

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

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Laos - 1960

8 Jan.

Cordier, Andrew (Exec. Assist. to the Sec.-Gen.)

- 1 interoffice memorandum,
- 2 encl. - code cables from and to Ruomioja, Vientiane

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CABLE ADDRESS · UNATIONS NEWYORK · ADRESSE TELEGRAPHIQUE

EXECUTIVE OFFICE OF THE SECRETARY-GENERAL

REFERENCE:

8 January 1959 ⁶⁰⁰

Dear Dag,

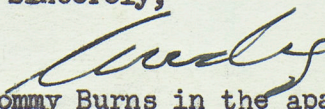
I regret to report to you a mis-reading of the communication sent to me by Tuomioja from Geneva the day he left for Laos.

The actual communication is attached. Immediately upon receipt I tried to get him by telephone, since the message seemed extremely curious if it was meant that Gromyko had advised him to remain in Geneva. When I called he was already in the air and I concluded therefore that the "here" was meant to be "there", with a technical omission of the letter "t". I assumed that he certainly would have called me to find out whether we had any information as to why Gromyko wanted him to remain in Geneva. Not having done so, and proceeding to Laos, I felt that I read the cable correctly. In addition the message actually dispatched to me by Tuomioja seemed so peculiar since I would have thought the Russians would have intervened directly here in New York rather than with Tuomioja in Geneva.

However I still had some doubt about it and so yesterday morning sent a cable to Tuomioja, a copy of which is attached. This morning I received his reply, copy attached, which confirms that Gromyko referred to Geneva and not Laos. This puts quite a different turn on the Soviet attitude toward his role. By sheer coincidence Anatole at lunch yesterday, in the course of my discussion of the Laos question with him, expressed his feeling that Tuomioja ought not to be away from Geneva, or at least ought not to be away for any long time, that he might "jeopardize" his position there." I explained the relative requirements of Geneva and Laos which he seemed to understand completely. I pointed out that the spring session of the ECE was on April 20th. It ~~would have~~ ^{has} been customary for the Executive Secretary to make a round of the major capitals in advance, which he intends to do. Thus he will be visiting Moscow, London and Paris in late March or early April and therefore I did not believe that his duties with ECE would be neglected.

However, this new picture might require a rather shorter term for Tuomioja in Laos. In other words he might return to Geneva in say early March instead of late March, overlapping with Zellweger in the early days of March.

Sincerely,



P.S. I am having a little informal luncheon for Tommy Burns in the apartment today.

INCOMING CODE CABLE

TO: CORDIER
FROM: TUOMIOJA, GENEVA
DATE: 4 JANUARY 1960
NUMBER: UNGVA 3

Confidential.

Am leaving today arriving Bangkok Wednesday morning. For SecGen's information have been approached this morning by USSR permanent delegate conveying view of USSR Minister Foreign Affairs that my presence here important.

OUTGOING CODE CABLE

TO: Tuomioja, Vientiane
FROM: Cordier
DATE: 7 January 1960
NUMBER: 12

For Tuomioja

Thanks your 20. Am bringing it to Secretary-General's attention. Rather extraordinary how message was handled by local press.

Reur 3 from Geneva exact reading would mean that certain Foreign Minister attaches high importance to your presence Geneva. However, I assumed word "here" might have been a technical error and should have been word "there" instead, meaning Laos. Please confirm. If Geneva, why the intervention?

For Heurtematte

Your January plans satisfactory. Secretary-General delighted to see you Tangier 26 January. Your January first letter to him arrived before that of 24 December. Both have been forwarded.

For Jakhelln

Regret 13 January seems ~~too~~^{bit} too early for departure. We are expediting plans for replacement, likely Gaillard. Appreciate your cooperation in staying a bit over six weeks originally indicated.

cc: SG
Mr. Cordier
Dr. Bunche
Mr. Engers