

LAOS REDS CLAMP CONTROLS ON CITY

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In Savannakhet, Prices Are
Curbed and Rightists Are
Told to Register

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VIENTIANE, Laos, June 4—

The new administration in Savannakhet, Laos's second largest city, issued a series of edicts today ordering price controls on food and other goods, the "registration" of rightists and the seizure of all property of Prince Boun Oum, the most prominent southern rightist leader, who has fled the country.

The mayor and administration of Savannakhet were installed in office last weekend after nearly a month of student unrest and the take-over of the town by Communist-led Pathet Lao troops nearly two weeks ago.

The new mayor, Boun Signavong, is not known to most Western analysts in Vientiane but it is understood that he is not a member of the Pathet Lao or its front organization. Nevertheless, most of the edicts made public today are very much in line with the Pathet Lao program.

"The lackeys of the imperialist Americans and the rightist reactionaries who are in hiding must present themselves to the authorities within a period of three days to insure that they will not be punished," one edict said.

There was a large American Agency for International Development mission there, all of whose American members were evacuated to Thailand more than a week ago after being held captive by students who had seized the town. It's believed that many of their employes remained in Savannakhet, although some are known to have fled across the Mekong River to Thailand.

Anti-U.S. Statements

In Vientiane, meanwhile, the Association of Former Students of Socialist Countries accused the United States of "savagely killing Laotian children."

The statement referred to the period of the civil war in Laos several years ago when the United States was conducting B-52 bombing raids here.

This was another in a series of anti-American statements, rising in stridency over several weeks, that have come from everyone from the Acting Defense Minister, Gen. Khmouane Boupha, to the Foreign Minister, Phoumi Vongvichit, who issued another today in a speech to an army group. Both ministers are members of the Pathet Lao.

The Government press agency, meanwhile, announced today that the king, Savang Vatthana, had formally accepted the resignation of four right-wing ministers and deputies. This acceptance would pave the way for his acceptance of the appointment of their successors, which the Premier Prince Souvanna Phouma, has said is the only step remaining before public announcement of their names.

The Laos Government also announced today that consumer prices had dropped somewhat from April to May but did not say by how much. Independent economists here doubt that there was a drop since most consumer prices, because of scarcities and the flight of capital abroad, have been rising sharply all year.

The same announcement, however, said that the Government would begin selling rice—about 2,500 sacks, each of 100 pounds—at six depots in Vientiane.

This rice is now in private stocks and is being purchased by the Government at prices ranging from 18,000 kip to 23,000 kip, or about \$15 to \$18 a sack. And it will be resold to the public at anywhere from 50 cents to \$2 less a sack.

American officials here held their second meeting with their counterparts from the Laotian Government today on the turn-ins and aid projects here to cover of the American installations in Laos.

There have been no decisions announced as yet on this matter and it is understood that Americans here are still completing the cataloguing of the property that will be turned over.

Meantime, the reduction in the American mission's contingent here continued. An Embassy spokesman said that the United States information service here was being scaled down, employes and that the Embassy's press attaché was being evacuated to Bangkok.