

Pathet Lao Side Proposes a New Peace Package and

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VIENTIANE, Laos, Dec. 12— Pathet Lao negotiators today offered a new draft for a peace agreement in Laos that, a Communist spokesman asserted, could end the war immediately if accepted by the Vientiane Government.

A Government spokesman said the draft would require study, but that it seemed to contain "interesting" new ideas opening fresh prospects for a settlement.

The Communist proposal was presented at today's regular weekly meeting of negotiating teams of the Vientiane Government and the Neo Lao Hak Xat, or the Pathet Lao. It was

the ninth such meeting held so far.

The initiative followed the return here Sunday of Gen. Phoune Sipraseuth, Chief of the Pathet Lao delegation, from a week of consultations in Hanoi and in the Pathet Lao political headquarters at Sam-neua.

New Elements Listed

The Government spokesman, Noupbat Counramany, said that the two most important new elements in the proposal were detailed considerations for a military settlement and a reference, for the first time, to the need for a future three-part national government made up equally of rightists, neutrals and leftists.

But Mr. Noupbat said that his Government categorically rejected one key provision calling for creation of a "political council of coalition" to function as a government until the government itself was reconstituted.

Among the points made by the Communist side in its new proposal were these:

¶ Within 90 days of a cease-fire in Laos, the United States would withdraw all its forces, advisers and foreign troops it finances, dismantling all its bases here. But while the proposal referred to the withdrawal of all foreign forces, it did not specifically name the North Vietnamese.

¶ All military operations, repression, arrests and reprisals

would be forbidden "in the zone provisionally controlled by the opposing party," the Vientiane Government. Nothing is said of similar restraints in the Pathet Lao zone.

¶ The introduction of any foreign troops, advisers, weapons or war matériel into either the Pathet Lao or the Government zone would be forbidden, but replacement of worn-out matériel would be permitted on a case-by-case basis, with the agreement of both sides.

¶ Free electoral choice and freedom of speech, publication, assembly and the right of property would be guaranteed in both zones.

¶ Each side would abstain from reprisals against persons who had fought on the other

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'the Vientiane Government Terms It 'Interesting'

side. The Vientiane Government would close all refugee centers, "freeing" those who had lived there and paying them "restitution."

¶ The draft assumes the dissolution of the present Vientiane Government and National Assembly, but until a new government and National Assembly are formed, the divided country would continue to be administered as it is now. The Pathet Lao forces assert that they control four-fifths of the territory of Laos.

¶ The city of Vientiane would be declared a neutral zone controlled by the "political council of coalition."

¶ The two sides would form a mixed commission to supervise the cease-fire, assisted by

the existing International Control Commission, which was created in 1962 by the Geneva accord on Laos, and which consists of observers from India, Canada and Poland.

¶ Until general, nationwide elections could be held—and the draft did not say when this would be—a political council of coalition and a new provisional government of national union would be formed. This would take place within 30 days of the signing of the agreement. The political council would consist of four equal delegations representing the Pathet Lao, the Vientiane Government, the neutral faction that supports the Pathet Lao and representatives named by King Savang Vatthana. The new three-part gov-

ernment would be equally divided among the Pathet Lao, the pro-Pathet Lao neutrals and the Vientiane Government.

Mr. Noupbat, the Government spokesman, rejected the "political council of coalition" on the ground that it was unconstitutional. But he said that one article of the Constitution provided that the King could appoint extra members to the National Assembly, and that, in this way, the Pathet Lao could gain additional representation in the existing Government.

He added Vientiane also rejected changes in the Government that in any way recognized a division of the country into two zones.

But when asked whether he

saw possibilities for peace within the Pathet Lao proposal, the spokesman replied affirmatively, recalling the views of his Premier:

"Yes. As far as I can see, there are certain similarities between our two points of view. For example, the Neo Lao Hak Xat now proposes for the first time a tripartite government, which is a principle favored by Prince Souvanna Phouma. Also, Mr. Phoune has discussed a military accord at some length, and maybe we could arrive at something.

"Of course he did not talk about a specific formula for a cease-fire, but he gave more details than he has in the past."