

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

HS L 179:85



Dag Hammarskjöld's saml.

Laos - 1959

17 June

Note by Krishna Menon

conc. Sec-Gen's proposals.

(transmitted to D. H. by Indian Ambassador,
Mr. Jha)

This "oral" message, obviously
written by Krishna Menon was
given to me by Jha today.

1-1.
17 June - 59.

We have carefully considered Secretary-General's proposals and are grateful to him for his extremely helpful and cooperative attitude and have no doubt that he would exercise his influence with all concerned to take all steps to reduce tension in Laos and to bring about proper fulfilment of the objectives of the Geneva Agreements.

At the outset we should make it clear that we had never intended at any stage that the Commission should start "discussing possible activities of one power bloc or the other". Such discussion will not only be undesirable but will be outside the scope of the Commission's activities. Similarly we are of the view that there need not be any discussion with "territorial questions" which might conflict with the Geneva Agreement about the unity and integrity of Laos. The key suggestion in Secretary-General's letter is therefore contained in the sentence that "it might in the first instance take the formal step of getting mediation started as originally suggested deferring any discussion of substance - in whatever way such a discussion may be limited - until it is seen if such discussion becomes necessary because the mediation has failed". The question of limiting or "unlimiting" the Commission does not arise in this proposal. The genesis of the Commission is the Geneva Agreement and it has no separate existence. The mediatory role and use of good offices are inherent. The Commission adjourned because its functions at that moment were not pressing or imperative. Present tension calls for its mediatory efforts and in consultation with all concerned this can and need be done. The first step therefore is the reconvening of the Commission.