

**Laos 1959-1961 -
correspondence, official
documents, press clippings,
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Dag Hammarskjöld's saml.

Laos - 1959

10 Nov.

Nehru, Jawaharlal (Prime Minister of India)

- 1 letter from D.H.,

10 November 1959

PERSONAL

Dear Mr. Nehru,

.....
In the light of our previous close contact regarding developments in Laos I feel that I should send you a copy of the letter I addressed to all the Members of the Security Council in explanation of my decision to go to Laos.

You will appreciate that, in fact, I was faced with the necessity of a choice. If I had decided not to go I would, so to say by default, have thrown my weight back of an effort, through the Security Council and the General Assembly, to establish a "presence" in Laos which, due to its history and political setting, would practically have blocked the road to the national reconciliation and international diplomatic moves which sooner or later will be necessary. On the other hand, by going - even if that were to lead finally to a "personal" representation - I could avoid aggravating the story here and the above-mentioned outcome while instead establishing such links with Vientiane as to enable me to work towards the goals we had in mind in our previous correspondence and which I still think are fully valid.

In a situation like the present one there enters necessarily an element of gambling. In this case I have taken a risk, but in order to have the chance to avoid something which would certainly be detrimental.

I would appreciate an opportunity, in spite of all your other problems, to remain in touch with you regarding this matter and further developments on it.

Dag Hammarskjöld.

H.E. Shri Jawaharlal Nehru,
Prime Minister and Minister
for External Affairs,
New Delhi, India.