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***U.S. MILITARY OPERATION***  
***IS REPORTED NEAR***  
***TO FREE FREIGHTER***  
***SEIZED BY CAMBODIANS;***  
***AMERICAN PLANES***  
***DESTROY 3 PATROL BOATS***

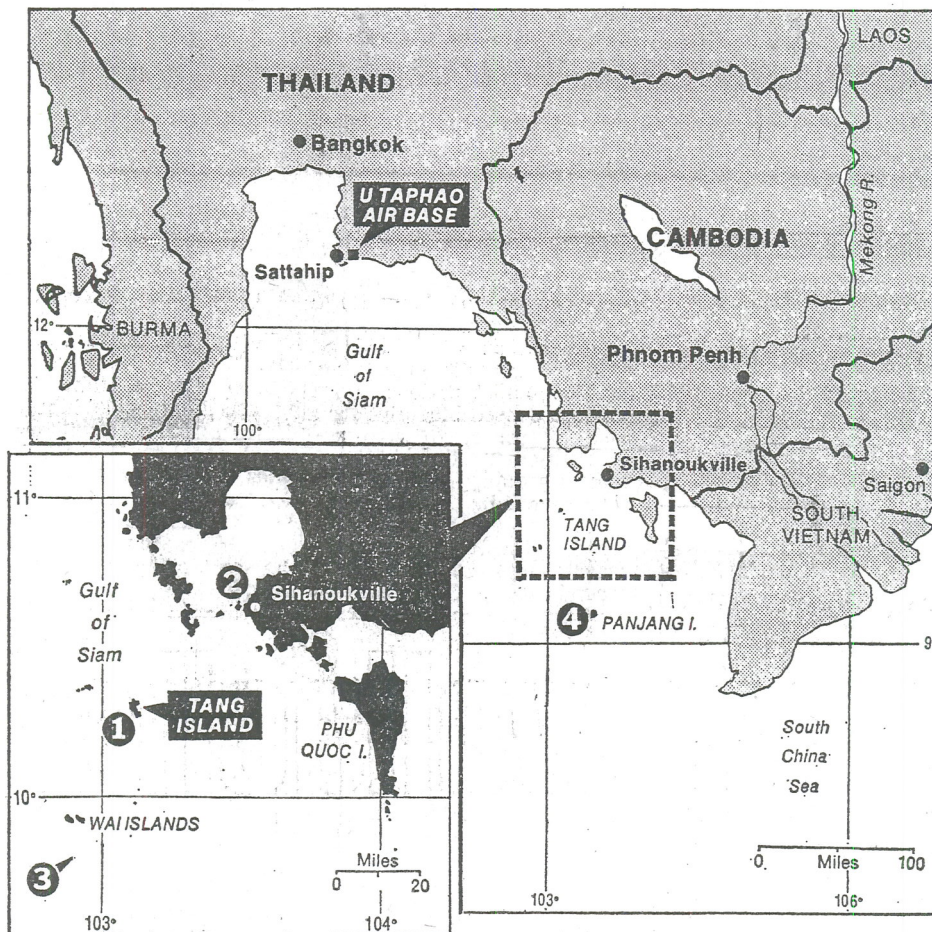
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Associated Press

President Ford sitting between Carl Albert of Oklahoma, left, Speaker of the House, and Mike Mansfield of Montana, Senate majority leader, at a meeting with a Congressional delegation on the dispute with Cambodia. The meeting was held at the White House.



The New York Times/May 15, 1975

U.S. planes attacked Cambodian vessels near Tang Island (1) reportedly to block attempts to move crewmen of seized U.S. ship to Sihanoukville (2). Ship taken off Wai Islands (3). T Panamanian-flag ship was held briefly at Panjang (4).



# VIOLENCE IN LAOS

MAY 15 1975

## U.S. Offices in 2 Cities Are Ransacked and 3 Americans Seized

By DAVID A. ANDELMAN  
Special to The New York Times

VIENTIANE, Laos, May 14—Anti-American demonstrators ransacked United States mission buildings in the cities of Luang Prabang and Savannakhet today, and embassy officials here said that as a result, the evacuation of Americans scheduled to leave later in the year would begin at once.

At Savannakhet, in central Laos, three American employees of the United States Agency for International Development were reportedly seized during the demonstrations and held in the home of the provincial governor.

Here in Vientiane, the American chargé d'affaires, Christian A. Chapman, filed a formal protest with the Laotian Government headed by Prince Souvanna Phouma and demanded police protection for Americans and American installations.

### Pathet Lao's Gains

The Communist-led Pathet Lao, which shares the coalition Government with Vientiane rightists but has been growing substantially in power in recent weeks, has for some time been calling for the removal of Americans from provincial areas. But the leftists have stopped short of demanding a full pullout of the American aid program, which has amounted to \$27-million a year. A.I.D. administers American foreign aid abroad.

According to United States Embassy officials here and to witnesses in the two Laotian cities, the ransacking was done by crowds of students.

In the royal capital of Luang Prabang, north-central Laos, students entered the Agency for International Development compound and broke windows,

smashed desks and threw typewriters out of the building.

### Savannakhet Contact Is Lost

In Savannakhet, students marked on the city's A. I. D. compound. As they reached the walls, the mission's radio transmitter failed, cutting off the compound from the outside world. Communications remained cut through the night.

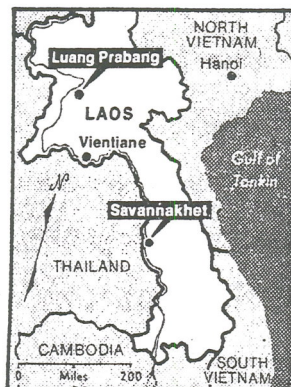
Continued on Page 17, Column 1

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American embassy officials in Vientiane said it was believed that no one had been injured in either attack.

It was not known here whether the three Americans held in Savannakhet were hostages, were free to leave or were simply remaining as evidence of what one embassy official characterized as "good faith." Laotian Government officials immediately sent a joint Pathet Lao-Vientiane rightist negotiating team to the city.

American embassy officials



The New York Times/May 15, 1975

U.S. missions were attacked in Luang Prabang and Savannakhet.

said that while some Americans were leaving because of the anti-American actions, a full-scale evacuation had not yet begun.

Evacuations of Americans from provincial areas to Vientiane have, however, begun. By nightfall all but two American officials and one American private citizen had left Luang Prabang. Two A.I.D. officials reportedly remained in the royal capital, but were said not to have been in the compound at

the time of the attack.

American officials here said that predictions of such a demonstration had been persistent in Luang Prabang since the weekend, and that evacuations to Vientiane were ordered on Monday. The last Americans reportedly left about noon today, or four hours after the attack began.

### Identities Are Withheld

There had been no indications in Savannakhet that any demonstrations were in prospect, and no evacuations were reported. The identities of the three Americans being held there were withheld by the embassy here. Beside those Americans, there are 13 more in Savannakhet, two with official status. Most of the rest are dependents.

British sources said that their embassy here was believed to be considering ways of evacuating British subjects from Luang Prabang.

As the demonstrations were going on, so was a meeting of the Laotian Cabinet, at which the vacancies created last Friday by the resignations of four rightist ministers and a rightist deputy minister were reportedly considered and replacements named.

Those resignations were prompted largely by a demonstration of students and teachers Friday in Vientiane against rising prices and foreign economic influences. Some of the demonstrators stoned the United States Embassy and briefly invaded the embassy compound, attempting to haul down the American flag. They were dispersed by Government policemen.

Half an hour before today's cabinet meeting was to begin, Mr. Chapman, the American chargé, met with Premier Souvanna Phouma, and later an American official said Mr. Chapman had "reminded" the Government of its assurances of protection for Americans.

### Police Said to Be Absent

One of the last evacuees from Luang Prabang tonight confirmed an official American report that no Laotian police were in sight as more than 2,000 students massed in the central square and moved to the A.I.D. compound.

"They were coming from every direction, marching down to the central square when I walked by at 8 o'clock this morning," said Jackie McNeil, a 28-year-old English teacher from Columbus, Ohio, who was

at the Lycée in Luang Prabang on a Fulbright grant. She went on:

"Their student leaders had organized them and assembled them—it was very well planned. They listened to speeches on amplifiers, then turned and marched to the compound, waving banners and beating drums."

A Laotian employe of the United States Information Service reported to Vientiane by phone from Luang Prabang that in addition to destruction of American property, the demonstrators there also broke into a number of downtown shops and stole large quantities of food—particularly rice.

The employe said the demonstrators asserted that stealing the rice was a symbolic protest against inflation, which rose to more than 50 per cent last month. He said that the demonstrators had told him they intended to sell the food tomorrow, at sharply reduced prices.