

Laos-Prince, Rusk Discuss Aid Program

Development Plan To Be Worked Out

WASHINGTON (AP) — Prime Minister Souvanna Phouma of Laos said Friday the United States has assured him of economic assistance but that details will be worked out later after a development plan is established.

He made the statement after a one-hour meeting with Secretary of State Dean Rusk.

The 62-year-old prince described the meeting as an exchange of ideas about the assistance which might be extended by the U.S. government and implementation of the Geneva accords establishing Laos as a neutral nation in Southeast Asia.

Souvanna Phouma was to see President Kennedy later in the day.

Kennedy is expected to assure Souvanna Phouma that the United States will honor its obligations to Laos and expects all other nations, Laos included, to live up to commitments that it be neutral and independent.

In considering the problem of continued U.S. aid to the neutralist regime, Sen. John Sparkman, D-Ala., suggested Thursday night that the burden of aid for the Southeast Asian kingdom be borne by all 14 countries which signed the accord at Geneva last Monday guaranteeing the neutrality of Laos.

Sparkman told a reporter he is considering making a proposal that the 14 nations, including the Communist bloc countries, Communist China and North Viet Nam, join with the West and neutral nations in Southeast Asia in providing economic and technical assistance to Laos.

When informed of Sparkman's proposal, Souvanna Phouma said he would welcome such an arrangement. The Laotian leader attended a Laotian Embassy reception in his honor Thursday night only an hour after his arrival on an official visit.

Mosquito Program Approved by Voters

KLAMATH FALLS (AP) — Voters approved by 224 votes the establishment of a mosquito control board for the Klamath Falls area Thursday.

The mosquito control area will extend over the city of Klamath Falls, Klamath Lake and Keno.

Of 16,000 eligible voters, 1,952 voted.



Long Call

Medford, Ore., Alba, Italy, Trade Greetings by Telstar

By THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

A 10-minute telephone conversation between officials of Medford, Ore., and Alba, Italy, made a tremendous emotional impact on the Italian community Thursday.

More than 5,000 of the city's 22,000 residents jammed the town square to hear greetings exchanged via Telstar satellite between Alba Mayor Osvaldo Cagnasso and Medford Mayor John Snider.

Navy Retaining 3-Year Hitches

Navy recruiters in Eugene have announced that the U.S. Navy's experimental three-year enlistment program is still in effect and will continue for an indefinite period.

The program, Chief R. F. Pittenger said, was initiated in December, 1961. Previous enlistments were always for the four-year tour of duty.

Continuing, he said, are the four- and six-year enlistment programs.

Further information on all three enlistment tours is available from the U.S. Navy recruiting office in the basement of the Eugene Post Office Bldg.

The crowd was silent during the conversation, but broke into a loud cheer when it ended. The talk was amplified through loudspeakers for the crowd.

Mayor Cagnasso said he would ask the city council to have two of Alba's streets renamed Telstar and Medford. A plaque was ordered to commemorate the event.

For days before the conversation, Alba residents talked of little else. They even decorated the town with Italian and American flags.

"Everything was marvelously engineered," Cagnasso said of the conversation. "It was wonderful, wonderful."

He responded with a five-minute greeting after Snider opened by saying that Medford was proud to be associated with Alba "in a program of mutual friendship."

More than 60 persons at Medford listened to the talk through a loudspeaker in the City Council chambers.

Afterwards the telephone company gave the phone to Snider as a souvenir.

Medford was one of 23 cities in the United States to take part in Telstar conversations with European communities.

Jaycees Open Talks

MEDFORD (AP) — The Oregon Junior Chamber of Commerce opened a three-day summer planning meeting here Friday.

Thor Reliable Despite Pacific Flops

By FRED S. HOFFMAN
Of the Associated Press

WASHINGTON — Air Force officers are convinced that U.S. war missiles are highly reliable. But they are concerned that three Thor mishaps in the Pacific nuclear test series have given an opposite impression.

The Air Force claims better than 90 per cent reliability for the war-rocket version of the Thor.

The Thors used in the high altitude tests at Johnston Island are basically 1,500-mile-range ballistic missiles, but they have been modified in significant ways to suit their special scientific mission.

Two of the mishaps were traced to these modifications.

In the first failure on June 4, the trouble was in the tracking system. The second on June 19 was caused by an instrument

package fastened to the outside of the rocket.

No Explanation

There has been no official explanation of the reason for the deliberate destruction of a third Thor on its launch pad Wednesday night. But one report said it was caused by "human error" on the part of a civilian technician during pre-launch preparations.

The only high altitude blast achieved so far in the series was on July 9.

The Thors used to loft nuclear devices high over the Pacific are guided and tracked by radio.

The war version of the Thor is equipped with inertial guidance, which is not subject to the kind of technical difficulties that can and do occur in the radio guidance system.

Inertial guidance — which is incorporated into all of the

most advanced U.S. intercontinental ballistic missiles—involves a built-in computer and gyros which work together to keep the rocket on course automatically.

A combat Thor would never have attached to it the instrument package which created air turbulence around the rocket during the June 19 shot and caused part of the Thor's skin to collapse from overheating.

12 Successful Shots

The Air Force is aiming for—and expects to achieve at least 90 per cent reliability for the Minuteman ICBM, which soon will become the mainstay of the U.S. nuclear striking force. Eight hundred of these 6,300-mile-range solid-fuel missiles are due to be employed in underground launch bases.

The Atlas ICBM, another 6,300-mile-range weapon, has racked up 12 successful shots

out of 13 combat-type launches from Vandenberg Air Force Base in California.

These Atlases were fired by Strategic Air Command combat crews who went into practice action with the type of notice they would get in event an order came to shoot at an enemy target instead of the open Pacific.

The Titan, another liquid-fuel missile more powerful than the Atlas, has only recently become operational. But Air Force experts are sure it will measure up in reliability on the basis of only four failures in 56 test shots.

Equally important, the Air Force has no doubts about the accuracy of its missiles. An Atlas which was test-fired with President Kennedy watching some time ago landed less than a mile from its target—close enough to shatter any city-size objective with a hydrogen warhead.

Accuracy Sharpened

Both reliability and accuracy have been sharpened over the years-long process of development and test.

Back in 1954, the Air Force thought in terms of dropping an ICBM within five miles of the target point. Five years ago, the Air Force would have said 80 per cent missile reliability was good.

From the early test stage to combat-ready status, a period covering several years, Air Force experience has shown the curve of missile reliability rises steeply.

No Decision Made on Continuing Tests

HONOLULU (AP) — The trouble-ridden U.S. program of high altitude nuclear tests was reported at a standstill Friday pending a top-level decision on whether to abandon the series for the rest of the year.

Latest and most severe blow to the program was the fiery destruction of a Thor missile and its nuclear payload at the start of a planned high altitude test at Johnston Island early Thursday.

The rocket burst into flame on the launching pad and scientists deliberately blew it up

along with its nuclear payload. The government said there were no injuries and no danger from radiation. But informed sources said the fire badly damaged the launch pad.

A Pentagon conference was reported to have been held Thursday to consider whether to extend the period for high altitude testing at Johnston—scheduled to end about now—or to call off the series for this year.

A decision is expected within the next couple of days.

Sources said from four to six weeks will be required to re-

pair the damage from Thursday's aborted test. President Kennedy said when he announced the high altitude test program in May that it would last three months.

However, the program has been delayed by failures of three test attempts. On June 3 and 19, Thor missiles and their nuclear devices were destroyed in flight because of instrument malfunctions.

Only one Johnston test has been successful. That was a super-powerful blast 200 to 400 miles high July 8.

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