

U.S. EMBASSY SAYS IT MAY QUIT LAOS

JUL 1 1975

Diplomats Protest in Vain as

Communists Occupy Key

Facilities for 3d Day
NYTimes

By HENRY KAMM

Special to The New York Times

VIENTIANE, Laos, June 30—The United States Embassy, with three of its key facilities, including staff living quarters, occupied today by pro-Communist policemen and civilian demonstrators for the third day, has informed the Foreign Ministry that it may have to close because of lack of administrative support.

American diplomats persisted in a vain attempt to obtain a statement of the Laotian Government's position but found their questions to the Foreign Ministry answered only with questions. From another quarter, however, came an unequivocal statement that the facilities under occupation had been seized on behalf of the Laotian people and would not be returned.

The statement was made in a news conference by Khamsay Sourinthone, president of the National Federation of Students. Mr. Khamsay is a principal spokesman for the amorphous groups of demonstrators that in the last two months have led popular "uprisings" resulting in the removal from office of persons deemed unsuitable to the new, Pathet Lao-dominated Laos.

He was the most active spokesman for the students who participated in the seizure last month of the compound of the United States Agency for International Development here. That incident resulted in the termination of all American assistance and the forced turnover of all properties and supplies of the aid agency. The actions against A.I.D. precipitated the crisis in Laotian-American relations.

Warehouses Seized

One of the compounds seized by the pro-Communist Pathet Lao and demonstrators housed the offices, warehouses and maintenance facilities of the general services branch of the embassy. This unit provides the administrative support and services necessary to keep the embassy in operation.

In meetings over the weekend

and today with Pathet Lao officials of the Foreign Ministry, American diplomats have failed to receive an answer to the essential question whether Laos is attempting to force the departure of the United States mission.

In expectation of possible troubles, the charge d'affaires, Christian A. Chapman, ordered 20 members of his staff to leave temporarily for Thailand yesterday. This reduced the number of American staff members here to 22.

In reply to their questions, American diplomats have been asked in return if the general services compound had been connected with L.I.D. or military assistance and whether the

private contractor providing such services as electrical generators, vehicle maintenance and packing and handling of personal effects had had such connections.

When asked why the United States Information Service library had been occupied, a Foreign Ministry aide said today he did not know that it had been. Since early Saturday the ground-floor library, which had been vacated earlier last week, has been closed and guarded by armed Pathet Lao members and demonstrators, with its show windows covered with anti-American posters.

American officials hope that the return today from the Pathet Lao headquarters in the north of the country of Deputy Premier Phoumi Vongvichit, who is also Foreign Minister, will clarify the embassy's situation. It is felt that a continuation of the present uncertainty will cause the embassy to leave.

In the absence of official responses, the declaration of Mr. Khamsay whose demands prevailed in the A.I.D. issue and who has never been repudiated by the authorities, were taken seriously.

Asked whether he spoke on behalf of the Government or Pathet Lao, the student leader said in French that his activities had always had Government approval. "Our support is big, and we are supported by all," the law student said in a rambling reply.

Pathet Lao Police on Hand

The news conference was held in the former guest house of the aid agency, now the property of the Laotian Government, as Pathet Lao policemen with stood guard with automatic rifles. The presence of armed Pathet Lao troops at all facilities occupied by demonstrators is considered an indication of Pathet Lao approval, if not instigation, of the seizures.

Mr. Khamsay charged that the general services office of the embassy and the Silver City housing compound, where embassy secretaries, communications specialists and other technicians lived, were "paramilitary organizations" closely linked with A.I.D. and therefore covered by the May 27 agreement turning over the agency's installations to Laos.

Similarly, the student leader said that the United States Information Service had been involved with A.I.D. and had engaged in clandestine activities "to camouflage reality and blind the Laotian people."