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## ENEMY DESTROYS KEY SPAN IN LAOS

### Deepest MIG Penetration of War Is Reported

VIENTIANE, Laos, Jan. 4 (UPI) — A Defense Ministry spokesman reported today that enemy troops, supported by two North Vietnamese MIG aircraft, had destroyed a bridge on the only road between Vientiane and the royal capital, Luang Prabang.

The area, which is 20 miles from the besieged Laotian base of Long Tieng and 115 miles north of here, was said to be the deepest inside Laos that MIG's had penetrated thus far in the Indochina war.

The spokesman, Gen. Thongphanh Knocksy, said the MIG's



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Area of fighting (cross)

were sighted flying support for Communist troops that overran a Government outpost in addition to blowing up the bridge. [Government forces reportedly lost 7 killed and 16 wounded in the fighting, while the enemy was said to have lost 14 killed, Agence France-Presse reported from Vientiane.]

The bridge that was destroyed was on Route 13 near the junction with Route 7 leading from the Plaine des Jarres. The North Vietnamese captured the plain two weeks ago and have had Long Tieng, the American-backed Laotian guerrilla base, under siege for almost a week.

### U.S. Reports Loss of Plane

SAIGON, South Vietnam, Jan. 4 (AP)—United States war planes raided enemy positions and supply lines in Laos and Cambodia today, the military command said.

The United States command also reported that an Air Force Phantom jet was downed last Friday in northern Laos. Word of the downing was delayed during a search mission. The plane's two crewmen were not found.

The United States command declined to disclose the Phantom's mission. But the downing of the jet brought to 11 the number of United States planes lost in Laos and North Vietnam since Dec. 10. The command lists 15 crewmen missing and six rescued. North Vietnam reports that two American airmen were killed and seven have been captured.