



CHRISTIAN A. CHAPMAN

... 'the events of May'

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## U.S. AID's Laos Office Shuts Down

From News Dispatches

VIENTIANE, June 26—The last two officials of the United States aid mission to Laos slipped out of Vientiane today, ahead of schedule and without signing a formal agreement on handing over U.S. AID property and equipment.

An embassy statement said acting U.S. AID chief Gordon Ramsay, 49, and his secretary, Beatrice Perez, flew to Bangkok on a commercial flight, ending a 20-year program that cost more than \$1 billion.

Their departure coincided with an announcement by the Laotian government — now dominated by the pro-Communist Pathet Lao—that general elections scheduled for July 10 had been indefinitely postponed.

The mission of the U.S. Agency for International Development was closed and the agency agreed to remove all personnel by June 30 following student demonstrations and the occupation of its facilities last month.

U.S. officials said it is unlikely that Congress would approve further assistance to Laos, which received more than \$60 million in U.S. military and economic aid during

the past year.

"The events of May here have not created a very favorable basis for continued American aid," said Christian A. Chapman, the U.S. charge d'affaires.

Over the past two decades, U.S. economic and military aid to Laos totaled more than \$2 billion. The United States paid the Vientiane-side army, subsidized imports, trained thousands of Lao and through U.S. AID became involved in

virtually every facet of life in areas not controlled by the Pathet Lao.

While admitting to the benefits derived from U.S. AID, many Laotians resented the power and size of the mission.

"I can see from their perspective why a large U.S. mission was objectionable," Chapman said. "The mission handled military aid as well. The Pathet Lao are basically nationalistic and I can see why they would not want a large American presence in the provinces as U.S. AID once had.

"They wanted to see the end of an agency they called 'a state within a state.'"

Talks were initiated on handing over equipment, but embassy officials made no secret of fears that the officials remaining behind might be detained if the talks, last held on June 9, proved fruitless. Two other AID officials left yesterday.

An embassy statement said the negotiations "have not proceeded in a manner which will permit an orderly bilateral resolution of issues by June 30."

News agencies reported the following other Indochina-related developments:

- Soldiers and officials of the former South Vietnamese government have been promised full citizenship if they show support for the Communist government, United Press International reported, saying that the offer is being made at the end of three-day re-education classes the former officials are required to take.

- New Zealand and North Vietnam announced the establishment of diplomatic relations at ambassadorial level.

- A senior UNICEF official said his agency expects to increase its aid to Vietnam greatly now that the war is over, but added that it is not known if the U.N. Children's Fund (UNICEF) will be allowed back into Cambodia.

- South Vietnamese working in the North are being given special holidays to visit relatives in the South whom they have not seen for years, according to Hanoi's Communist Party newspaper, Nhan Dan.