

Report of a Laotian Peace Accord

N.Y. Times Service

Vientiane, Laos

A highly informed diplomatic source reported last night that an agreement in principle has been reached between the Vientiane government and the Communist-led Pathet Lao for a cease-fire in Laos, to take effect next Wednesday.

The source said that a formal agreement on the cease-fire probably would be signed Tuesday.

Prince Souvanna Phouma, the Laotian premier, has been holding long talks each day since last Monday with the Pathet Lao representative here, Phoumi Vongvichit.

It is felt that the extremely precarious military situation in which the Vientiane forces now find themselves has contributed to bringing the negotiating process to a head.

It is expected that the brief visit that U.S. president assistant Henry A. Kissinger is scheduled to pay

here tonight will contribute to the final form the cease-fire agreement takes.

Meanwhile, many Laotian politicians, rightist and neutralist, were expressing fears that the forthcoming peace settlement may lead to the eventual domination

See Back Page

From Page 1

of all Laos by the Pathet Lao.

Reports told of a letter from the former Laotian rightist leader, Phoumi Nosavan, to some right-wing politicians here, in effect proposing that the right wing be placed under new leadership, presumably his own.

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Phoumi Nosavan was stripped of his rank as general and forced into exile in Thailand after he and his followers attempted a coup d'etat against the neutralist government in 1964.

More Indochina news on Pages 8 and 9.

In the early 1960s, Phoumi was strongly supported by the U.S., and Communist diplomats were expressing fears that Washington might support his armed return to Laos and Thailand.

American sources reiterated, however, that Washington completely supports Souvanna and his government and would not tolerate any effort by the right to undermine his government or a peace agreement.