

## Zones of Control

# Lao Reds Report Peace Settlement



SOUVANNA PHOUMA  
Neutralist leader



SOUPHANOUVONG  
Red prince

AP Wirephotos

## 'Foreign Troops' To Leave

Vientiane, Laos

The Communist Pathet Lao announced yesterday a political and military agreement with Laotian Prime Minister Souvanna Phouma that will establish a provisional government equally divided between Communists and non-Communists.

Sources said the agreement provides for geographic zones of control, with the Communist zone encompassing about 80 per cent of the country.

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any immediate effect on Cambodia or South Vietnam.

Reliable diplomatic sources said the Laotian agreement contains these key provisions:

- The 72-year-old Souvanna Phouma will remain as prime minister. His half-brother, Prince Souphanouvong, nominal leader of the Pathet Lao, will be senior deputy prime minister. A

The accord reportedly also calls on the U.S. Central Intelligence Agency to dissolve its paramilitary forces in Laos and to end the "secret war" that only now is coming under congressional scrutiny.

The settlement was announced in general terms at the headquarters of the 50-man Pathet Lao Mission in Vientiane and was confirmed by royal Laotian and U.S. sources.

### DETAILS

Soth Pethrasy, the chief delegate of the mission, said only minor details, including security arrangements, remain to be worked out before the agreement is signed sometime this week.

Other sources said that in line with Lao custom, each side will consult its astrologers to determine an auspicious day for the signing ceremony.

Souvanna Phouma, a neutralist, was reported to be in Luang Prabang, the royal capital 130 miles northeast of this administrative center, informing King Savang Vatthana of the details of the agreement.

The settlement was seen as a bright spot in an otherwise dismal Indochina picture.

It appeared unlikely that the agreement would have

member of the royal Laotian government, probably Interior Minister Pheng Phongsavanh, will be junior deputy prime minister.

- There will be 12 ministries, with the Pathet Lao holding five, the Lao government five and neutralists two.

The two "neutralists" in the cabinet are actually committed to one side or the other. One is from the Communist headquarters at Sam Neau and the other from Souvanna Phouma's headquarters in Vientiane.

- The new government will be called the Provisional National Union Government. It will include a National Political Consultative Council to carry out the provisions of the agreement and to handle affairs of state until a permanent government is established. The pro-

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visional government and the council will organize free elections for the national assembly.

- The agreement stipulates that the U.S. will dismantle its CIA force in Laos and the bases at which Laotian regular and irregular forces were trained, equipped and based. There are now about 1200 American in Laos, 400 of whom are involved in military activities. It is estimated the agreement will cut the number of Americans to about 600, most of them in economic and social aid and the foreign service. Perhaps 30 military attaches will remain.

- All "foreign troops," including more than 17,000 Thai mercenaries fighting for the Vientiane government, must be withdrawn within 60 days of the signing of the military and political protocols. However, the agreement does not mention North Vietnamese troops by name.

U.S. sources estimate 60,000 North Vietnamese troops are in Laos, most of them along the Ho Chi Minh trail in eastern Laos bordering South Vietnam.

Sources said it appeared doubtful that the North Vietnamese, who still maintain a vital interest in South Vietnam, would pull out, particularly since the agreement is written so as not to embarrass them. The North Vietnamese have never acknowledged having troops in Laos and the Laotian army would be too weak to drive them out.

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