

Peace in Laos Appears Further Away Than It Did a Year Ago

By RAY F. HERNDON
United Press International

Vientiane, Laos — (UPI) — If the answers to the crisis in neighboring Viet Nam are tortuous, painful and expensive, there seem to be no answers at all here in Laos.

Peace, if anything, is further off sight than it was a year ago last Tuesday when 13 nations — including the United States, Britain, Russia and Communist China — signed the Geneva agreement guaranteeing the independence and neutrality of Laos.

At that time, the Communist faction in Laos had been on the offensive, American troops had been carrying out "exercises" across the border in Thailand to prevent a Communist invasion there and the Geneva agreement of 1954, aimed at creating stability in the Indo-Chinese peninsula, was a dead letter.

Again on Offensive

One year later the Communist faction again is on the offensive. American troops again have been carrying out warning exercises in Thailand and the Geneva Agreement of 1954 is more dead than alive.

In signing that agreement, the United States wrote off its long and unsuccessful attempt to prop up a series of pro-Western governments in Laos.

In so doing, the United States made formal its decision not to send its soldiers into Laos — a project that would have been forbiddingly costly in men and money.

There were hardly any illusions about the Geneva agreement even before it was signed.

Stick to Agreement

True, President Kennedy and Soviet Premier Khrushchev had agreed Laos should be peaceful and neutral. By

and large, the Soviets have stuck to their agreement not to interfere further in Laos.

But the Communist Chinese and North Vietnamese have not. Whether this delighted or discomfited the Russians is hardly important.

Nor has this surprised the Americans. What it does mean is that, though the American military advisory teams have left Laos, the U.S. effort there in aid and advice continues.

What it further means is that Laos, an artificial creation of the 1954 Indochina agreement, but strategically the hub of Southeast Asia, remains a hot war pawn in the cold war.

Bitter Disappointment

If the Laos situation has been a bitter disappointment for the United States and the West, it has been equally galling for the Communists.

They had hoped the neutralist-headed coalition government would cave in and go Communist. Instead, the Communist faction found itself outnumbered and outvoted in this capital city of Vientiane.

If they had hoped the Americans would stop bolstering the coalition with weapons and supplies, they were wrong.

Indeed, the Communists accuse the United States of maintaining its military advisers in Laos, disguised as technicians and aid coordinators.

Hardly in Position

The Communists are hardly in a position to make charges about foreign interference, but they do.

The chief of the coalition government, Premier Prince Souvanna Phouma, has publicly accused North Viet Nam of keeping its troops in Laos. They are estimated in the thousands.

These troops stiffen the Communist Pathet Lao garrisons. They keep open the Ho Chi Minh trail along which men and supplies from North Viet Nam are funneled into South Viet Nam.

The pattern of the fighting indicates the North Vietnamese are more interested at present in keeping the trail open and maintaining tactical supremacy on the strategic Plain of Jars than in seizing the big cities and driving for the Mekong river.

For across the Mekong lies Thailand, whose protection has been actively guaranteed by the United States.

Long-Range Objective

The long-range objective of the Pathet Lao and their North Vietnamese allies has never been in question: Reuniting the whole Indochinese peninsula under the banner of Communism has been the announced goal of North Viet Nam since 1951.

Western and some neutral diplomats here in the administrative capital of Vientiane agree that:

—The three-sided coalition of neutralists, Communists and rightists is finished. The Pathet Lao will neither return to the capital nor work to restore the coalition government.

—The best that can be hoped for is a cease-fire which would further solidify the de facto partition of Laos. The Communists are not expected to abandon the form of coalition, though its substance has just about vanished.

—Otherwise, the Pathet Lao will continue their piecemeal military aggression in an effort to seize more and more territory and to exact political concessions from the neutralist and rightist factions.

A Peaceful People

The Lao are a peaceful people — even the highly indoctrinated Pathet Lao need constant prodding by the hard-driving North Vietnamese.

For that matter, the Lao are not really a people, but a collection of various peoples. Laos is not so much a country as a place on the map.

But its place on the map is crucial. The fall of Laos to the Pathet Lao would put a Communist regime on the borders of pro-Western Thailand, neutralist Cambodia and pro-Western South Viet Nam.

It would make the U.S. task of helping defend South Viet Nam even more difficult than it is now, if not impossible.



SECOND PLAY—"Romeo and Juliet" will open tonight in Ashland at the Oregon Shakespearean Festival for the second play in this season's schedule. Shown in a scene from the play Juliet (Marian Hailey, San Francisco, Calif.) is impatient to learn news of Romeo, but her Nurse (Elizabeth Huddle, San Francisco, Calif.), breathless and weary, will not be rushed. The production is being directed by Robert B. Loper. (Dwaine Smith photo)

Embassy Building In Normal Use

Havana — (UPI) — The government has taken no action so far to enforce its order nationalizing the U.S. Embassy building here.

Work at the embassy proceeded normally Wednesday, with people coming and going on routine errands as they would on any other day.

Since the United States broke off diplomatic relations

with Cuba in January, 1961, the embassy offices have been used by Swiss diplomats handling U.S. affairs in Cuba.

Cuban officials asked the Swiss Wednesday to vacate the building. Informed sources said the Swiss Embassy protested both the nationalization and the request that they leave, and for the time being they remained in possession.

ANY GOLD NAME
Black River Falls, Wis. — (UPI) — An unidentified postal worker knew exactly where to send a letter addressed to "Frostbite Falls, Wis." A letter postmarked at Johnstown, Pa., was quickly dispatched to Black River Falls, where the temperature dropped to 50 below zero last winter and gained nationwide notoriety for the town.

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41-54-61	41-54-61
61-66-73	61-66-73
74-81-88	74-81-88
91-98-105	91-98-105
111-118-125	111-118-125
132-139-146	132-139-146
157-164-171	157-164-171
182-189-196	182-189-196
207-214-221	207-214-221
232-239-246	232-239-246
267-274-281	267-274-281
292-299-306	292-299-306
327-334-341	327-334-341
352-359-366	352-359-366
387-394-401	387-394-401
412-419-426	412-419-426
447-454-461	447-454-461
472-479-486	472-479-486
507-514-521	507-514-521
532-539-546	532-539-546
567-574-581	567-574-581
592-599-606	592-599-606
627-634-641	627-634-641
652-659-666	652-659-666
687-694-701	687-694-701
712-719-726	712-719-726
747-754-761	747-754-761
772-779-786	772-779-786
807-814-821	807-814-821
832-839-846	832-839-846
867-874-881	867-874-881
892-899-906	892-899-906
927-934-941	927-934-941
952-959-966	952-959-966
987-994-1001	987-994-1001

1. Love 2. You 3. Something 4. You're 5. Spooking 6. In 7. Money 8. And 9. Get 10. Try 11. The 12. Profitable 13. Chance 14. Today's 15. Business 16. Let 17. Or 18. Your 19. Excitement's 20. Course 21. In 22. Nothing 23. New 24. Day 25. Against 26. You 27. Awfuls 28. Keep 29. For 30. C. C. 60 Decision

61 Remarks 62 Year 63 To 64 In 65 Wrong 66 Affection 67 Pleading 68 Acceptance 69 Ways 70 Ahead 71 Of 72 Pressure 73 Smile 74 Today 75 Opportunity 76 And 77 And 78 Sick 79 Presents 80 Your 81 To 82 Start 83 Adjusting 84 Admit 85 For 86 If 87 Itself 88 Fun 89 In 90 Budget

Good Adverse Neutral

Oregon Supreme Court Decisions

Salem — (UPI) — The Oregon Supreme Court Wednesday upheld the negligent homicide conviction of Charles Eugene Betts of Baker.

A passenger in Betts' car was killed when it left the road and crashed. The decision upheld Baker County Circuit Judge Lyle R. Wolff.

Betts had contended it was an error for the trial court to deny his motion to require the district attorney to decide whether to prosecute him for negligent homicide or for manslaughter.

Betts also argued that a doctor's testimony that a defendant's speech and smell indicated he was intoxicated shouldn't have been allowed. He said the testimony was a violation of the law which says that a physician-patient relationship is confidential and privileged.

Not in Error

The Supreme Court ruled that while the physician-patient privilege is valid in civil proceedings that it was not in error to let a doctor testify in a criminal case such as this.

The court also upheld a Wasco County Circuit Court decision involving a traffic accident between a deputy sheriff answering a police call and another driver. The other driver, Boyd H. Owens, had sued deputy sheriff Delphis I. Goss.

Goss admitted he was negligent in failing to stop at an intersection with an arterial street but argued Owens was also negligent for driving too fast and failing to keep a proper lookout.

The court ruled it was proper for the jury to decide whether Owens was also negligent. It said the fact he was on an arterial street didn't make him from the

duty of exercising proper speed, lookout and control.

Other Decisions

Other Supreme Court decisions today:

Robert E. Merritt vs. State Industrial Accident Commission, Douglas County Circuit Judge Don H. Sanders' decision for plaintiff upheld.

Charles W. and Ethel M. Prigg vs. Paul Carmichael, Marion County Circuit Judge George R. Duncan's decision for plaintiff affirmed.

Vera S. Christenson vs. Prudential Insurance Co. of America, Lane County Circuit Judge Edward Levy's decision for defendants affirmed.

Edith Maynard vs. Oregon Willamette Lumber Co., Multnomah County Circuit Judge Alfred T. Sulmonetti's decision for defendants reversed and case remanded for new trial.

Howard W. Crane vs. State Industrial Accident Commission, Multnomah County Circuit Judge James W. Crawford's decision for defendant upheld.

Willard K. Carey vs. Velate Henderson Leonard, Union County Circuit Judge William W. Wells' decision for plaintiff upheld.

Area Requests Night Patrol Due to Thefts

Residents of the Valley View area north of Ashland have asked that a night patrol operate in the area because of thefts and traffic violations which have been occurring during the past two weeks, the Jackson county sheriff's office has reported.

The request was made by J. Rodney Keating, an orchardist in the Valley View community.

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