

**Laos 1959-1961 -
correspondence, official
documents, press clippings,
chrono...**

HS L 179:85



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Laos - 1959

2 June

- 1) Message from Reuters
- 2) Press clippings, N.Y. Herald Tribune

Nehru Backs Red China in Laos Dispute

Asks That Control Group Be Activated

By Don Cook

From the Herald Tribune Bureau

LONDON, June 1.—Communist efforts to build the current situation in Laos into international trouble got an assist today from Indian Prime Minister Jawaharlal Nehru.

The kingdom of Laos, which became independent under terms of the Geneva agreement of 1954 ending the Indo-China war, is taking firm measures to "integrate" two battalions of Communist troops. These troops have been operating in the northeast Pathet Lao district of the country for the last six years.

Two months ago, terms for integration into the Laotian Army were offered to the Pathet Lao troops, and all but about 600 accepted. These, according to latest reports, are attempting to slip through the jungle to Communist North Viet Nam. They are being pursued by Laotian forces.

Commission Suspended

Moreover, the International Control Commission, which was appointed to supervise the 1954 Geneva agreements, has been in a state of suspension since last July.

The action of little Laos in moving decisively against Communist forces within its borders at a time when the Control Commission is in suspense has stung Red China to all sorts of protests and threats and accusations about "serious violations" of the Geneva agreements.

The Communists are demanding that the Control Commission go back to work immediately to stop Laos from acting against the Pathet Lao forces.

Nehru move Unexpected

These protests were echoed to the Foreign Office by the Soviet Union in a similar note on Saturday. Russia and Britain were co-chairman of the Geneva conference and have joint responsibility for carrying out the Indo-China agreement.

It had not been expected, however, that Mr. Nehru would also take Red China's side at this point. But he, too, asked the Foreign Office today to agree to reconstitution of the Control Commission.

The Foreign Office, however, firmly stated again today that the Laotian government is acting fully within its sovereign rights and, unless Laos wants the Control Commission back in operation, it will remain suspended as far as Britain is concerned.

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TALKS-CHINESE

GENEVA, JUNE 2-(REUTERS)-BRITISH FOREIGN SECRETARY SELWYN LLOYD AND SOVIET FOREIGN MINISTER ANDREI GROMYKO WILL DISCUSS THE SITUATION IN LAOS WITHIN THE NEXT FEW DAYS, COMMUNIST INFORMANTS SAID HERE TODAY.

GROMYKO IS EXPECTED TO PRESS LLOYD TO AGREE THAT THE THREE-NATION TRUCE SUPERVISORY COMMISSION FOR THE INDOCHINA NATION SHOULD BE RECONVENED.

THE COMMISSION, COMPOSED OF CANADIAN, INDIAN AND POLISH DELEGATES, ADJOURNED INDEFINITELY LAST JULY. COMMUNIST CHINA IS DEMANDING THAT IT MEET AGAIN TO CONSIDER ALLEGED VIOLATIONS OF THE 1954 TRUCE. PEIPING ALLEGES THAT A CIVIL WAR IS THREATENED BETWEEN ROYAL LAOTIAN FORCES AND THE PRO-COMMUNIST PATHET LAO.

INDIAN PRIME MINISTER JAWAHARLAL NEHRU LAST SATURDAY SENT LETTERS TO LLOYD AND GROMYKO, WHOSE COUNTRIES SERVED AS CO-CHAIRMAN OF THE 1954 TUCE CONFERENCE, AND SUPPORTED RECONVENING OF THE COMMISSION.

LAI YA-LI, CHINESE CHARGE D'AFFAIRES HERE, CONFERRED TODAY WITH GROMYKO FOR THE SECOND TIME SINCE THE BIG FOUR FOREIGN MINISTERS BEGAN THEIR CONFERENCE HERE THREE WEEKS AGO.

COMMUNIST SOURCES SAID THEY DISCUSSED PEIPING'S REQUEST AND NEHRU'S LETTERS ABOUT RECONVENING THE COMMISSION.

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