

# 3 Americans Freed In Laos After Week

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VIENTIANE, Laos, May 28—

The eight-day occupation of the local headquarters of the American aid program by students and employes ended today nearly as quietly as it had begun.

Three Americans, two of them Marine sergeants, who were trapped in the compound from the start of the anti-American demonstrations were freed unharmed.

The students and the employes claimed a major victory over the Americans who, in an agreement signed early this morning, agreed to most of their demands, including the end of Agency for International Development activities in Laos by June 30 and the transfer

Continued on Page 3, Column 1

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Continued From Page 1, Col. 1

of its equipment to the Laotian Government.

The American chargé d'affaires, Christian A. Chapman, arranged the agreement with Sot Petrasy, a Pathet Lao leader, and student and worker representatives.

As the gates opened shortly after 3 P.M. to allow the three Americans to leave and newsmen and American officials to enter, the compound appeared little damaged. In the commissary restaurant tables were neatly set, but the kitchen was a mess with dirty dishes overflowing onto a floor strewn with garbage and two inches deep in water.

## 'One Week in Hell'

"It was one week in hell," said Sgt. Donald E. Wilburn, 26 years old, of Osgood, Ind., as he and Sgt. Roger W. Murphy, 22, of Grisham, Ore., emerged from the windowless building where they had been encamped.

The third American was William Darden, a civilian employe of the Federal Electric Company.

The marines described how they held out on C-rations, peanut brittle, candy bars found in secretaries' desks and jugs for the water coolers. They slept between interruptions by the student demonstrators, who telephoned frequently during the night, taunting them with insults.

The demonstration seems to have had little major domestic significance beyond being further evidence that the Com-

munist-led Pathet Lao can do whatever it will in Laotian affairs.

In advance of the accord with the protesters the United States, under an agreement with the Laotian Government, had withdrawn nearly all the personnel of the aid agency as well as dependents of officials here and was in the process of thinning down the embassy staff.

Eighty more Americans departed today on a charter flight to Bangkok, leaving about 180 American officials, as against 800 a month ago.

## Aid May Be Casualty

It is apparent that the \$30-million-a-year aid program will be a casualty of the Pathet Lao's ascendancy. Discussing possible renewal of the program, Margaret Converse, the embassy press attaché, said, "Congress is not unaware of what has been going on in Laos."

Other Western and Asian embassies here that have assisted Laos have indicated that without the backbone of the American financial contribution they would have to reconsider their participation. Particularly affected will be a foreign-exchange fund that has enabled Laos to import and export.

Throughout the series of anti-American demonstrations that ended today the students, the

Pathet Lao and the central Government, which is nominally neutralist and composed of Pathet Lao and right-wing factions, have said that they want American aid to continue, but on their own terms.

What they seek is cash grants to the Government, which would then do what it sees fit, allowing one or two American officials to monitor what is done.

A senior Finance Ministry official said, "Should the American Congress not continue assistance, we should be forced to turn even more strongly to other more friendly governments." The allusion was to Hanoi, Peking and Moscow.

## U.S. Complains of Violation

VIENTIANE, May 28 (AP)—A United States Embassy spokesman said today that the Laotian Government had left a police force in the agency's compound in violation of the agreement ending the student-worker demonstration.

The spokesman said armed policemen, most of them from the Pathet Lao, strolled through the compound. The agreement called for withdrawal of students and policemen.

The spokesman said the chargé d'affaires, Christian A. Chapman, would meet with Laotian leaders to reopen negotiations.