside of the capital where U.S. personnel were searched coming and going.

In the past three days nearly 400 Americans have left Laos, cutting the number in the country to about 650. About 500 of them are officials and their families, the rest private citizens.

Laotian sources said neu-

tralist Premier Souvanna Phouma and Foreign Minister Phoumi Vongvichit had both privately expressed concern over the intensity of the anti-American demonstrations that began after rightists quit the coalition government here.

The Communist Pathet Lao moved quickly into the void and now have almost

—Turn to P. 20, Col. 2

U.S. in a hurry to leave Laos

—From Page 1

total influence over the country.

U.S. Charge d'affaires Christian A. Chapman delivered a letter to the Foreign Ministry that said AID in Laos was being dissolved, that its equipment would be handed over to the Lao government in accordance with existing agreements and that its American employes would leave as quickly as possible.

Chapman told newsmen the Laotian employes of AID would be paid, but not be-

fore the students left the AID compound. The Laotian AID workers massed outside the windowless, concrete embassy building to demand their pay.

American officials said the pay was held up because records were kept in the AID compound, where three Americans have been holed up since student demonstrators seized it.

When the workers offered to provide security for American officials to enter the compound and make out their paychecks, a U.S. spokesman said: "We are

not accredited to demonstrators. We will only negotiate with the Laos government."

The demonstrating workers drifted away from the embassy during the night, when a heavy rainstorm drenched them.

At one point during the day, some of the Laotian AID workers openly jeered Pathet Lao troops inside the compound.

One Communist soldier responded by telling U.S. Air Force Capt. James Quinn of New York City, who was trying to explain the paycheck problem, to shut up.