

## Laotian Leftists Demonstrate For End of Vientiane Coalition

VIENTIANE, Laos, Nov. 28 (AP)—Seven months after it began its bloodless take-over of Laos, the pro-Communist Pathet Lao sent marchers into the streets today to demand an end to the coalition Government of Prime Minister Souvanna Phouma, who is a neutralist.

The demonstrators, waving Pathet Lao flags, and flanked by Chinese AL-47 rifles and militiamen with American M-16's, paused at several Government ministries to shout slogans that summarized what was written on their banners:

"The coalition government and the joint National Political Council are not suitable any more for Laos." A Pathet Lao organizer said similar marches, all of them peaceable, were being staged throughout the country.

### Coalition's Power Eroded

The demonstrations were evidently intended to pave the way for abolition of the 18-month-old coalition and formal installation of the Pathet Lao in power. This would conclude a process that began with the fall of the American-backed Governments of Cambodia and South Vietnam last spring and the subsequent ouster from Vientiane of the Laotian branch of the Agency for International Development, which administers American foreign aid overseas.

Laos has been in effect run by the Pathet Lao in recent months, and the coalition Government has been reduced to a virtually powerless skeleton. Prince Souvanna Phouma, 74 years old and ailing, reportedly

has been under close leftist control.

The Prime Minister, who was said to be in the royal capital of Luang Prabang today, has said he intends to retire from political life after general elections next April.

Many neutralist officials have been fleeing in recent months to neighboring Thailand. Thai officials reported that two more high-ranking neutralists and 17 officer cadets fled across the Mekong River yesterday.

Several days earlier Souvanna Phouma's second-son, Prince Panya Souvanna Phouma, 32, swam the river at night and vowed not to return to Laos "until there are some major political changes."

The coalition was established in April 1974 in an effort to resolve the long conflict between the Pathet Lao, backed by North Vietnam, and Laotian rightist forces, supported by the United States and based in Vientiane. In the three-sided coalition, the rightists are called the Vientiane side.

Some demonstrators demanded that Souvanna Phouma be replaced by his half-brother, Prince Souphanouvong, who is the nominal chief of the Pathet Lao and the head of the National Political Council.

### California Fires Contained

GLENDALE, Calif., Nov. 28 (UPI)—Mountain brush fires that blackened 100 square miles of Southern California during the last five days have been "fully contained," largely because of rain and cold weather, it was announced today.