

Political AccordTreaty Is Signed Ending Laos War

## Cease-Fire Set at Noon Today

Vientiane

The Communist Pathet Lao and the government of Prime Minister Souvanna Phouma agreed yesterday to end their decade-old war in Laos and hours later officials signed a cease-fire pact.

The fighting is to end at noon today.

Under the terms of the accord, a cabinet source said, U.S. bombing in support of government forces will end at the same time.

The source said that in addition to the cease-fire itself, agreement was reached on a political settlement between the two warring factions.

The government will be composed of equal numbers of the three Laotian political factions—Pathet Lao, neutralists and rightists. However, the neutralists will be evenly divided in their affiliation with the right and the left, effectively making the government a two-part coalition.

According to the cabinet source, the power division leaves Souvanna as prime minister, but "powerless." Although there had been rumors that Souvanna's half-brother Prince Souphanouvong, would become deputy prime minister, the source added, there is not to be a deputy.

The rightists have suffered a major defeat in this 50-50 sharing of power. One highly-placed rightist minister termed the accord "an outright victory for the Communists."

The Pathet Lao won their demand for holding off withdrawal of foreign forces from Laos for 90 days. Souvanna had sought a 30-day limit on the pullout.

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