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**Quaker Group
To Give Rice
To Laotians**

United Press International

The American Friends Service Committee said yesterday it signed an agreement with the government of Laos to provide \$50,000 in rice for the Southeast Asian country.

In another announcement, Paul Brink, a spokesman for the Quaker group, said that despite a U.S. government prohibition it was going ahead with previously announced projects for the purchase and delivery of food and equipment for North and South Vietnam. Laos is not included in the prohibition.

Eryl Kubicka, a Quaker spokeswoman, said the Laos shipment will free 9,000 persons for two months in Xieng Khouang, a city controlled by the Pathet Lao, the Communist-oriented faction now dominant in the Lao coalition government.

According to the Quakers, the effort is intended in part to supplant the recent departure of the U.S. Agency for International Development program in Laos.

David Elder, head of the AFSC's Asian program, said the Laotian government and the Pathet Lao need and want U.S. official aid but don't want to sacrifice what they see as newly won independence to get it.

The Quakers said most of the food will go to refugees returning to the Plain of Jars, the area heavily hit by the once-secret American bombing during the late 1960s and 1970s.