

NYTimes  
**LAOS GIVES BACK  
THE U.S. LIBRARY**

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Incident Over Immunity of  
Facility Appears Closed

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VIENTIANE, Laos, July 4—

Laos returned to the United States today the Information Service Library that was occupied by Pathet Lao troops and student demonstrators nearly a week ago.

This afternoon, Lawrence D. Daks, the American diplomat who was driven from the premises at gunpoint yesterday, took possession of the library and the upstairs offices, standing empty since the departure of most of the embassy personnel in recent weeks.

The move, together with the attendance of many Laotian officials at the Embassy's Fourth of July reception this evening, was taken as a first indication that Laos is not intent on driving out the last American Embassy remaining in Indochina.

American officials warned, however, that serious problems involving the occupation of embassy facilities remained. A note handed to the embassy today by the Foreign Ministry recognized the diplomatic immunity of the library—but the occupation of two more important Embassy installations, which were also seized during the night late last week, was continued.

They are the general services compound, where a variety of maintenance and repair functions are performed and a housing compound in which embassy staff members lived. The note raised the question whether these facilities should be considered as belonging to the mission of the United States Agency for International Development, which was ordered dissolved and its property turned over to Laos.

The United States considers the facilities integral parts of the Embassy and therefore covered by diplomatic immunity.

A. Chapman, has requested an appointment at the Foreign Ministry to repeat the demand for the return of the facilities.

Earlier, the Embassy informed the Ministry that it might have to close because of inability to function without them. This does not, however, necessarily imply a break in diplomatic relations, which could be maintained without the presence of a mission.

The highest-ranking Pathet Lao minister who attended the Fourth of July reception at the ambassadorial residence was the Economics Minister, Sot Petrasay. The Minister, in a long interview on the terrace of the residence, spoke warmly of the desire of Laos to retain good relations "with our American friends." He said:

"The war is, of course, difficult to forget. But we are ready to forget and go on to friendly relations on the basis of equality and reciprocity."

Mr. Sot restated the Laotian desire for even greater American assistance than Laos received before the Communist Pathet Lao took effective control of the country. He said Laos would be ready to receive American experts in all fields and all kinds of American assistance "except cannons."

From another Cabinet source, however, it was learned that the Cabinet session last Wednesday night, at which the question of Laotian-American relations was a principal subject, was heated and the question of the Embassy's departure was actively discussed.

At one point, according to the source, Premier Souvanna Phouma interjected angrily to the Pathet Lao ministers: "If you want to throw the Americans out, say so!"

The Premier, according to the source, was—as exasperated as was the American Embassy by the Pathet Lao tactic of taking strong measures against the Embassy while declaring in discussions, public and private, their desire to maintain diplomatic relations with all nations.