

# Laotian Truce Talks Continue; U.S. Sees Accord Within Days

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Special to The New York Times

VIENTIANE, Laos, Feb. 14—Discussions on how to end the fighting in Laos continued here today, but the accord that Government sources had predicted might go into effect by the end of this week remained out of reach.

[New predictions of an imminent breakthrough came from Washington, where the White House said a Laotian truce was expected "in a matter of a few days." In an apparent allusion to the fighting in Laos, Ronald L. Ziegler, the Presidential press secretary, said the United States considered the Laotian situation "a matter of great urgency."]

There was increasing pressure, meanwhile, on the Premier, Prince Souvanna Phouma, and his negotiating team to hold out for as good a bargain with the Communist-led Pathet Lao as they can obtain.

Many conservative neutralists have joined the rightists in the coalition Government in expressing doubts about even the short-term durability of the provisions of the Vietnam cease-fire agreement that affect Laos. These include a call for the withdrawal of all foreign troops from Laos after a cease-fire, which, according to Henry A. Kissinger, the chief American negotiator, had been firmly expected to follow soon after the truce in Vietnam.

The Americans are being asked to lend their full political and military weight to help the Laotians win a favorable settlement. Similarly, the Pathet Lao are believed to have pressed Hanoi to continue full support on both the diplomatic level and the battlefield.

The Vientiane Government charges that the North Vietnamese are still attacking hard, and North Vietnam and the Pathet Lao charge that American bombing of Laotian ter-

ritory continues to take a huge toll of civilians.

## U. S. Planes Strike

HONOLULU, Feb. 14 (UPI)

—The United States command for the Pacific announced today that American planes had again struck military targets in Laos and Cambodia at the request of the two Governments. It said both B-52 heavy bombers and F-111 fighter-bombers participated.

## Bigger Truce Unit Asked

Special to The New York Times

OTTAWA, Feb. 14 — The United States and the Laotian Government have requested

that the number of Canadians on the International Control Commission be increased. Officials reporting this said here today that they assumed similar requests had been made to the two other members of the commission, Poland and India.

The commission, originally established after the 1954 Geneva conference on Indochina, has been virtually idle in recent years. The Canadian contingent in Laos now consists of an officer and a noncommissioned officer.

A spokesman for the External Affairs Department said that, as with Canada's participation in the observer group in Vietnam, the Government would have to be satisfied that increasing its role in Laos would be useful. He said assurances would also be required that the other members "would not again paralyze the commission through procedural interpretation."