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## A Strike by Fliers Fof C.I.A. in Laos Reported Averted

Special to The New York Times

VIENTIANE, Laos, Jan. 23—  
A strike by airline pilots in  
Laos that would have severely  
impaired support of anti-Com-  
munist forces fighting there has  
apparently been averted.

The dispute involves Air  
America, a quasimilitary airline  
used by the United States  
Central Intelligence Agency in  
Laos to supply irregular troops,  
many of whom depend on  
parachuted or airlifted supplies.

A company spokesman said  
tonight that the pilots involved  
in Laotian operations had been  
ordered by their union or-  
ganizer to call off the walkout,  
which had been scheduled to  
begin tonight at midnight.

### Dispute Said to Continue

The dispute apparently re-  
mained unsettled, but the local  
chapter of the Airline Pilots  
Association reportedly decided  
against a walkout at this time.

The spokesman said he did  
not know whether the strike  
would go into effect in the  
other areas of Asia where Air  
America operates, such as  
Taiwan, Japan, Thailand, Okinawa  
and South Vietnam.

In Laos, Air America oper-  
ates 31 planes and 35 helicop-  
ters. It has 112 pilots stationed  
here, nearly all of them Ameri-  
can citizens under contract to  
the company.

The pilots are seeking higher  
salaries and other benefits.

The airline also has six  
planes based at the nearby  
Udon Thani base in Thailand,  
including two C-130 transports,  
which are sometimes used in  
Laotian operations.

### Support Cut in 1962

The United States withdrew  
direct military air and advisory  
support from Laos after the  
Geneva agreement of 1962,  
which theoretically ended the  
war here and neutralized the  
country.

But as the war expanded,  
the C.I.A. took over many of  
the functions normally assigned  
to military units, including, in  
some cases, the direct com-  
mand of Laotian irregular units.

Laos is sparsely populated,  
mountainous, and has few roads  
or navigable waterways. Dur-  
ing the fighting in the interior,  
especially near the Plaine des  
Jarres and toward the North  
Vietnamese frontier, units can  
be supplied only by air.