

WXPost  
**U.S., Laos**  
**Set Terms**  
MAY 28 1975  
**To End AID**

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Washington Post Foreign Service

VIENTIANE, May 27—The United States reached agreement tonight with the government of Laos and a band of pro-Communist youths to dissolve the Agency for International Development in the country and break a week-long siege of the agency's headquarters.

The agreement gives AID until June 30 to withdraw all its remaining American and foreign employees and turn over all AID property to the Communist Pathet Lao-dominated government.

Students and other Laotian youths who have been occupying the huge AID compound agreed to the evacuation early Wednesday morning. This will enable AID employees to return to their offices to begin preparing severance pay for local employees and to process the turnover to the government.

The end of the student occupation will also allow the release of two U.S. Marine guards and an American civilian who have been virtual captives in compound buildings. They are Sgt. Roger Murphy of Gresham, Ore.; Sgt. Donald Wilburn of Osgood, Ind.; and William Darden, an employee of the Federal Electric Corporation.

The agreement and the events leading up to it are

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seen here as a watershed in Laos' emergence from 2½ years of coalition government to full Communist domination with a fig leaf of coalition barely in place.

By orchestrating student harassment of U.S. AID and embassy personnel and their families, the Pathet Lao have been demonstrating their intent to have Laos become self-reliant, or at least to reduce to a minimum its dependence on the United States and probably other Western nations.

In addition to being the principal supplier of economic assistance to Laos, AID has been the second-largest employer of Laotians, after the government itself.

"We have just seen a real revolution in the true sense of word," commented one long-time Western observer. "The new social order has descended with startling speed." tr for add three

Most Western observers consider the recent deterioration in relations between the United States and Laos merely a forerunner of future

Ever since some 200 students and other youngsters captured the compound at 1:30 a.m. on May 21, they have refused to leave it—and Chapman refused to sign an agreement unless they did. This impasse was overcome through a compromise allowing those AID employees who are "protestors" to remain in the compound while the turnover takes place.

There was no guarantee in the agreement that harassment of U.S. officials who will remain in Laos once the AID mission is gone will not continue.

Even as the all-day negotiations were going on, AID officials reported that vacated houses in the American residential compound on the outskirts of Vientiane were being looted.

Although it is still too early to make sweeping judgments on the foreign-policy intentions of the Pathet Lao, most Western experts doubt that the Laotian Communists intend to build quite as high a xenophobic fence around Laos as their Khmer Rouge

breakdowns between the Pathet Lao leadership and other Western nations.

"None of us is interested in pulling out," said one Western diplomat, "but we may be forced. And the smaller our missions become, the more difficult it will be for us to hold on."

Sources indicated that they foresaw the possibility of the U.S. embassy's eventually being reduced to a handful of diplomats, with the chance of a total break.

Indeed, there have been signs that the Pathet Lao are attempting to force the United States to break relations unilaterally. Foreign Minister Phoumi Vongvichit, the most senior Pathet Lao minister in the coalition, has already stated that it was the duty of Laotians to "completely drive U.S. neo-colonialism out of Lao territory."

Sources fear that if the U.S. Congress reacts to today's settlement by refusing to channel aid directly to the government, as the Pathet Lao insist, the Communists may then demand that all Americans leave the country.

counterparts have in neighboring Cambodia.

In the past few weeks, since the right-wing side of the coalition fell away, with many of its leaders fleeing the country, the Pathet Lao have worked steadily at establishing their line of authority.

This morning, for example, military police cracked down hard on a group of AID employees who broke away from the students occupying the compound and sought premier Souvanna Phonma's intervention in gaining their severance pay.

Each day, the Pathet Lao extend and strengthen their authority a little more. In the last few days they have succeeded in driving out rightists in the Agricultural Industry Ministry, the national radio, the customs office and several other government organizations.

Today's negotiations took place in an atmosphere of tension. According to Chapman, student distrust was the basic problem of the American negotiators encountered throughout the intensive talks. "Everything was difficult,"

As of this morning, there were 280 American officials left in Laos. At the start of this month, there were 820. Almost all dependents have been evacuated, and those embassy personnel considered "nonessential" are expected to leave daily from now on.

The seven-point agreement to end the siege of the AID compound was hammered out during an all-day-and-all-night negotiating session. The principal signatories were U.S. Charge d'Affaires Christian Chapman and Minister of Economy and Planning Soth Petrasy, a leading Pathet Lao figure. In addition, three young Laotians representing AID employees who have turned against the agency and two students signed the document as witnesses.

An eighth point, stating that the protest against AID was an expression of "correct and legitimate behavior," was signed by Soth. Chapman reportedly considered the occupation of the compound illegal because it was a violation of diplomatic immunity.

he said. "They are suspicious of us."

After the talks, the car carrying Chapman and two aides was engulfed by students who shouted:

"We will remember your faces! If you don't keep the agreement you three will die! We will kill you!"