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Laos Holds U.S. Woman

On Political Charges

Washington Post Foreign Service

VIENTIANE, June 9—Laotian police are holding an American woman they arrested five days ago on what they say are "political charges" U.S. embassy officials said today. 14 JUN

Rosemary Ann Conway, 36, of Chicago, was arrested at a Vientiane hotel Wednesday after she allegedly had caused a disturbance. Pathet Lao police took her to the headquarters of what is called the "mixed police," a joint force comprising the Pathet Lao and the so-called Vientiane side.

According to embassy officials, Miss Conway had been living in Vientiane for the past year and worked as a teacher at the International School here.

Wednesday, one official said, she came to the embassy and asked to use a special tel-

ephone line to contact an American military officer at a U.S. air base in Thailand. She reportedly told two embassy officials that she had close ties to U.S. military officers in Thailand and that she had "secret information" to pass on to them.

The two officials were satisfied that Miss Conway didn't have the kind of information she claimed and she was not allowed to call the base. She was arrested at the hotel that night.

After making initial inquiries, the embassy was informed that Miss Conway was to be deported from Laos. However, officials learned today that she was still being held at the mixed police headquarters.

A consular officer went to the headquarters where a Pathet Lao officer said Miss Conway was being held on unspecified "political charges."