

**U.S. EXPLAINS HELP
FOR THAIS IN LAOS**

WASHINGTON, Aug. 9 (AP) —The State Department Monday explained United States support of Thai soldiers in Laos, whom it termed volunteers.

The Washington Post in a report from Vientiane said today that Thai troops serving in Laos with irregular forces supported by the Central Intelligence were regular Thai Army troops.

The State Department said

that it was entitled to withhold complete compliance with the Geneva accord neutralizing Laos in view of what it termed massive violations of neutrality by 80,000 North Vietnamese now in the country.

The statement was issued after controversy had arisen over the presence of Thai troops in Laos. Senator J. W. Fulbright had raised an inquiry whether his amendment forbidding the use of American funds to pay soldiers to fight in Laos was being violated.