

# Laos to Shuffle Civil Service

From News Dispatches

VIENTIANE, May 29 — The Laotian Cabinet announced today that there will be a widespread reshuffling of civil servants in most ministries following the justifiable demands of civil service protest movements.

Most ministries are heavily staffed with supporters of rightist leaders who have been ousted from power in recent weeks. A result has been administrative paralysis.

Informed sources said that Prime Minister Prince Souvanna Phouma will replace the rightist ministers and deputy ministers who left the government with moderate rightists.

Observers said such appointments would be an indication that the pro-Communist Pathet Lao, who now appear to be in control of the government, do not yet want to push through a complete takeover.

Deputy Information Minister Ouday Souvannavong denied today that the Pathet Lao controlled the country. He

said at a news conference that the entry of Pathet Lao troops into a number of southern cities did not mean a Communist takeover of the country.

He confirmed that Prince Souvanna, a neutralist who recently has sided with the Pathet Lao, had chosen replacements for the rightist ministers who had left, but did not identify them.

Meanwhile, a U.S. Marine guard who stayed at his post throughout the week-long student occupation of the U.S. Agency for International Development compound said he was prepared to repel intruders with a smokescreen and fire extinguishers.

Sgt. Donal Wilburn, 26, said he mixed gunpowder and strips of rubber to produce black smoke when ignited.

"The smokescreen would have given me time to pull back to another area," he said.

Of the 1,000 Americans in Laos when the Pathet Lao began taking control of the coalition government last month, only 293 remain, the U.S. em-

bassy said. Fewer than 200 are government employees and their families and the rest are businessmen, journalists and other private citizens.

The AID office was closed down and most Americans were evacuated after Laotian students and the government demanded that U.S. AID operations in Laos be ended. The government indicated that they would like to continue to receive aid, but without the supervision of American administrators in Laos.

In the past, AID officials have admitted that their agency was sometimes used as a cover for CIA activities in Laos. The Laotian students who besieged the AID compound charged that the aid program is still linked to the CIA.

## S. Vietnam Protests

### Transfer of Planes

From News Dispatches

The new government in South Vietnam has issued a strong protest over the re-

moval by the United States of two South Vietnamese military aircraft from Singapore, Radio Saigon reported.

The radio said a Foreign Ministry spokesman "pointed out that these aircraft belong to the people of South Vietnam and demanded that the United States return them without delay."

It added that Singapore should "Make restitution of all of South Vietnam's aircraft, ships and property of other kinds left in Singapore by the puppet army" of the former government in Saigon.

Mrs. Ngo Ba Thanh, who spent two years in prison for working as part of the non-Communist "third force" to oppose former South Vietnamese President Nguyen Van Thieu, announced that she had merged her women's political movement with the Communist-led Women's Liberation Association of South Vietnam.