

Laos Sides Begin Talks
On Details of Cease-Fire

by Malcolm W. Browne

Special to The New York Times

Vientiane, Laos,
Tuesday, Feb. 27 -
Representatives of
the Vientiane
Government and the
Communist-led Pathet
Lao began meeting
yesterday to work
out details of
policing the Laos
cease-fire signed
last Thursday.

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Delegations to the
mixed cease-fire
commission will be
headed by Maj. Gen.
Bounthieng
Venevongsos for
Vientiane and
Sot Petrasay for the
Pathet Lao, it was
announced yesterday.

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Sun-
... several
Vietnamese
...er position was
...he Communists near
...thern town of Khong
...one, after an attack by a
...small unit of North Vietnamese
...and a mortar barrage, according
...to military reports.

Provided the situation re-
mains as it is, it appeared un-
likely yesterday that the Lao-
tian Government would request
more American air attacks on
Laos.

"It looks as if the other side
got the message," one anti-
Communist diplomatic source
said, alluding to last Friday's
B-52 raids.

Recent Pathet Lao broadcasts
from Samneua have denounced
American raids and accused
both Vientiane and the United
States of violating the cease-
fire, but without giving many
details.

The Pathet Lao also reported
that Phoumi Vongvichit, its
main negotiator in the peace
talks here, was received in
Hanoi Saturday as a "hero" by
North Vietnamese leaders, who
hailed "a great victory" for the
people of Laos.

The tone of the speeches in
Hanoi appeared identical with
the tone of those the North
Vietnamese made after last
month's signing of a peace
agreement in Vietnam.

New U.S. Raids Held Possible

WASHINGTON, Feb. 26
(Reuters)—The United States
may launch further bombing
strikes in Laos if Communist
cease-fire violations continue
there, the State Department
spokesman said today.

The spokesman, Charles W.
Bray 3d, said American planes
had carried out bombing raids
on two occasions at the request
of the Laotian Government and
added: "Obviously we continue
to hold open that possibility."

Speaking of the possibility
of future raids, Mr. Bray said:
"This is entirely a function of
the extent to which parties on
the ground observe the cease-
fire."