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Pathet Lao Says Nixon Plans Aggressive Role for Thailand

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VIENTIANE, Laos, Jan. 23—The Communist delegation to the Laos peace talks today issued its strongest condemnation so far of the United States role in Laos, charging that President Nixon intends to continue using neighboring Thailand as "a springboard for aggression" throughout Indochina.

As usual during today's meeting between the Communist-led Pathet Lao and the Vientiane Government, there was no real negotiating. The session was the 15th since the weekly talks began.

The harsh tone of the Pathet Lao statement contrasted sharply with reports that agreement between North Vietnam and the United States was approaching in Paris.

Among other things, the Communists charged that the Nixon doctrine of encouraging countries to do more in their own defense was designed to promote future aggression by Thailand as part of what it called that nation's tendency toward "Pan-Thaiism."

The acting delegation leader, Prince Souk Vongsack, said that 30,000 Thai troops were in Laos and that the Thai armed forces were training 15,000 more soldiers who could be sent here rapidly.

He also spoke at length about Long Tieng, a large for-

ward base operated by the United States Central Intelligence Agency to support tribal irregulars and reiterated the Communist position that until the Americans and Thais left Laos there was little hope for peace.

The leader of the Vientiane delegation, Pheng Phongsavan, is abroad, and the Pathet Lao delegation chief, Gen. Phoune Sipraseuth, has left for consultations in the Pathet Lao capital of Samneua and in Hanoi.

Sharp fighting continued, meanwhile, especially on or near Route 13 between here and the Royal capital of Luang Prabang, and in the southern part of the country.

The threat to positions along Route 13 became so severe that last week the Vientiane government shifted a number of battalions from southern Laos to the northern road.

Among their prime tasks was to reinforce the defense of Muong Kassy, an important town in the mountains between Vientiane and Luang Prabang. North of the town, a key road junction at Sala Phou Khoun fell to Communist troops three weeks ago.

An artillery convoy resupplying the Vientiane force at Muong Kassy was reported ambushed yesterday, but fought off the attackers after minor damage to three vehicles.