

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

*HS L 179:85*



Dag Hammarskjöld's saml.

Laos - 1959

25 Aug.

- 1) Permanent Mission of India to the U.N.  
— 1 letter to D.H.
- 2) Press clippings (New York Herald Tribune, 25 Aug.)  
and New York Times)



No. D/14-PR

CONFIDENTIAL

PERMANENT MISSION OF INDIA  
TO THE UNITED NATIONS  
3 EAST 64TH STREET  
NEW YORK 21, N. Y.

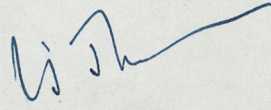
25 August 1959

Dear Mr. Hammarskjold,

I telegraphed to Prime Minister Nehru the substance of your letter dated 22 August 1959 addressed to him. Pending receipt of the full text of your letter which I have already transmitted by air, he has asked me to convey to you the following reactions:-

"We have been asked to assist in connection with Stage I, the form of Stage II depending upon the results of Stage I. Serious fight has re-started in Laos and the situation has deteriorated considerably. We agree that somebody must, as Mr. Hammarskjold states, get in touch with the parties concerned and explore methods of stopping the conflict and reducing tension in the area. It is clear, however, that neither India nor any other country can do anything unless all parties concerned agree to cooperate in this mediatory effort. The two Co-Chairmen of the Geneva Conference have been discussing the situation since the beginning of June. The local parties concerned, viz. Laos and DRVN, have been pulling in different directions and there is serious internal conflict in Laos. In the context of these conditions, the exploratory action proposed in Stage I should have the active support of the two-Chairmen Governments, of the other two Members of the Commission, Canada and Poland, and assurances from both Governments concerned, i.e. Laos and DRVN, that they will cooperate in this mediatory effort".

Yours sincerely,

  
(C.S. Jha).

H.E. Mr. Dag Hammarskjold  
Secretary-General  
United Nations  
New York.

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H.E. Mr. Dag Hammarskjold  
Secretary-General  
United Nations  
New York.

".... Nous sommes d'accord que quelqu'un doit se mettre en contact avec les parties en question et explorer les méthodes pour mettre fin au conflit et réduire la tension dans la région. Cependant, il est évident que ni l'Inde, ni aucun autre pays n'y peut rien à moins que tous les partis intéressés se mettent d'accord dans cet effort médiateur. Les deux co-présidents de la Conférence de Genève ont discuté la situation depuis le début du mois de Juin. Les partis en question, i.e., le Laos et DRVN, ont pris des directions différentes et il y a un conflit interne sérieux au Laos. Dans le contexte de ces conditions, l'action exploratrice proposée dans "la première étape" devrait avoir l'appui actif des gouvernements des deux co-présidents, des deux autres Membres de la Commission, i.e. le Canada et la Pologne, ainsi que l'assurance des deux gouvernements en question, i.e. le Laos et le DRVN, qu'ils coopéreront dans cet effort médiateur."

# HERTER ALARMED BY FIGHT IN LAOS; URGES OBSERVERS

Senator Describes Him as  
'Deeply Concerned' on  
Struggle With Reds

## U. N. ACTION IS FAVORED

Secretary Tells Lawmakers  
the Situation Warrants  
International Inquiry

By E. W. KENWORTHY  
Special to The New York Times.

WASHINGTON, Aug. 24 — Secretary of State Christian A. Herter told foreign policy leaders of the Senate and House today that he regarded the situation in Laos, where Communist forces are fighting Government troops, as "very dangerous."

Mr. Herter met this morning for an hour and fifteen minutes with ten senior members of the Senate Foreign Relations and House Foreign Affairs Committees.

Later, Senator J. W. Fulbright, Democrat of Arkansas, who heads the Senate committee, said Mr. Herter was "deeply concerned" about the military situation in Laos.

### Hammarskjold View Cited

Secretary Herter told the legislators the United States believed that the situation warranted the dispatch of a United Nations observer team to Laos.

According to authoritative sources, Mr. Herter also said that Secretary General Dag Hammarskjold of the United Nations felt that United Nations observers should not be sent unless they were requested by Communist North Vietnam as well as Laos.

Ngon Sananikone, a brother of Premier Phoui Sananikone of Laos, had three talks at the United Nations with Mr. Hammarskjold since Aug. 20. The talks concerned what the United Nations might do to stop the infiltration of Communist guerrilla forces from North Vietnam into Laos. It has been reported that Mr. Ngon suggested sending United Nations observers.

### Ngon Going to Washington

He said Saturday that he and the Secretary General had reached agreement on diplomatic measures against the infiltration. He said he could not reveal what these measures were, but he indicated that they did not include sending observers.

Mr. Ngon, a former Defense Secretary of Laos, will arrive in Washington tomorrow morning. He will confer in the afternoon with J. Graham Parsons, Assistant Secretary of State for Far Eastern Affairs.

All the lawmakers who attended Mr. Herter's briefing were said to have agreed with him that United Nations observers should go to Laos.

Senator Mike Mansfield of Montana, Senate Democratic whip, said that in his opinion the Southeast Asia Treaty Organization should also watch the situation in Laos closely.

Under the Geneva agreements of 1954 that ended the eight-year war between French and Communist forces in Indochina, Laos cannot become a member of SEATO. However, a protocol to the 1954 SEATO treaty puts Laos, Cambodia and South Vietnam—all former French protectorates in Indochina—under the

protection of the treaty. The treaty members could not send troops to Laos to help repel invaders except upon the invitation or consent of the Laotian Government.

State Department officials said today that there was no intention of suggesting to Mr. Ngon that his Government ask SEATO for help. These officials said the Laotian situation had not been discussed yet by the SEATO council, which has its headquarters in Bangkok, Thailand.

The SEATO members are the United States, Britain, France, Australia, New Zealand, Pakistan, the Philippines and Thailand.

Mr. Hammarskjold's reluctance to send observers to Laos, it was said, stems from a lack of agreement among United Nations members about reactivating the International Control Commission, which was set up in Geneva in 1954 to supervise the armistice in Laos.

The members of the commission, India, Canada and Poland, suspended their activities last year.

### Reached Accord in 1957

In 1957 they arranged an agreement between the Laotian Government and Communist elements that controlled the two northern provinces of Samneua and Phongsaly. The agreement provided for the integration of two Communist battalions in the royal army and the recognition of the Neo Lao Hak Xat (Communist) party.

Following the 1958 elections, the two anti-Communist parties combined forces to control the Government. When a new Cabinet was formed, the two Communist members of the former Cabinet lost their places.

The Neo Lao Hak Xat, backed by North Vietnam, has demanded the reactivation of the control commission on the ground that both the Geneva and integration accords have been violated. The Laotian Government opposes the reactivation, contending that the commission has completed its work. This is also the position of the United States.

The Soviet Union, backed by Poland and India, has demanded that the commission be recalled. Britain and the Soviet Union, as co-chairman of the 1954 Geneva conference, are now discussing the question.

others on charges of aiding Communist infiltration of Laos and conspiring against the Government.

### North Vietnam Accuses U. S.

TOKYO, Aug. 24 (UPI) — North Vietnam charged tonight that United States officers and military advisers were "taking direct part" in operations of Laotian Government troops against rebels.

The accusation was made in commentary published by the newspaper Nhandan of Hanoi, North Vietnam, and reported tonight by the Hsinhua (New China) news agency.

The paper said there were "hundreds of United States advisers on Laotian territory who, under the guise of instructors, are directly commanding the operations of war in order to turn Laos into a war base of the United States."

## Deepening Crisis

## In Laos

The deterioration of the military situation in Laos is outstripping defensive measures by the United Nations, the United States and the Western World in general to save that little Southeast Asian state from being overrun by Communist troops. The rebels, supplied and operating from the bordering Communist state of North Viet Nam, are reported to be moving rapidly southward from strongholds in the two northern provinces of Phong Saly and Sam Neua, and they are now within a fifty-mile striking distance of the capital, Vientiane. If the Communists maintain their present pace, Laos could collapse before you could say Dag Hammarskjold. And if Laos falls, exposing the neighboring countries of Southeast Asia to gravest peril, the bloody Indochina war could be reopened.

With the stakes so high and the peril so grave, there has been an extraordinary silence from the Western capitals and from the headquarters of the United Nations. Almost immediately after receiving a personal appeal for aid from the brother of the Laotian Premier and promising to do what he could, Mr. Hammarskjold took off Sunday for a two-week tour of South America, which is about as far away as any one could get from the explosion in Southeast Asia. The U. N. Secretary General either failed to realize the seriousness of the situa-

Tuesday, August 25, 1959

tion—hardly likely since he usually is well informed on crises of this kind—or he recognized he was powerless to do much about it.

In either case, in view of the speed of the Communist advance, the Laotian government cannot look for salvation to the good offices of the U. N. It is rapidly being confronted with a choice between seeking a compromise settlement with the Communists, based on restoration of the International Control Commission created by the Geneva settlement of 1954, and securing large-scale military aid from abroad, notably the United States. This is a choice which Washington and the Western capitals are now required to ponder.

## Defense Ministry Silent

Special to The New York Times.

VIENTIANE, Laos, Aug. 24—For the fifth consecutive day, the Laotian Defense Ministry remained silent on the military situation in Samneua and Phongsaly. These provinces were invaded last month by tribesmen led by North Vietnamese.

French pilots of transport planes said today that the airfield in the town of Samnena, the capital of Samnena Province, was open again after being closed twenty-four hours because of heavy monsoon rains. The army in the province depends on the airfield for supplies.

The pilots said rebels were continuing to infiltrate throughout the province and several army posts appeared from the air to be deserted.

Rebel activity was reported near Phontiou in Khammouane Province, central Laos. Phontiou is the site of a Laotian-French tin mine—the only dollar earner of consequence in the country.

Rebels also were reported to have infiltrated parts of Vientiane Province within seventy miles of the city of Vientiane, administrative capital of Laos. Yesterday rebels were reported to have attacked an army post within fifty miles of the capital.

Western military sources here said they did not feel that the rebels were strong in central or southern Laos but that their presence there might cause panic among the population.

## Panic in City Reported

VIENTIANE, Aug. 24 (AP)—Panic hit Luang Prabang, the royal capital of Laos, as reports of Communist rebel attacks in Luang Prabang Province reached the city today.

About fifty families were reported to have down the Mekong River.

Unconfirmed reports said rebels were within thirty miles of Luang Prabang, which is north of Vientiane.

Aged King Sisavong Vong lies ill in Luang Prabang. Last week he turned over his powers to his son, Crown Prince Savang Vathana. The Prince also is in the royal capital.

The wife of Prince Souphanouvong, head of the Neo Lao Hak Xat party, denied today that her husband was involved in any plot.

"My husband didn't conspire against anyone," she declared in an interview. "He has been watched constantly since he came to Vientiane [in 1957]."

Prince Souphanouvong was arrested last month with fifteen