

# BASIS FOR A TRUCE NEXT WEDNESDAY REPORTED IN LAOS

Perilous Military Position of  
Government Is Thought to  
Hasten a Conclusion

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KISSINGER DUE TONIGHT

To Meet Souvanna Phouma  
—Rightists See Eventual  
Pathet Lao Take-Over

By MALCOLM W. BROWNE  
Special to The New York Times

VIENTIANE, Laos, Feb. 8—A highly informed diplomatic source reported tonight that agreement in principle had been reached between the Vientiane Government and the Communist-led Pathet Lao on a Laotian cease-fire, to take effect next Wednesday. *14 FEB*

The source said that a formal agreement on the cease-fire would probably be signed on Tuesday. *13 FEB*

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

It is felt that the precarious military situation of the Vientiane Government—in which several key towns and bases are either under siege or threatened—has contributed to bringing the negotiating process to a conclusion.

### Brief Visit by Kissinger

A brief visit scheduled here tomorrow night by Henry A. Kissinger, President Nixon's adviser on national security, is expected to contribute to the final form that a cease-fire agreement takes.

Mr. Kissinger is scheduled to meet with Prince Souvanna Phouma at a dinner to be given by the United States Ambassador, G. McMurtie Godley, and to leave Saturday morning for Hanoi.

Meanwhile, many Laotian

rightist and neutralist politicians are expressing fear that a peace settlement may eventually lead to the domination of all Laos by the Pathet Lao.

### Exile in Thailand

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

General Phoumi Nosavan was forced into exile in Thailand after he and his right-wing followers attempted a coup d'état against the neutralist Government in 1964. During the early nineteen-sixties, the general was strongly supported by the United States, and diplomats from Communist countries are now expressing fear that Washington might support his armed return to Laos from Thailand.

American sources reiterate,

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however, that Washington completely supports Prince Souvanna Phouma and his Government, and will not tolerate any effort by the right to undermine that Government or a peace agreement.

But dissatisfaction and worry are also being expressed by Laotian Government officials. An emergency organizing conference was held by nine Laotian political clubs, all at least nominally neutralist in character, at the Lane Xang Hotel here this evening.

Participants said that the objective was to continue pressure on the Premier not to yield to Communists' demands on certain key issues.

One has to do with the Pathet Lao proposal for creation of a Laotian national council of reconciliation that would be the main arbiter between the warring sides, in working out the details of peace-keeping and in establishing a new government.

Prince Souvanna Phouma has repeatedly rejected this proposal on the ground that such a council would have greater powers than the Government, which, he contends, is still the only legal government of Laos. In practice Laos has been di-

vided into zones administered by the Pathet Lao and the Vientiane Government for more than a decade, although since nineteen sixty-two the Vientiane Government has theoretically been a coalition of rightists, neutralists and the Pathet Lao.

There are even muted rumors that some young Laotian Army officers with strong rightist views might be considering the possibilities of a coup against the Government to forestall a settlement.

But knowledgeable officials and diplomats maintain that any attempt to overthrow Prince Souvanna Phouma is doomed to failure since it would be opposed not only by most of the army but also by the Americans—on whose support the army depends—and even by the Pathet Lao.

### Pravda Charges Obstruction

Special to The New York Times

MOSCOW, Feb. 8—The Communist party newspaper, Pravda, today accused reactionary forces in Laos, backed by the United States, of trying to frustrate a settlement of the war there.

The report, written by the newspaper's Hanoi correspondent, emphasized charges that B-52 raids against Communist-held regions were being increased. It also directed attention to concentrations of forces under Gen. Vang Pao, the Meo tribal army leader, and his "Thai hirelings."

Previously the Soviet Union has indicated its interest in seeing the war in Laos and Cambodia settled in the after-

math of the Vietnam cease-fire, and has refrained from accusing the allied side of obstruction. Soviet press reports have refrained from any mention of the negotiations on Laos and Cambodia as one of the objectives of Mr. Kissinger's current mission to the Far East.

### Bombing of Laos Continues

HONOLULU, Feb. 8 (UPI)—The United States continued the bombing of northern Laos today, including B-52 attacks, the Pacific command here said.

The command has refused to comment on the bombing missions other than to say that they occurred. However, other sources indicate that as many as 120 missions are being flown every day over Laos against Communist-held targets. The missions have been carried out daily since the signing of the cease-fire in Vietnam on Jan. 27.