

EARLY LAOS TRUCE SEEMS TO RECEDE

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Prospects Apparently Hurt
Most by Rightist Group

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VIENTIANE, Laos, Feb. 19—

The prospects for an early cease-fire in Laos appeared today to have receded significantly in the face of hardened demands on the one hand by generals, and on the other by rightist politicians and generals, and on the other by the Communist-led Pathet Lao.

It appeared that the most serious new element obstructing an accord is a temporary coalition of right-wing politicians, right-of-center neutralists and army officers who share the view that the neutralist Premier, Prince Souvanna Phouma, has moved too far toward the Pathet Lao position.

On the other hand, the Pathet Lao side has toughened its stand on a number of issues. One is the reported insistence that foreign troops in Laos be given 90 days to withdraw rather than the 45 stipulated by Vientiane.

More important, the Pathet Lao still refuses to acknowledge Prince Souvanna Phouma's Government as anything more than the administration of the city of Vientiane.

Prince Souvanna Phouma conferred again this evening with the Pathet Lao leader here, Phoumi Vongvichit, and with his own Interior Minister, Pheng Phongsavan. The talks apparently yielded little.

Premier Voices Pessimism

Earlier in the day, Prince Souvanna Phouma expressed pessimism to various visitors, and charged that Henry A. Kissinger's visit to Hanoi last week had brought "slim results" toward ending the Laotian war.

He declined to speculate about when a cease-fire agreement might be signed except to say "perhaps the end of this week or the end of this month."

The new right-wing group that has enormously complicated a settlement includes the acting Defense Minister, Sisoukna Champassak, and most of the army's generals, especially those commanding troops in southern Laos. Parts of southern Laos, especially the city of Savannakhet, are long-time rightist strongholds.

The group also includes Ngon Sananikone, a right-of-center neutralist who is Minister of Public Works and who has also served during the last three months as deputy chief of the Vientiane negotiating team in talks with the Pathet Lao.

In a Cabinet meeting last Friday, Prince Souvanna Phouma reportedly was informed that this rightist coalition intended to oppose a cease-fire settlement in which too many concessions were granted the Pathet Lao.

Favors 3-Part Coalition

The rightists are known to oppose among other things, a plan to pare down the long-time three-part coalition Government to an essentially divided government between the Pathet Lao on one side and a mixture of neutralists and rightists on the other.

The Pathet Lao has demanded that a future coalition government include one premier and only one deputy premier with the deputy's position presumably going to the nominal leader of the Pathet Lao, Prince Souphanouvong.

This would effectively eliminate the right wing from the highest level of government, leaving Prince Souvanna Phouma as representative of both his own neutralists and the

Meanwhile, it was disclosed today that a former general, Phoumi Nosavan, who has been in exile in Thailand since his attempted coup d'état against Prince Souvanna's Government in 1965, had asked the three-nation International Control

Commission to safeguard his return to Laos.

Mr. Phoumi Nosavan remains deputy leader of the Laotian rightists and his influence among many army officers remains strong. From his home in Bangkok he has maintained close contact with the Laotian right.

"If this were any year other than 1973, I would smell the makings of another coup by Phoumi," one official said. "There won't be one solely because the Americans won't tolerate one."

The United States, while also inducing Prince Souvanna Phouma to take a harder line with the Pathet Lao, has repeatedly affirmed its complete support for him and has made it known that no American support would go to any group that might dislodge him.

Nevertheless, no Laotian Premier has ever long survived opposition by his generals.