

Laos Peace Reported

Vientiane

The Laotian government and the pro-Communist Pathet Lao will sign a cease-fire tomorrow to halt the fighting in Laos, government sources said here today.

It was understood that the signing would take place at the regular peace talks meeting between government and Pathet Lao delegations, the 18th session

since talks began last October.

The cease-fire itself would come into effect on Friday, the sources said. 16 FEB

The sources said one of the main difficulties holding up an agreement — that of the composition of a provisional government — had been solved.

Although no details of the proposed agreement were available, observers be-

lieved the cease-fire would mean government and Pathet Lao forces holding their positions throughout the country.

The future of the 50,000 or so North Vietnamese troops in Laos was also not clear, although informed sources have said this would not cause trouble as it had in negotiations for a cease-fire in Vietnam.

Reuters