

Laos Says It Wants Ties With U.S. but Fears Plots

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VIENTIANE, Laos, Dec. 8—A senior official of the new Communist Government of Laos said today that Laos wanted good relations with the United States but worried that Washington was plotting with exiled Laotian rightists in Thailand to invade the country.

The official, Sisana Sisan, Minister of Propaganda and information in the new People's Democratic Republic of Laos, which was established last week, said that "the new Government is ready to have good relations with the United States if they respect our independence and sovereignty."

But, he said, "according to our sources" certain "U.S. institutions have recently given grants of \$150 million" to former Laotian rightist officers and leaders who fled to Thailand. Mr. Sisan Sisan also charged that American reconnaissance planes based in Thailand were still flying missions over Laos.

First Interview

Mr. Sisana Sisan, a short, slight, partly bald man, made his comments in the first interview given by the new Government to Western journalists. He is reportedly a member of the Central Committee of the long-secretive Lao People's Revolutionary Party, or Phak Pasason Pativat Lao, the Communist organization that has directed the Pathet Lao.

Along with several other senior Communist leaders, he appeared publicly in Vientiane last week for the first time after many years in the Pathet Lao's headquarters in the mountains of northeastern Laos near the North Vietnamese border.

In the interview, Mr. Sisana Sisan also disclosed that a truck convoy carrying gasoline from North Vietnam had crossed into Laos in an effort to relieve the critical fuel shortage in Vientiane.

Supplies of gasoline in this drowsy city of 180,000 people are nearly exhausted because Thailand, on which Laos normally depends for all its im-

ports, has kept its border closed for the last three weeks following an attack on a Thai patrol boat on the Mekong River. Vientiane has already run out of many types of goods ranging from beer and ice cream to radio batteries and prices of many other items have more than doubled.

Road Transport Difficult

If the new Communist authorities can succeed in bringing supplies into the Vientiane area from North Vietnam, it could mean a major economic realignment that would make the country's political adjustment to the new Communist Government easier. However, the few roads through the Annamese Mountains are poor and the job will be difficult.

The new Communist Government adopted a far-reaching political and economic program last week calling for a "popular democratic dictatorship" and virtual nationalization of the economy of this small undeveloped country.

The program also pledges that the Government will "completely get rid of the influence of the slavish, reactionary and decadent culture" of Laos by destroying "all reactionary novels, books, newspapers and pictures."

These measures will help the country "along the path of self-mastery so as to march forward to socialism," said Kaysone Phomvihian, the new Prime Min-

ister, who proposed the plan. It also says that the Communists must "struggle to demand that the United States contribute to healing the wounds of war in Laos."

Prime Minister Kaysone Phomvihian is also secretary general of the Lao People's Revolutionary Party. The Laotian Communists are now using that name in all their communications, although previously they sometimes called their organization the Laotian People's Party. In the local language the name is rendered as Phak Pasason Pativat Lao.

Monarchy Abolished

According to a statement outlining the program broadcast by the Vientiane radio, it was approved unanimously by a national congress of people's representatives, which met secretly in Vientiane last week.

It was this congress that abolished the six-century-old Laotian monarchy and dissolved the former coalition Government set up under the Vientiane peace agreement of 1973 that ended many years of civil war. The congress met in the gymnasium of the former American school here. The school, along with a large compound of the United States Agency for International Development and several United States housing compounds, was seized by the Pathet Lao last summer.

The United States, however, still maintains an embassy here—its only one in Indochina.

Although the Vientiane radio and the two Government-controlled newspapers have now carried several reports of the meeting, it is still unclear by whose authority the congress acted to change the Government or just who the representatives were. Diplomats here believe that the 265 representatives were probably selected members of various local and provincial councils elected throughout Laos over the last few months.

The diplomats are also uncertain why the Communists moved so hastily to set up their new regime. An election for a new National Assembly was scheduled for next April and it was widely expected that the change would take place then.

Some diplomats believe that Mr. Kaysone Phomvihian and the other Communist leaders simply grew tired of waiting to take final control, after so many years in their primitive mountain headquarters.

Political Report Presented

Mr. Kaysone Phomvihian himself, in a political report to the congress, said merely that the old Government was "unable to respond to the new demands of the situation."

The action program that Mr. Kaysone Phomvihian read to the congress still referred to elections to be held for a National Assembly and to the writing of a new constitution, though he gave no dates.

The main political emphasis of the program appears to lie in Mr. Kaysone Phomvihian's call for "guaranteeing that the popular democratic dictatorship will be further streng-

thened and consolidated with every passing day." Emphasis is also given to "strengthening the peoples' security forces, particularly those forces responsible for certain duties," as Mr. Kaysone Phomvihane put it, "so as to promptly smash all counterrevolutionary organizations."

Under the new Government,

the Prime Minister said, the state will regulate prices, foreign exchange, all imports and exports and the purchase of all essential goods. It will also "nationalize all economic and financial bases in order to abolish alleconomic bases of the comprador bourgeoisies, particularly those serving as stooges of the United States imperialists."

Tourism to Be Promoted

Although the Communists have already seized total political control, they have so far attempted few of these economic changes.

Two other measures mentioned in the plan are encouragement of tourism and the building of a road, with North Vietnamese help, through Vietnam to the South China Sea, to relieve Laotian dependence on Thailand.

Much of the program has a stridently anti-American tone, with Mr. Kaysone Phomvihane accusing the United States of "new tricks and schemes" to destroy the Communist regime. This was in contrast with a statement by Mr. Sisana Sisana today that Laos welcomed an announcement by a State Department spokesman last week that Washington would recognize the new Government.

Mr. Sisana Sisana did not give a source for his charge that some American group had supplied Laotian exiles in Thailand with \$150 million. But there were unsubstantiated newspaper reports to the effect last summer from the United States.

Comment by Washington

Special to The New York Times

WASHINGTON, Dec. 8—

Asked to respond to the remarks of Mr. Sisana Sisana, a State Department spokesman said he had "no information that supports" the allegation that the United States gave \$150 million to former Laotian officers and political leaders.

The spokesman, John Trattner, also said he had no information about United States reconnaissance flights in Indochina. "We are maintaining relations with the Lao Government," he said.

Last week Mr. Trattner said that the United States would continue to maintain diplomatic relations with Laos despite the formation of a Communist-dominated Government there. He said that the establishment of the new regime and abolition of the monarchy in Laos had been "no surprise" to the United States because of the steady erosion of Prime Minister Souvanna Phouma's coalition Government and the increasing assumption of power by the Pathet Lao.