

Kissinger Aide, in Vientiane, Meets With 2 Leaders

By DAVID A. ANDELMAN
Special to The New York Times

VIENTIANE, Laos, June 2— Assistant Secretary of State Philip C. Habib met today with the neutralist Laotian Premier and the Pathet Lao Foreign Minister to discuss relations between the United States and Laos.

Mr. Habib, who as Assistant Secretary of State for East Asian and Pacific Affairs is the highest-ranking American official to visit Indochina since the fall of Cambodia and South Vietnam, arrived in mid-afternoon from Bangkok, where he will return tomorrow for further discussions with Thai leaders.

"I am getting the views of the governmental leaders here," Mr. Habib said on his arrival at Vientiane Airport. "We will discuss the whole question of relations between our countries and I am doing the same in all the countries in the area I am visiting."

This afternoon he met with Premier Souvanna Phouma and tonight was host at a dinner for the Premier and the Foreign Minister, Phoumi Vongvichit, who is a member of the Communist-led Pathet Lao faction of the Laotian Government.

The swing through southeast Asia had been planned in February, but was repeatedly postponed as first Cambodia and then South Vietnam fell into Communist hands. Now, as he told one reporter at the airport "the situation is a lot different out here from the last time I saw you" in early February.

American officials have said that the focus of Mr. Habib's attention in Laos would be the question of continuation of American aid. Laos has said that she wants aid, but without the presence of any American aid personnel.

Coincidentally with Mr. Ha-

bib's arrival the Lao Press agency published an editorial condemning "years of exploitation conducted by rightist reactionaries who had but a single end — to enrich themselves by means of foreign aid."

The editorial, titled "To Build Together a New Laos," also quoted the Foreign Minister, Mr. Phoumi, as having said that "foreign aid must not be a foreign state within the Lao state."

The editorial said that foreign aid, "while it must be unconditional, is always indispensable to dress the wounds of a war imposed by the imperialists."

American officials have said it is unlikely that aid will continue at the level of \$30-million a year without the presence of American personnel.

It has also not yet been determined whether the United States will continue to participate in the multilateral Foreign Exchange Operations Fund, which supplies foreign exchange to Laos. The Laotian currency, the kip, is not convertible.

Recommendations on the continuation of aid are expected to be made soon because of the American budget timetable and because the signing of the 1975 agreement on the foreign exchange fund is already more than five months overdue. The hard currency that Laos needs for foreign exchange is nearly exhausted.

Meanwhile, the purge of ministries continued. The Lao press agency said eight officials at the Education Ministry had been replaced after they "fled abroad"; three officials in the Ministry of the Interior had been named and five members of the Ministry of Justice had resigned.

Western analysts who have been following the purge said

the replacements do not seem to be from the Pathet Lao faction.

"They are simply people who are more sympathetic to their views," one diplomat commented. "Shall we say, more pliable?"

The Pathet Lao already seems to have the bureaucracy under control.

Accord on a Marine

VIENTIANE, June 2 (AP)— The United States has agreed to

transfer a Marine guard of the embassy who was accused of assaulting a student and the dominant Pathet Lao faction. The Government has agreed to let him leave the country, the embassy spokesman said.

The agreement, between the chargé d'affaires, Christian Chapman and Foreign Minister Phoumi Vongvichit, ended the threat of a demonstration reportedly planned for the arrival today of Assistant Secretary of State Habib.