

COALITION REGIME IN LAOS ABOLISHED

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Communists End Monarchy and Announce Creation of a People's Republic

NYTimes

By Reuters

VIENTIANE, Laos, Dec. 3—The Communist-led Pathet Lao took full control over Laos today, announcing the end of the monarchy, abolition of the 19-month-old coalition Government and establishment of a People's Democratic Republic.

The announcement was broadcast by the Vientiane radio, which said the decisions had been made at a people's congress on Monday and yesterday. The congress was convened by the central committee of the Lao Patriotic Front. That is the official name of the Pathet Lao organization.

King Savang Vatthana has given up the throne, the broadcast said, and "the representatives of the entire people of Laos accepted the abdication." The congress was then said to have decided unanimously to end the 600-year-old monarchy in what has been known as the Kingdom of a Million Elephants and to establish the People's Democratic Republic.

The radio also said that the congress had received and accepted the resignation of the

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74-year-old neutralist Prime Minister, Prince Souvanna Phouma, who headed a coalition of leftists, rightists and neutralists.

Abolished with the coalition was the policy-making Joint Political Council. Both the coalition and the council were established under the accords of 1973 that ended more than two decades of intermittent civil war.

The final takeover by the pro-Communist Pathet Lao had been expected for some time, and thousands of Laotians, among them relatives of the King, had fled to neighboring

Thailand. Many diplomats here, however, had thought that the monarchy would not be ended until after general elections scheduled for next April 4.

The Pathet Lao, which for much of the civil war controlled most of the Laotian territory while the non-Communist Vientiane Government held the population centers, began its



Associated Press

King Savang Vatthana

push toward full power last spring after the Communist take-overs in neighboring Cambodia and South Vietnam.

Pathet Lao Control Extended

The Pathet Lao began installing its own officials here in May and steadily expanded its control of outlying areas over the summer months, sending troops to take over various population centers. Anti-American demonstrations were organized in several parts of the country, forcing the shutdown of the American aid program.

While the coalition Government and Joint Political Council were originally designed to give equal representation to the Pathet Lao and the former Vientiane Government, the Pathet Lao won a commanding position several months ago as three rightist ministers were pressed to resign.

On Aug. 23, the "liberation" of Vientiane was announced, and since then local elections have been held to put Pathet Lao representatives in more positions of importance around the country.

Before the convening of the so-called people's congress this week, there were several days of demonstrations here calling for an end to all rightist influence in government, for dissolution of the coalition and for abolition of the monarchy. Newspapers asserted that it was necessary to end the "old corrupt regime."

However, there were no at-

tacks on the 68-year-old King, who had reigned since October 1959, and was much loved by his three million subjects.

With his abdication, he is reported to have left the royal palace at Luang Prabang to stay at his summer residence, where he has a farm and an orange plantation. Prince Souvanna Phouma was said to have joined the King two days ago.

Chief of State to Be Named

The Vientiane radio said today that the people's congress had decided to appoint a chairman of the republic, or chief of state, and "a supreme adviser, the government of the country and other advisers," but no names were given. Details on the decisions of the congress were expected to be announced at a news conference scheduled for tomorrow.

However, there were reports that the former King might become the "supreme adviser" and that his son, Prince Vong Savang, would probably be the chief of state. The reports also said that Prince Souvanna Phouma and his half brother, Prince Souphanouvong, the titular head of the Pathet Lao, would probably become advisers to the Government.

Both princes are cousins of the former King.

The Vientiane radio's announcement, broadcast in Laotian, Thai, Vietnamese, Cambodian, French and English, said the people's congress had made its decisions included the choice of a national flag, of a national anthem, of a popular language and of an administrative language, it said. There was no elaboration.

The abolition of the monarchy leaves Thailand as the only Southeast Asian country that still has a hereditary king. Malaysia has an elective monarchy and Brunei a hereditary sultanate.

U.S. to Continue Ties

Special to The New York Times

WASHINGTON, Dec. 3—The State Department said today that the United States would continue to maintain diplomatic relations with Laos despite the establishment of a Communist-dominated Government and abolition of the monarchy there.