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SFChronicle

MAY 10 1973

More detailed story, NYT  
same date, filed CIA.

# New Figures on Thais in Laos

San Francisco Chronicle 17  
★ Thurs., May 10, 1973

## Washington

A Nixon administration official told the Senate Foreign Relations Committee yesterday that despite the Vietnam and Laos cease-fires, 15,000 to 20,000 Thai "irregular" troops—financed by the U.S.—are now based in Laos.

This was reported by G. McMurtrie Godley, who has just completed his tour as ambassador to Laos, and who was appearing for a hearing on his appointment as assistant secretary of state for east Asian affairs.

The presence of the so-called Thai irregulars is rarely discussed openly, and the figure supplied by Godley represented a marked increase from the 5000 to 8000 estimated to be in Laos until recently.

## PAY

Godley also said that the Thai forces in Laos are being paid about \$26 million yearly. The Thai forces were introduced into Laos several years ago primarily to combat South Vietnamese regular forces in northern Laos.

Under the terms of the

Laos cease-fire reached in February, all foreign forces, including the Thais, would have to be withdrawn within 60 days of the formation of a new coalition government. So far, the government of Prince Souvanna Phouma and the pro-Communist Pathet Lao have failed to reach a political settlement. As a result, both the Thais and the South Vietnamese have remained in Laos.

## ROGERS

Later in the day, Secretary of State William P. Rogers appeared at the request of some committee

members to hear rebuttal arguments against the administration's legal justification of the Cambodian bombing, which Rogers presented to the foreign relations committee ten days ago.

The continued American bombing in support of the Son Nol government has become a major issue on Capitol Hill. Today the House is expected to vote on the administration's request to transfer \$500 million in Defense Department funds to help cover the increased costs brought about by the

## Cambodian bombing.

Rogers repeated his contention that the bombing was in response to the failure so far to achieve a cease-fire in Cambodia, and is needed as a "stick" to prod North Vietnam into abiding by the agreement and to bring about a cease-fire in Cambodia.

Rogers also held out hope that talks expected to be held between Henry A. Kissinger, Mr. Nixon's adviser on national security, and Le Duc Tho, Hanoi's top negotiator, in Paris this month, would prove fruitful, and

that economic talks on possible American economic aid might soon resume with the North Vietnamese.

N.Y. Times Service

## Daring Thieves

New York

Daring burglars ripped out the side of a building early yesterday, lowered a safe from a jewelry firm's second-floor offices and carried it off on a truck, police reported. They said the contents of the safe had not yet been determined.

Associated Press