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# Pathet Lao

## Said to Hold

## Thai Majors

From News Dispatches

Two Thai military attaches and an unidentified Thai civilian have been arrested by pro-Communist Pathet Lao forces and are being held without charge in Vientiane, diplomatic sources in Bangkok and Vientiane said yesterday.

At the same time, high Thai officials indicated that the country is seriously concerned about the possibility of an attack on the country by troops of the Pathet Lao.

A Pathet Lao source in the Vientiane Foreign Ministry said the Thai officers were accused of spying on Laos and spreading false reports harmful to the country, but he said no official charges had been filed.

Thailand's ambassador to Laos, Sawet Komolputi, said the arrests, reportedly made yesterday, were a "violation of the Vienna convention on diplomatic privileges," reports said. The ambassador reportedly filed an official protest with the Laotian Foreign Ministry.

The Thai officers were identified as Maj. Lert Pungpak and Maj. Prasert Tongpew, deputy military attaches.

The arrests followed a series of shooting incidents along the 1,000-mile Laos-Thailand border and deterioration of relations between the two countries.

In Bangkok, Defense Minister Pramarn Adireksarn and the head of the joint chiefs of staff said the Thai military has been holding daily strategy meetings since mid-July in case of an attack, but they did not specify the country from which the expected the attack.

Vichien Vechsawan, governor of Nakhon Phanom province, on the Laotian border, said, however, that he is seriously concerned about a possible attack by Pathet Lao troops.

"We are being affected by the aggressiveness of Pathet Lao troops along the Mekong River, and we are really worried about their demand we halt naval patrol activities on the Mekong River border," he said.

He said the Pathet Lao claim that the Mekong is a territorial river of Laos.

Gen. Kriengsak Chamanand, chief of the Thai joint chiefs of staff, told reporters: "With the increasing internal insurgency activities and uncertain relations between Thailand and our Communist neighbors in Laos and Cambodia, we are preparing our defense strategy and reviewing the military situation daily."

The Thai insurgency, still largely rooted in the countryside, is at the state of building up its organization, training fighters and political cadres and trying to recruit villagers, according to Western military report.

Defense Minister Pramarn said the insurgent movement has been receiving arms from unnamed foreign countries.

From Cambodia yesterday, Radio Phnom Penh reported that Khmer Rouge forces have fortified positions on two islands off Cambodia's southwestern coast near the South Vietnamese border and "are tirelessly defending the territorial waters."

According to a message published in Peking yesterday, China has been providing the Khmer Rouge with "support and assistance" since taking power April 17.

The message came from Khmer Rouge leader Khieu Samphan and was addressed to China's defense minister, Marshal Yeh Chien-ling.