

## Pathet Lao's Take-Over Rites Followed Careful Preparations

NYTimes By DAVID A. ANDELMAN AUG 26 1975

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BANGKOK, Thailand, Aug. 25 —The Pathet Lao's take-over of Vientiane, extending its rule throughout Laos, followed weeks of elaborate preparations for the formal ceremonies, according to reports reaching Bangkok from diplomatic circles.

More than two weeks ago, Pathet Lao workers and policemen assigned to Vientiane began a house-to-house survey of families and compiled extensive lists of the population of the capital and its environs.

Meetings, sometimes beginning at 7 A.M., sometimes toward the end of the business day at 4 P.M., were held throughout the city for "re-education."

According to officials who attended some of these sessions or had friends present, the meetings were occupied largely with teaching the words and music to a series of new patriotic songs, most of which were sung at the victory celebrations Saturday on the parade grounds at the That Luang Pagoda.

"The music was very much like Chinese martial music, although it had some light Lao-like themes," said one Western diplomat who heard the tunes.

"The most popular," she continued, "went: 'We Lao people are like nobody else, We Lao people are very special. We all work together to build our nation.'"

Officially, only persons aged 16 to 30 were required to attend Saturday's celebration, which marked the completion of the Pathet Lao's rise to power in Laos.

But very early on Saturday morning, announcements were made throughout Vientiane that everyone must report to the That Luang grounds by 5 A.M.

Before 6 A.M. Pathet Lao police officers began to go from door to door. One Western diplomat said that his maid's mother, an elderly Laotian woman confined to bed with a badly infected arm, was spotted by the Pathet Lao during one of these house checks.

"I am near death," the woman told the soldiers, according to the diplomat's account. The soldiers shrugged, put her in a truck with other stragglers and drove her to the parade grounds.

Much of the crowd, the diplomatic observers said, was kept at the parade grounds by promises of an appearance by a very popular group of Pathet

Lao gymnasts. The gymnasts never appeared, however, and into the night the crowds—estimated by the Laotian Government at more than 200,000 but by other observers at little more than 100,000—had to be content with the singing and dancing.

Otherwise, life in Vientiane is reported to be quite normal. Stores were closed Saturday but reopened yesterday and today. Most Westerners stayed in their homes Saturday because of rumors of possible mass marches after the ceremonies at the parade grounds. Such marches have in the past turned into anti-American and anti-Western demonstrations, but this time there were none.

Western military officials said meanwhile, that the Pathet Lao continued to tighten its hold over the Laotian military forces.

The last general in command of right-wing forces in Vientiane, Boumpone Makthepharats, commander of the former Vientiane side's armed forces, left last Friday for Kwangtung Province in China. The official reason given for his departure was "hospitalization for a gall bladder problem."