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Pathet Lao

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Ask Arrest

Of Marine

From News Dispatches

VIENTIANE, Laos, June 1—America's top diplomat in Vientiane met with the Laotian foreign minister today to discuss a Pathet Lao demand that a young U.S. Marine embassy guard be arrested for allegedly beating up a Laotian youth.

The U.S. embassy spokesman said no decision had been made in the talks between charge d'affaires Christian A. Chapman and Pathet Lao Foreign Minister Phoumi Vongvichit. He did not rule out that the Marine could be flown out of the country.

The spokesman, who declined to identify the embassy guard, said the Marine had strongly denied the charges.

There have been unconfirmed reports that a new anti-American demonstration would be staged Monday on the arrival of Philip C. Habib, U.S. assistant secretary of state for East Asian and Pacific affairs.

The U.S. embassy said the chief of the Marine contingent, Staff Sgt. Edward I. Wagner, was called at the embassy Saturday night by his maid, who said young Laotians were trying to break into his residence.

He and two U.S. civilian security guards shouted at the youths, who ran off.

After the three had left, another Marine drove up, having heard of the attempted break-in. He was about to get back into his car when a group of young people walked by and started hurling insults at him.

The young Marine shouted back angrily and exchanged rude gestures with members of the group but he said there was never an exchange of

blows or other physical contact. This group, composed of several young people, followed the Marine's car to his residence and accused him of beating up a Laotian youngster.

Meanwhile, a top general who had fled the country said he and others were angry at the United States for not evacuating them—as was done for refugees from Cambodia and South Vietnam—or helping them while awaiting emigration to other countries from Thailand.

Gen. Thonglith Chokbengboun described himself as a "victim of American policy in Laos," but said he and other rightist leaders would seek refuge in the United States since Thailand would not allow them to stay for a long period of time.

In other Southeast Asian developments:

- Thailand's deputy prime minister and defense minister, Maj. Gen. Pramarn Adireksarn, said Communists from abroad have stepped up their infiltration in northeast Thailand following the fall of South Vietnam and Cambodia.

- Five Burmese insurgent groups have formed a non-Communist federation to consolidate their armed struggle against strongman President Ne Win, local press reports said.

- Khmer Rouge authorities in the border town of Poipet have asked the Thai police not to be too strict in border trading, saying that "Thais and Cambodians are brothers," according to the Bangkok Post.

- The Malaysian Red Cross appealed to oil companies to donate fuel for 1,500 Vietnamese refugees living on Perhentian Island off the east coast of Malaysia. It said the fuel was needed for the refugees' boat, which used 400 gallons on each trip to get drinking water from a village on the coast.

- The labor federation of Thailand, which controls 65 trade unions, has threatened to call a nationwide strike if the government fails to comply with its demand to dismiss police Col. Yutthana Wannakovit by Wednesday.