

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

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Dag Hammarskjöld's saml.

Laos - 1960

14 - 29 April

Zellweger, Eduard (Special Consultant to  
the Sec. Gen., Laos)

{ - 3 letters to D.H.  
- 7 encl.

- 1 letter from D.H. to E. Zellweger, dat. 19 April



VIENTIANE - LAOS

PERSONAL AND CONFIDENTIAL

14 April 1960

Dear Mr. Hammarskjold,

1. On Sunday I had a long talk with Prince Souvanna Phouma in which he spoke very freely. In this first conversation he struck me as clearly the most outstanding Lao personality whom I have met. Therefore I pass on the substance of our talk.
2. The Prince is running unopposed in a Luang-Prabang constituency. There is no doubt that he gave up his Ambassador's post at Paris with a view to playing a leading role in the post-election Government. He has certainly many followers.
3. Souvanna Phouma told me that he thinks he is capable of pacifying the country through political - as opposed to military - action. (Except for the most stalwart CDIN members, leading figures appear to agree on the need for internal conciliation without however specifying ways and means contemplated). Characteristic of the prestige he enjoys is the fact that he was consulted by Neo Lao Hak Xat members about their participating in the elections. He encouraged them to participate.
4. Regarding the CDIN he said that he had helped the coming into being of that youthful group, with its strong military flavour, with a view to mobilizing the energies of the younger generation in Laos. However, he was of the opinion that their participation in the Government was premature.
5. On the question of foreign relations he thinks that he would succeed in getting Chinese recognition of a neutrality status for Laos similar to the Austrian status. He is more doubtful as to whether the USA would join in such an international agreement. This was the first hint I have received from a Lao personality to international recognition of permanent Lao neutrality. An allusion relating to this topic which I made to General Phoumi Nosavan was dismissed by him on the ground that a Communist Government could not be trusted.

Mr. Dag Hammarskjold  
Secretary General  
United Nations Headquarters  
New York

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6. Asked why relations between Laos on the one hand and China and North Vietnam on the other had deteriorated after the new Government of August 1958 was organized without him, he mentioned the opening of the Chinese Nationalist Consulate here, the transformation of the Lao Legation at Saigon into an Embassy and the arrival of a hundred military instructors from the USA.
7. As background he supplied the information that when he was in China in 1957, Mao-Tse-Tung had put forward a request for a Consulate in Vientiane. The Prince rejected the request on the ground that there was no Chinese Nationalist Consulate in Laos and that the Lao Government would not like to have to grant an exequatur to a consul from Formosa thereby recognizing the existence of two Chinas. Mao Tse-Tung had accepted, he said, this reasoning and had felt deceived when a Chinese Nationalist Consulate was later accepted. Likewise, Ho-Chi-Minh, whose request to open a consulate had also been rejected by the Prince, was disappointed when the Lao diplomatic mission in Saigon, established before the Geneva Agreement, was raised to an Embassy. He had been satisfied with Souvanna Phouma's explanation that the maintenance of the Lao Legation there was nothing more than the maintenance of the status quo ante and that Laos was reluctant to give the impression of recognizing the splitting of Vietnam as a lasting situation by allowing the establishment of a North Vietnam Consulate at Vientiane.
8. Concerning the situation ten days before the elections, Souvanna Phouma expressed worry over certain pressures exerted by the Army on candidates and on voters. He declared his intention to caution the Minister of Defense against such actions which could bring about the withdrawal of the NLHX and Santiphab (SPK) from the elections. He strongly holds that the Army should not be represented in the Government and that all appropriate steps should be taken to eliminate it as a factor of political power. The present caretaker Government has, he said, practically no influence on the Army.
9. Concerning the security situation in southern Laos mentioned in the Notes on Interview with Minister of Defence General Phoumi Nosavan attached to my last week's letter, more information has become available from a variety of non-Lao sources, all in general agreement. The British Counsellor told Gaillard this morning that Attopeu Province was largely out of government control and that a Pathet Lao communication corridor existed across the extreme south of Attopeu and Champassak Provinces even into Thailand. He said that some 200-400 Pathet Lao, some in armed uniformed groups, had been filtered down in the past ten days from the Vietminh-occupied area of Laos at the 17th parallel.

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When the Army moved on after "mop-up" operations, the Pathet Lao returned. The six-man Army teams could not be safely left in these "cleaned-up" villages - they were too insecure. He added that the civilian administration was completely out of touch with the rural villages in the area and definitely not able to carry out the Rural Development schemes, the materiel intended for village self-help being either unused or not getting out much beyond the provincial capital. Several sources cited by Mr. Ravet of UNESCO support this picture.

10. The British Counsellor linked the troubled situation in the South with Vietminh infiltrations through the area into South Vietnam and even Cambodia. He said that very recent reports indicated considerable disorder inside Vietnam where the President was reported dissatisfied and annoyed with methods used by the Americans in training the Army and wishing Malayan training methods to be used instead. This story fits with Souvanna Phouma's statement to me that he thought the infiltrations in the South were directed against South Vietnam. The peculiar story broadcast by Radio Hanoi some two months ago about defection of a Vietminh division now is interpreted as a threat to South Vietnam rather than to Laos. Of the same opinion is Phoui Sananikone.

11. With the elections only ten days off, no one is making prognostications on the outcome. Questions about the next Government are put off with the statement that one must wait and see the outcome. The candidates have been reduced to 145 as the result of fourteen withdrawals. Perhaps the most important question is to what extent the Army, presumably in cooperation with local government officials, will go in rigging the election results. There seems widespread and serious concern over the military activities.

My letter last week, paragraph five, reported pressures on the Union Nationale party of the relative political lightweight Bong Souvannavong. The Indian Ambassador told me this week that Quinim Pholsena, the Santiphab leader, had informed him that he alone of his party's candidates had not been subjected to pressures... In one case he claimed a gun had been used but had misfired. The Santiphab is making its strongest bid in Champassak Province, the home of its leader, where it is running in all six districts. (It is supposed to have only 12-15 candidates all told). There seems no doubt at all that intimidation and other pressures have been exerted, especially by the military. We have no information on how the NLHX candidates have been affected. Quinim assured the Indian Ambassador that he had urged his party candidates to stick to their guns and fight and thus stand to benefit from public reaction to known pressures.

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12. Fear of how far the Army-CDIN group, with its strong anti-Communist line and refusal to accept the idea that the future of Laos depends on a strict neutrality, will go is one factor in leading the British to emphasize the need to press the Government to try to call off the Army and allow some opposition representation in the new National Assembly. The British Counsellor said the Americans were in agreement on this point.

13. Finally, I draw your attention to the reported letter dated 24 March addressed to Prime-Minister Kou Abhay by the Vice-Chairman of the NLHX Central Committee. Yesterday his office denied to the Americans that it had been received. Its contents were broadcast on 9 April by RADIO HANOI (Enclosure No. 1). To enable the general elections to take place in normal conditions the NLHX proposes that the Government order cessation of all raiding operations, promising in return that present Patnet Lao anti-raid activities will cease.

14. The two references to "voter's cards" may need explanation. To vote on 24 April all electors must previously have picked up these cards so that they can be turned in on receipt of a ballot. Since ballot stations are frequently 30 kilometers or more from villages, questions arise as to whether potential voters are advised of the situation and will make the necessary preliminary trip. The card device is simply one of the ways by which the election results may be influenced.

15. Having decided to participate, it would seem common sense for the NLHX not to disrupt the electoral process. When the results were known, it could, if its candidates had been successful, proclaim how much more successful they would have been if allowed to run more candidates. If unsuccessful, the NLHX could simply damn the whole electoral process. The letter referred to above, bold but sensible taken at face value, can be interpreted as a threat to pull out of the elections in the face of too obvious rigging and too severe pressures.

16. I am going with Gaillard to Luang Prabang to-morrow for an audience with the King and shall be back in Vientiane on Saturday evening, 16 April.

Sincerely yours,

*E. Zellweger*  
Edouard Zellweger



# PRESS SUMMARY

of Lao language press and radio  
unofficial translation—not for publication

ENCL No 1  
See p 2.  
MONDAY,  
11, April,  
1960

U.S. Information Service

Vientiane, Laos

## RADIO VIENTIANE(Lao), Apr.8

1. Mr. Hans Bidder, the new German Ambassador to Laos, presented his credentials to the King in Luang-Prabang on Apr.7. Participating in the ceremony were Khamphan Panya, Ouday Souvannavong, and other high-ranking officials. During the same day, the wife of the German Ambassador was presented to the Queen by Khampha Panya. The office of the German Embassy is situated in Bangkok.
2. The Ministry of Interior has announced that the dates of the Lao New Year fall during the current election campaign. As a result, all gambling will be prohibited during the New Year celebrations.

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## RADIO VIENTIANE(Lao), Apr.9

1. The Queen of Cambodia, replying to the telegram sent by the King and Queen of Laos, stated her thanks and stressed the good relations that exist between the two countries.
2. On Apr.15, a basi ceremony will be held for the King at his palace in Luang Prabang, to commemorate the New Year and the first year of his ruling.
3. On Apr.8, Tiao Somsanith, Minister of Interior, General Phoumi Nosavan, Minister of Defense, and General Ouan Rathikoun, visited Pakse. They were welcomed there by General Amkha Soukhavong. During the afternoon, Tiao Somsanith addressed a meeting of civil officials concerning current political trends in the country and the coming elections.
4. During his recent tour of Luang Prabang, General Ouan Rathikoun presided over the regiment flag presentation for the military installation at Wat That Luang, Luang Prabang. He also dedicated the new road from Luang Prabang to Pak-Xeung. In his speech, he emphasized the results gained by the co-operation between the army and the people in building the road.

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## RADIO VIENTIANE(Lao), Apr.10

### HIGHLIGHTS OF THE WEEK:

1. The King of Laos sent a telegram of condolence to Prime Minister Sihanouk of Cambodia (same as P.S. 4-6-60)
2. Khou Abhay, the Prime Minister of Laos, sent condolence telegrams to the Prime Minister of Cambodia, and the Prime Minister of Malaya (same as P.S. 4/6/60)
3. Tour of the northern provinces by the King and Queen.
4. New German Ambassador presented his credentials to the King (see above)

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## HANOI VNA IN ENGLISH MORSE TO EUROPE & ASIA, Apr.8

HANOI, Apr.8-- The Laotian militarists heading the pro-US. "Committee for the Defense of National Interests" are driving the people into concentration centers near ...

...townships and army posts, according to Laohak-Xat News. The bulletin on Apr. 1 added that to this end the militarists launched raiding operations, destroyed whole villages, and banned the sale of daily necessities to the local population. In February alone, the raiding troops forcibly took away 1,045 people in Luang Prabang province and drove them to concentration centers in Pakseng and Hat-Huoi areas, Laohak Xat News revealed.

It made known that the concentrated people were leading a very wretched life. Young men were presganged into the "civil guards" to serve as cannon fodder, build airfields or dig trenches. Women were often raped, crowded into tiny and filthy houses, and suffering from cold, hunger and disease, adults had died in dozens and children in hundreds. Secret agents watched the people day and night.

During the current election campaign, Laohak Xat News went on, the pro-US reactionaries frequently came to the concentration centers and threatened the people to make them vote for their candidate exclusively. The U.S. interventionists committed such acts of repression as they did in colonies, the bulletin said. Laohak Xat News added that the Laotian people, undaunted, were however waging a determined struggle against forcible concentration. Many young people had joined the guerrillas, it reported.

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MOSCOW SOVIET SOUTHEAST ASIAN SERVICE IN VIETNAMESE, Apr. 8

-- As a saying puts it: "Nothing could be more ignoble than to make fun of others' misfortunes." We remember this while reading a news report issued recently in New York by a UPI correspondent. In connection with the electoral preparations, UPI in Laos reported that U.S. political commentators were very much satisfied with and surprised at the election campaign's being well organized. The same commentators were "deeply moved" and "happy" while observing the events in Laos. Yet, at the same time, world opinion was indignant at learning in Laohak Xat, published in Laos, that new terrorist raids in lower Laos seem to forecast another campaign of repression aimed at intimidating, terrorizing-- even killing-- those who dare support the Neolao Hakxat Party. Realizing that the Laotian people's sympathy goes to the patriotic Neolao Hakxat Party, the ringleaders of the so-called Committee for the Defense of National Interests -- now members of the Laotian government-- are not satisfied with persecuting the people, have made efforts to establish new electoral law in Laos, which provides for the control of the cultural level of those standing for elections. This constitutes a great obstacle which prevents the members of the Neolao Hakxat Party born in the masses from presenting their candidature.

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HANOI VNA IN ENGLISH MORSE TO EUROPE & ASIA, Apr. 9

HANOI, Apr. 9-- The Neolao Hakxat Party Central...

...Committee has proposed to the Premier of the Royal Laotian government the suspension of all military activities by both Laotian sides to enable the Apr. 24 parliamentary elections to take place under normal conditions. It urged that the Royal Government stop its raiding operations against the peaceful population. All armed forces under the party's leadership would then suspend their antiraid activities, it declared. The proposal was made in a letter from Kaysone Phomvihane, Vice Chairman of the Party's Central Committee, to Premier Kou Abhay. Dated Mar. 24, the letter was published in the party's organ, *Lachak Xat*, on Apr. 2.

The letter says that a normal situation is the "most necessary condition" to enable the application of the principles of equality, freedom, and democracy in the coming general elections, as provided for in the constitution and promised by the Royal Government. However, the letter notes, the situation now is in fact far from normal. The U.S. imperialists have increased their penetration into Laos in all fields. The civil war has lasted for 10 months and is being expanded. As a result of the terrorist raids launched by government troops, tens of thousands of people have either been driven to concentration centers or have had to flee from their native villages. People in many places have so far been unable to list themselves as electors. Royal authorities in many localities have even planned to replace the universal suffrage by the system of voting by the "Pho-Ban" and "Tasseng" village and commune officials. "If the general elections are to be held in such a way it would be a mere fraud," the letter points out. It recalls that in spite of hindrances the Neolao Hakxat Party has determinedly and actively taken part in the elections and has presented its candidates.

"Therefore, to enable the general elections to take place in normal conditions and to guarantee the people's right to free elections the Neolao Hakxat Party proposes that the Royal Government:

1--Order the cessation of all raiding operations, big and small, and the withdrawal of its troops into their posts so that the people can go to the polls safely;

2--Take such measures as to insure that people driven to concentration centers or dispersed following terrorist raids may return to their native villages and be provided with sufficient voter's cards, so that the elections may be held universally. "For the part of the Neolao Hakxat Party, the Pathet Lao Battalions One and Two and all other people's armed forces would suspend their present antiraid activities. "To this end, first of all, the Royal Laotian government must restore freedom to Prince Souphanouvong, other M.P.'s and cadres of the Neolao Hakxat Party still unlawfully detained, and negotiations must be held without delay between the two sides.

"We consider this as the only way to settle the present situation of the country. The 10 months of civil war have bitterly proved that the use of armed force ....

...cannot be a satisfactory means of settling the present dispute between the two sides.

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HANOI VNA IN ENGLISH MORSE TO EUROPE AND ASIA, Apr. 10

HANOI, Apr. 10-- The recent proposals of the Neolao Hakxat Party that all military activities by both sides in Laos be suspended to enable the Apr. 24 parliamentary elections to take place in normal conditions and that negotiations be held, are described by Hanoi dailies today as "goodwill proposals."

Nhan Dan, Thu Do Hanoi and Thoi Moi, alike, unanimously agree that these proposals fully conform to both sense and sentiment, to the Laotian people's legitimate aspirations and the practical situation in Laos. They condemned the Royal Laotian Government for launching terrorist raids against the peaceful population, causing tens of thousands of people to be driven to concentration centers or to flee their native villages.

Thu Do Hanoi commented that "in the present era, peaceful negotiations have become a most effective measure to solve all conflicts. There is therefore no reason why the present dispute in Laos cannot be settled in such a way."

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VIENTIANE - LAOS

22 April 1960

PERSONAL AND CONFIDENTIAL

Dear Mr. Hammarskjold,

1. With the elections to take place Sunday 24 April, there is no consensus on the outcome. It seems futile to speculate at this juncture; too much depends upon such unknowns as the effectiveness of the carefully drawn electoral law, the extent of pressures employed to date in behalf of the RPL/CDIN candidates and the pressures and tactics which may occur on election day itself. (Mr. Bong Souvannavong expatiated at length this week to Gaillard on the "trucages" which might be employed on election day).

It may, however, interest you to know that a very confident General Phoumi told Ambassador Smith on 20 April that he estimated as likely winners 7 of the 20-odd opposition candidates (4 Santiphab, 3 NLHX).

2. We spent the Lao New Year period, 14-16 April, at Luang-Prabang under the guidance of Khamphan Panya.

3. Throughout our 90 minute interview on 14 April His Majesty maintained a rather Olympian detachment. Dealing with general problems he appeared consciously to avoid comment on concrete political questions or problems connected with the elections.

Regarding the National Assembly he indicated that he thought popular discontent with that body was justified and that he shared the sentiment. It did not reflect the popular will. He seemed convinced that the candidates up for election provided a better choice, and that the results would produce unpleasant surprises for some well-known political figures. Although he said that one already knew what candidates would be elected, he added that that did not mean that one would also know the distribution of seats among the several parties. The actual political stand of some candidates would be revealed only after the elections.

Mr. Dag Hammarskjold  
Secretary-General  
United Nations Headquarters  
New York

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4. The King strongly emphasized that the outcome of the elections would reflect the will of the people because even pressures brought to bear would not prevent voters from freely exercising their right to vote. He said that he expected about 50% of the electorate to cast ballots. Some might abstain, he explained, because the journey to and from the polling stations was so long, in certain instances four days travel. And quite a number might abstain because they were dissatisfied with the Government. The King thought the new Assembly would be more critical of the Government than the former one.

5. His comments on the ineffectiveness of the old Government were very disparaging. He gave vent to his distaste for the mushroom city of Vientiane, its way of life which divorced it from the country as a whole, and even more so to the rapidly acquired riches in that city. His only specific illustration was the Department of Agriculture which sent representatives to many conferences abroad and collected reports but did nothing effective for Lao agriculture.

6. Yesterday Ambassador Smith raised the question of whether the UN Mission had considered sending observers on election day to hotly contested districts where pro-Government were confronting SPK or NLHX candidates. He said that both he and the UK Ambassador thought their presence might have a calming effect as well as offer an opportunity for evaluating the elections. Another factor behind the question appeared to be some fear that the opposition might pull out of the elections at the last minute, because of various threats and pressures, and leave those who sought at least a modest opposition representation in the new Assembly in a very bad position indeed. He added that the proposal had been put to General Phoumi the previous day and the General showed full willingness to cooperate.

At the close of the subsequent discussion during which I expressed a negative reaction, Ambassador Smith indicated full agreement with my position. My ideas were, broadly, the following: (1) I assumed that procedures at selected observation points would prove unexceptionable. The UN would have to so state and any statement would be taken as endorsement of the election procedures. That would be interpreted as indicating lack of objectivity and impartiality. Such a risk could not be taken. (2) According to my conception of neutrality, one could send observers only if asked to do so by both sides. (3) Previous experience in observing elections proved that mere UN presence at polling stations would not produce any effective control of the elections.

7. This week the Indian Ambassador made available translations of two telegrams sent by the Minister of the Interior to the Chaokhouengs of Vientiane and Champassak provinces. (Enclosure No. 1). Similar ones, he had been informed, had been sent to other provinces. The telegrams indicated not only what candidates are to be given Government financial, material and moral support but threaten sanctions against any civil and military officers refusing to give the "strong and necessary support so that our candidates come out victorious". The forms of pressure are of course not mentioned.

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Upon inquiry the US Embassy said that the French text of the one similar telegram in its possession was stronger than the above translation, its last two sentences reading: "In case some civil or military officers show their intention to refuse support, you are ordered to direct the provincial committee to renew our instructions and bring indisciplined elements back to order. If not, those responsible for not obeying orders will have the most severe sanctions taken against them."

8. In ~~contrast~~ contrast to above instructions, the Second Secretary of the US Embassy reported to Gaillard that on 15 and 16 April Nhouy Abhay and the King had during the Luang Prabang New Year festivities stressed to assembled chaokhouengs and chaomuongs the need to ensure strictly impartial election day procedures.

The same source also informed of an 18 April message drafted by Nhouy and signed by Kou Abhay which has been sent to all provinces except Attopeu, Phongsaly and Champassak. Directed to the chaokhouengs for relay to all services and to their regional military and police commanders, the message stated that where there was no SPK or NLHX competition, there must be no discrimination between candidates, no support of one non-Communist candidate against another. The message stated that the order cancelled and superseded any instructions previously issued by any member of the Government personally or in the name of the Government or any other personality.

Queried whether the order was to be taken at face value as evidence of sincerity on the part of the caretaker government, partly as the result of tactful suggestions from diplomats fearful of the results of overzealous pressures, or as simply a cover-up and self-protection against possible future charges of completely rigged elections, no guess was hazarded.

9. An interesting supplement to my last week's remarks on Prince Souvanna Phouma appeared in an 18 April UPI story datelined Saigon (Enclosure No. 2). The remarks attributed to the Prince are taken from an article published in his local Vientiane newspaper "Lao Yai".

10. There has been much speculation over the possibility of a Souvanna Phouma-Phoui cabinet, even though both are regarded as rather distasteful to the King. As indicated in Paragraph 17 of my letter of 8 April, the United Kingdom favours such a combination. We have learned this week that the United States, though not without reservations regarding the Prince, also favours such a combination. Whether Phoumi strength will at the polls prove sufficient to compel CDIN inclusion is an important unknown.

11. As a sidelight on the Prince's statement, it may be worthwhile to quote from an editorial in the latest issue (15 April) of the RPL L'Indépendant:

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"... une ligne de démarcation très nette est tracée entre les conservateurs et les partis d'extrême gauche sur la question Pathet Lao. Le Santiphab et le Néo Lao Kaksat, ont, à ce sujet, un programme commun: libération du Prince SOUPHANNOUVONG et des autres inculpés de haute trahison, amnistie générale, politique neutraliste qui apaiserait, pensent-ils, tout le monde et ferait, au surplus, couler dans notre pays un fabuleux pactole. On ne voit pas quel homme politique pourrait réunir une majorité pour un tel programme en ce moment."

12. Yesterday we received with a letter of transmittal the latest statement of the International Association of Democratic Lawyers on the Prince Souphannouvong case. (Enclosure No. 3). The statement echoes many of those broadcast recently by Radio Hanoi on behalf of the Neo Lao Hak Xat.

Sincerely yours,

*E. Zellweger*  
Edouard Zellweger

COPYTELEGRAM SENT TO CHAOKHOUENT OF CHAMPASSAK

No. 526/CO/AG dated 6.4.1960 - On the recommendation of the National Committee of Elections, the Royal Government decides to give financial, material and moral support to the following national and government candidates: NHOUY ABHAY - Constituency KHONG; SAKOUN -- constituency MOULAPAMOK-PHIAFAY; CHAO BOUN OM NA CHAMPASSAK - constituency CHAMPASSAK; INPENG SOURYADHAY - constituency PHONETHONG; BOHN LAP NHOUYVANISVONG - constituency PAKSE; SISOUK SISOMBAT - constituency PAKSONG. Convey these instructions to the provincial committee of coordination and ask all services and civil and military authorities to give strong and necessary support so that our candidates come out victorious. In case some civil and military officers show their intention to refuse support, you are free to ask the committee to renew instructions and bring indisciplined elements to book. If not, authorities would be compelled to take action.

Sd/- Tiao Somsanith

## OFFICIAL TELEGRAM

ORIGIN: MININTERIEUR

ADDRESSEE: CHAOKHOUENG VIENTIANE

No. 532/CO-AG dt. 6.4.60 - On the recommendation of the National Committee of Elections, the Royal Government decides to give financial, material and moral support to the following national and government candidates: BONG SOUVANNAVONG OR OUDOM SOUVANNAVONG - Constituency VIENTIANE KANG; KHORANHOK SOUVANNAVONG - constituency VIENTIANE NEUA PHOU SANANIKONE - constituency VIENTIANE TAY; OUT SANANIKONE - Constituency BORIKHAN; LOUAN VILLAYHONG - constituency TOURAKHOM PHONEHONG and THAO NOI OR OUAN VINAYA - constituency VANGVIENG SANAKHAM. Convey these instructions to the provincial committee of coordination and ask all services and civil and military authorities to give strong and necessary support so that our candidates come out victorious. In case some civil and military officers show their intention to refuse support, you are free to ask the committee to renew instructions and bring indisciplined elements to book. If not, authorities would be compelled to take action.

Sd/ Tiao Somsanith

Certified copy : Sd/Phagna Hom Sundara  
for Chaokhouang 8-4-60

# Final Phase Reached in Lao Election Campaign

By Arthur J. Dommen  
U.P.I. Correspondent

SAIGON, April 18 —

The electoral campaign in Laos moved into its final phase before balloting takes place April 24 amid growing indications that the two principal "national groups" may encounter difficulty in reconciling their points of view to form a government.

Campaigning in the villages and hamlets of the jungle-covered Kingdom was proceeding in a quiet, orderly fashion according to reports from the Laotian capital of Vientiane. There are some 150 candidates running for the 59-seat National Assembly.

Observers expressed the opinion that there are still many basic differences between the RPL organization of the Lao People of former Prime Minister Phoui Sananikone and Prince Souvanna Phouma and the other "national" bloc, the Committee for the Defense of the National Interest (CDNI).

These two groups are expected to poll in total a large majority, but an alliance between one of them and the left-leaning Santiphab party to control the new government is considered a possibility here. Under the present government, Laos has been following a policy of neutrality in foreign affairs.

The lack of a national front in the election to present the estimated 700,000 voters with a clear-cut choice between the conservative sentiment such a front would represent and the leftists and pro-Communists was discussed in the CDNI weekly newspaper "Lao Hak Sat." Besides the left-leaning Santiphab, the pro-Communist Neo Lao Hak Sat is also running with nine candidates scattered in various districts.

Despite the absence of any national front to present a single list of candidates and a common platform, the paper said, "the national groups have nevertheless generally made praiseworthy efforts to adopt electoral tactics which will be in their interest."

The paper went on to note that in some districts either the CDNI candidate or the RPL candidate had withdrawn under pretext of being submitted to "pressure."

The CDNI does not consider itself a political party, but its members are regarded as having the support of the Army, which brought down the government of Phoui Sananikone last December. Such CDNI leaders as Brig. Gen. Phoumi Nosavan, the present Defense Minister, are known to stand for a firm anti-Communist policy and strong measures to eliminate the rebel Pathet Lao Guerrillas who took to the jungle last summer.

Prince Souvanna Phouma, former Laotian Ambassador to Paris, is believed here to have added to his chances to play a key role in the formation of the next government by issuing a statement explaining his stand on the Pathet Lao issue.

In an article in his newspaper "Lao Yai," the Prince stated that "any negotiations with the rebels at this point would have no value." He also denied that he would favor release without proper trial of their leader, Prince Souva-

nouvong, who has been imprisoned since last summer on charges of sedition.

The statement was regarded as significant because it was Prince Souvanna Phouma who negotiated the integration of the Pathet Lao battalions into the Royal Army when he was Prime Minister in 1957. The negotiations were carried on with Prince Souvanouvong his half brother.

"In order to bring peace to Laos, it is necessary to let the rebels know that the government will grant them every guarantee of their safe-being on condition that they put down their arms," the Prince said in his statement.

"If the rebels are 100 percent Lao, I am sure they will not hesitate to obey. This may not be true, however, in the case of those rebels whose true allegiance is to countries other than Laos."

This was a reference to Laos' charges during the crisis of past summer that the Kingdom's territory was being subjected to aggression from neighboring North Vietnam.

ASSOCIATION INTERNATIONALE DES JURISTES DEMOCRATES  
INTERNATIONAL ASSOCIATION OF DEMOCRATIC LAWYERS

Secrétariat: 234 rue du Trône, Bruxelles 5.- Téléphone: 48.99.75  
Adresse télégraphique: Interjurist Bruxelles

Le Secrétariat de l'Association Internationale des Juristes Démocrates, réuni les 1er et 2 avril 1960, a examiné les problèmes juridiques posés par la situation au Laos.

Il a constaté que cette situation, qui constitue une menace pour la paix, est particulièrement regrettable dans une période où les relations internationales s'orientent dans un sens favorable à la détente.

Il estime que la violation des principes juridiques des accords de Genève de 1954 sont à la base de cette situation.

L'une des principales dispositions de ces accords stipule que tous les citoyens laotiens jouiront, sans discrimination, de tous les droits civils et politiques.

Cependant les dirigeants du Front national, et parmi eux le prince Souphanouvong, sont actuellement détenus dans des conditions manifestement contraires aux droits les plus élémentaires de la défense (détention préventive maintenue malgré l'abandon virtuel des poursuites, interdiction de communiquer avec les défenseurs, etc.).

D'autre part, la loi électorale adoptée avec l'accord de tous les partis politiques a été, contrairement à la Constitution du Laos et aux stipulations des accords de Genève, abrogée et remplacée par un décret gouvernemental de caractère anti-démocratique.

Dans ce pays excessivement pauvre, la caution électorale a été doublée et l'on exige, en outre, pour les candidats aux élections, un certificat d'études que beaucoup ne peuvent posséder.

Enfin il résulte d'informations dignes de foi qu'une puissance étrangère continue à établir des bases militaires aériennes (Wattey - Vientiane, Ken Thao, Hong Xa, Xieng Long, Muang-Khong, etc) que ses généraux viennent visiter (visite du général White du 15 février 1960).

L'association Internationale des Juristes Démocrates en appelle aux gouvernements signataires des accords de Genève et de Vientiane afin que ces accords soient respectés, non seulement dans leur lettre mais dans leur esprit, et à cette fin

- 1) pour que soit rétablie la Commission internationale de contrôle et de surveillance au Laos
- 2) pour que les représentations nécessaires soient faites au gouvernement du Laos.

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19 April 1960

CONFIDENTIAL

My dear Dr. Zellweger,

I have read with great interest your letters of 8 and 14 April. They have given me a good and most welcome picture of the political situation in Laos as it is developing in the pre-election period. I was also pleased to note the valuable contacts you and Gaillard have been able to make at different levels. Everything confirms that the decision that the United Nations should have its own mission in Laos was the right one.

You will understand that it would be premature to answer the question raised in paragraph 19 of your letter of 8 April: everything depends on the outcome of the elections. Once this is known and were a situation to arise as you foresee, you will of course be in a better position to ask for telegraphic instructions 'en connaissance de cause'.

Meanwhile, you should, however, know that I have talked to the United States, pointing out to them that I believe that Phoui Sananikone and Prince Souphanna Phouma would be a helpful constellation and that it is to be hoped that the Army people will get to understand that they would not be able to count on support were they to try to upset it.

Sincerely yours,

Dag Hammarskjold  
Secretary-General

Dr. Edouard Zellweger,  
United Nations Mission in Laos,  
Vientiane.



VIENTIANE - LAOS

29 April 1960

PERSONAL AND CONFIDENTIAL

*Handwritten: 3.V.60*

Dear Mr. Hammarskjold,

1. The personal tragedy of the Chabert family reached its Lao conclusion yesterday with the departure by air for France of Mme Chabert and her two young children and the planned shipment of the coffin tomorrow. Mme Chabert had recovered considerably from her initially distraught condition, helped by her Lao and foreign friends to the maximum extent possible. There have been memorial services in the Catholic Church and a Buddhist pagoda as well as a heart-warming private "baci" ceremony in the home of Oudong Souvannavong.

2. The official report of the RLG investigation is not yet available nor has the Government indicated its probable contents. Additional minor details which have come to our attention this week do not alter the substance of my telegram or the longer report forwarded next day by Mr. L. Ravet, Chief of the UNESCO Mission, to Paris (Enclosure No. 1). I also attach for your information the Foreign Ministry's letter of condolence (Enclosure No. 2).

3. In view of the security implications for Americans here, the US Embassy has been thoroughly investigating. The US Military Attaché yesterday told Gaillard that unofficially he had concluded that our version, communicated to the Americans, was substantially correct. Travel restrictions of varying severity have been in effect for American personnel for a long time, but Americans who are stationed in almost all provinces have not been withdrawn. The Military Attaché confirmed our previous report that a leaflet - but only one copy thereof - had been picked up about a month ago in one province urging the killing of Americans. A few French travellers have been stopped by Pathet Lao but upon identification have been allowed to proceed.

4. The Chabert murder is the first case of an apparently intended killing of an American for political motives. Whether it was the spur-of-the-moment action of an ardent Pathet Lao or a foretaste of anti-American deeds to complement the anti-American words of Radio Hanoi, one cannot now know. No references to the killing have yet been noted in Communist broadcasts.

Mr. Dag Hammarskjold  
Secretary General  
United Nations Headquarters  
New York

.../2



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5. Only time will tell. In this connexion we must also consider what policies the Pathet Lao may adopt in view of the election results discussed below and the composition of the new Cabinet. At the moment therefore it seems premature to estimate what effect the security situation may have upon the Special Programme, in particular the rural teams.

6. Meanwhile, we have taken minor security precautions. The MFA has approved all experts in the field placing UN license plates on their vehicles. The Pathet Lao leader indicated the mistaken identification of Chabert was the result of his car's carrying IT (Importation Temporaire) plates generally associated with Americans. UN flags will also be added. The MFA has requested and we have agreed to give advance notice of any such field trips to allow warning of unsafe security conditions. The first such notice yesterday produced a MFA request that a topographic expert postpone till after the 8 May run-off elections a trip to Xieng Khouang province.

7. The latest official election returns announce 46 Assemblymen elected, 4 districts requiring a second round (on 8 May), and 9 contests still undecided, two of which already seem certain to return RPL victors. The victorious 46, as labelled in the returns, include 16 RPL, 19 National Front, 3 Democratic Party (Phoumi's Voravong family party in Savannakhet province), 4 non-inscribed and 4 unlabelled, including the independent Nhouy Abhay. The affiliations of these politicians are not certain. What is sure is that no anti-Government figure has been elected.

8. The returns were an unhappy surprise to the French, UK and US Embassies. Knowledge of potential pressures and the firmness of Phoumi's attitude had not convinced us that our worst forebodings would be realized. The unexpected proportion of CDIN (Front National) victors compared to the RPL is regarded as "awful" by a knowledgeable American Secretary, and unhappiness is compounded by the elimination of all opposition. In a few brief words I had yesterday with Prince Souvanna Phouma he remarked that it was "très gênant" not to have any opposition.

9. Analysis of the returns would be wasted effort. Some of the contests had such patently ridiculous totals as to make almost all the figures suspect. By way of example, I would cite the annihilation of the Santiphab Pankeng (Peace-Neutrality) party in the Champassak stronghold of Quinim Pholsena. A victor there in 1958, Quinim this time officially received 721 votes to the 17,175 of Sisouk Sisombat, the free-spending agent for Mercedes Benz and numerous large concerns. Only recently Sisouk had been reported running scared. Njouy Abhay racked up 20,571 to 120 for his SPK opponent, the former bonze Maha Kou Souvannamethy. Just before the elections, observers in the area estimated the latter popular figure would win 80% of the vote. Even more ridiculous were the results in the district where the CDIN Impeng Suryadhay counted 18189 votes to 59 for his SPK and 10 for his NLHX opponent. Minister of Information Noupbat Chanramany was smashed by a CDIN-supported N.I. in his home province of Khammouane by 8651 votes to 2176.

.../3



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10. Admittedly these returns are among the most extreme - except for the 15 uncontested districts where pressures in some cases at least had discouraged competition. Such rural results may usefully be contrasted with Vientiane Province, where all the foreign journalists were gathered, and where 3 run-off contests will be necessary as a result of closer contests and more candidates. The two SPK candidates in Vientiane received 924 and 1627 votes respectively and the one NLHX ran second to a CDIN victor with 2231 votes. Details are enclosed in Gaillard's letter to Engers.

For your edification I attach the only two official comments on the Elections which have yet appeared - the press conference comments of a Khamphan Panya wearing rose-coloured spectacles and the bitter charges of how the election was rigged in Vientiane by the badly defeated Bong Souvannavong of the anti-Government but non-Communist "Union Nationale Lao".  
... (Enclosures Nos. 3 and 4).

11. Quinim Pholsena talking at length to de Beauvais and journalists of trucages employed has made no bones about ways the Army rigged the results. Aside from partisan implementation of the electoral law and more intangible pressures and threats against candidates and populace, he has circulated photographs, seen by Gaillard, showing armed soldier guards seated right next to and peering steadily into the baskets into which voters had to deposit, unfolded, ballots of the candidates not voted for and isoiloirs with 3 or 4 persons crowded together talking. He also alleged voters were handed the carnets of ballots with all but one ballot removed, etc.

12. An American Catholic priest with experience of the 1958 elections, to whom Gaillard talked this week, convinced him of the real ignorance of the average Lao countrymen of what elections were all about - a far cry from the relative political literacy of Koreans. Lao apathy and lack of knowledgeable students should at least inhibit any such election consequences as those in Korea.

13. A general conclusion here among those few to whom we have talked of the results is that the Army did exercise overwhelming pressures available to it and was assisted by cooperative, acquiescent or threatened civil officials. My letters of 8 and 14 April noted fears of Army action, while mine of 22 April, in paragraphs 7 and 8, reported official Government pressures. Whether Government leaders who stated to diplomatic circles their belief in the desirability of at least a minimum opposition in the new Assembly were sincere seems rather doubtful in view of the Government intentions revealed in the 22 April paragraphs cited. Only reluctantly, after the 9 March deadline, had the RPL/CDIN front agreed to accept limited opposition candidates. Subsequently perhaps personal interest overcame their sense of what might be politically prudent.

.../4



- 4 -

14. Kemp and de Beauvais of the UK and French Embassies told Gaillard that they now believe that General Phoumi and Tiao Somsanith have been acting in collusion throughout this electoral period with the encouragement of the King who did not consider the last Assembly sufficiently anti-Communist. As partial evidence, they cite Phoumi-inspired articles in this week's Vientiane World (Enclosure No. 5) boosting Somsanith for Premier, Phoumi to be the power behind the scene. Such a Cabinet under Army domination, with Phoui excluded for personal and other reasons, could lead, according to them, to disintegration of the RPL combination.

15. With the returns not yet digested and with no indication of how Radio Hanoi or the Pathet Lao will react, there are no concrete signs of what to expect. One can hardly avoid the conclusion, however, that the rigged results will spur the Pathet Lao to increase their already widespread activities and tend to win them greater popular support. Last year's experience suggests that the advent of the rainy season would be no bar to rather early action.

16. A propos of the new Government, de Beauvais and Kemp also told Gaillard that the UK, France and the US were thinking of another such joint effort as in January to advise against military participation in the Government. I have not been approached in this connexion since the occasion mentioned in paragraph 19 of my 8 April letter and referred to in your last week's letter. I was glad to learn your thoughts about a Phoui-Souvanna Phouma combination.

17. Regarding the question of whether the American-French mixed training teams will be continued after September 1960, last referred to in my letter of 8 April, paragraphs 10-13, de Beauvais told Gaillard this week that no decision had yet been taken.

Sincerely yours,

*E. Zellweger*  
Edouard Zellweger

Vientiane, 22 avril 1960.

RAPPORT SUR LE DECES DE MONSIEUR PAUL CHABERT,  
EXPERT DE L'ASSISTANCE TECHNIQUE DE L'UNESCO au LAOS.

-:-:-:-:-

Le 20 avril 1960 à 17<sup>h</sup>.30, après la fermeture des bureaux (17 h.) Monsieur Chabert, quittant la capitale, est allé rejoindre sa famille en montagne à Phou Khao Khouai (Ritaville), à quelque 80 KM. de Vientiane. Il y arrivait à 19h.30 environ.

Phou Khao Khouai est la petite station d'altitude de Vientiane, il y fait frais et calme et le gouvernement y possède un bungalow dirigé par Madame Kamerer. En cette saison péniblement chaude et moite à Vientiane, beaucoup de citadins, Lao et étrangers, y avaient passé le long congé du Nouvel An Lao ( du 13 au 17 avril) et notamment les Chabert. Monsieur Chabert était redescendu à Vientiane le lundi 18 avril pour son travail et comptait y redescendre à nouveau avec sa famille le matin du 21 avril. La rentrée scolaire est en effet fixée le lundi 25 avril.

Ce soir du 20 avril les Chabert étaient les seuls clients du bungalow, ils couchaient à quatre, au premier étage dans la chambre qui fait suite à celle de la propriétaire. Il y avait cependant d'autres vacanciers français dans une maison proche, un infirmier Lao et sa femme dans le dispensaire voisin, des colons, dont un au moins français, dans une ferme peu distante et toute une population villageoise et montagnarde, en grande partie d'origine meo dans les environs.

Vers deux heures du matin, le 21 avril, Madame Kamerer entendit du bruit, sa porte fut enfoncée et des hommes faisaient irruption dans sa chambre, elle les distinguait mal car l'électricité était coupée et des lampes électriques étaient braquées sur elle, ils lui attachèrent brutalement les mains derrière le dos. Toute étourdie, elle entendit pourtant du bruit dehors et "deux ou trois coups de feu". Madame Chabert la rejoignait bientôt, elle aussi avait les mains liées derrière le dos. Les deux femmes étaient pieds nus et vêtues comme dans leur sommeil.

Les Chabert qui avaient été réveillés par le bruit, semblent être sortis dans le couloir, croyant à un cambriolage, puis être rentrés dans leur chambre. Leur porte fut, elle aussi défoncée et Madame Chabert très vite emmenée. Les agresseurs auraient dit quelques mots en lao et Monsieur Chabert aurait essayé d'expliquer qu'il était "falang" c'est-à-dire "français"; tout s'est passé très vite. Madame Chabert, quand elle fut emmenée, avait l'impression que son mari était blessé mais vivant.

Les deux femmes sont convaincues que nul parmi les agresseurs n'avait su ou du moins parlé français au cours de l'agression, elles furent emmenées de force avec l'infirmier lao du dispensaire voisin et son épouse. On les fit marcher longtemps (près d'une heure croient-elles), en les faisant se hâter, un canon d'arme à feu entraînait fréquemment en contact avec leur dos. Elles essayèrent de parler : " pourquoi ? les enfants, Monsieur Chabert blessé, Unesco ... ". Rien n'y fit, on les fit taire, on les menaça, on les bouscula.

Après avoir escaladé deux collines on fit halte et, là, un homme qui paraissait être le chef, et que les prisonnières n'avaient pas remarqué jusque là leur adressa la parole en demandant à l'infirmier de traduire ses paroles en français. Le discours, passionné, dura longtemps ( 1/4 d'heure croit-on).

Madame Kamerer entend un peu de Lao, l'infirmier parle un peu de français. Voici en bref ce que les prisonnières comprirent :

" Nous sommes des Pathet Lao. Nous ne voulons pas d'Américains dans notre pays. Nous n'en voulons ni aux Lao ni aux Français mais bien aux Américains. Nous sommes contre le gouvernement actuel et trouvons normal de prendre son bien." Le chef parut reconnaître Madame Kamerer qui a longtemps habité Paksong, station d'altitude de Paksé dans le sud du Laos, il le lui dit, ajoutant qu'il la savait française, il s'aperçut que Madame Chabert aussi était française. Par contre il soutint qu'il croyait que Monsieur Chabert était américain et ajouta que s'il était français, il aurait dû le dire car on le lui avait demandé. Détrompé il sembla exprimer quelque regret puis dit à ses prisonnières que, puisqu'elles étaient françaises, elles pouvaient s'en aller librement. L'infirmier et son épouse furent également libérés.

A ce moment la lune se levait. Eclairées par les lampes électriques dirigées vers eux, les prisonnières n'avaient guère pu distinguer l'apparence de leurs agresseurs dans une nuit fort noire. Ils leur parurent pourtant être organisés, disciplinés, tous Lao, et vêtus de façon uniforme.

Vers 3 h. 1/2 ou 4 heures du matin les deux femmes regagnaient le bungalow. Dans la chambre des Chabert les deux enfants, affolés, étaient

blottis dans un coin, au fond de la chambre. Etendu sur le dos entre le petit lit qui se trouvait près de la porte défoncée et le lit double du milieu de la pièce, Monsieur Chabert gisait dans une mare de sang. Il était froid déjà. Madame Kamerer le recouvrit d'un drap.

Le désordre était indescriptible. La maison avait été pillée, les couverts, une grande partie des aliments et boissons, les draps, les couvertures et moustiquaires emportés sauf ceux d'une chambre du fond. Les armoires étaient éventrées, les malles de la propriétaire défoncées et vidées, la vaisselle, les tableaux, les vases avaient été réduits en miettes. La chambre des Chabert semblait avoir été épargnée, seule avait disparu la serviette où Monsieur Chabert conservait ses papiers : (chéquiers, passeports, laissez-passer des Nations Unies, etc...).

Au dispensaire les médicaments avaient été emportés.

Le matin du 21 avril, un Français descendit à Vientiane, dans leur voiture, Madame Chabert et ses enfants. Elle arriva au Ministère de l'Education Nationale peu avant dix heures. J'appris les tristes nouvelles vers 10h. 3/4.

Peu avant midi il y eut une réunion aux Affaires Etrangères. J'y retrouvai Messieurs Zellweger et Gaillard des Nations Unies avec des fonctionnaires laotiens de ce ministère et de l'Education Nationale. Il fut décidé d'envoyer une commission d'enquête à Phou Khao Khouai vers 13 heures, par la route et en hélicoptère; elle devait comprendre des représentants lao de la santé, de l'éducation, de la police, de la justice ainsi qu'une escorte. On ne fit évidemment aucune objection à ce que j'accompagne cette commission. Nous demandâmes de plus que le corps puisse être descendu le plus rapidement possible.

Je pus vous faire envoyer un télégramme vers 12h.1/4. Des collègues s'occupaient de Madame Chabert et de ses enfants.

Le convoi routier partit vers 13 heures et demies, l'hélicoptère à 14h.40, j'y accompagnais un capitaine de police, un officier de santé, le pilote. Nous nous posions à Phou Khao Khouai vers 15h.10. Il fallut alors attendre que l'hélicoptère fasse une seconde rotation nous amenant vers 16h.30 le procureur et d'autres inspecteurs de police. Entre temps l'infirmier avait fait une injection intraveineuse de formol au cadavre. Le convoi routier et la sécurité arrivaient vers 17 heures. L'enquête des témoins et des villageois, les mensurations, dessins, photographies, etc... durèrent jusqu'à 18 heures. On réussit alors à descendre le corps en hélicoptère, je l'accompagnai avec l'officier de santé.

L'enquête révéla deux blessures au ventre et deux blessures à la tête, une partie du cerveau était sortie de la boîte crânienne éclatée au-dessus du rocher droit. Le sang avait coulé abondamment à travers le plancher sous la maison. L'officier de santé pensait que les trois blessures principales avaient été causées par des balles. On avait trouvé

dehors, près de l'entrée de la chambre des Chabert, une balle de parabellum de 9 mm, il y avait également une trace de balle au plafond de la chambre des Chabert.

Les interrogatoires indiquèrent que la maison avait été entourée par 60 à 100 hommes, que 20 d'entre eux y avaient pénétré en force, qu'ils étaient armés et avaient apporté avec eux de fortes branches de bambou pour convoyer leur butin. Les montagnards auraient été terrorisés ou de connivence, l'agression préméditée.

Tous les habitants répétèrent que l'assassinat de Monsieur Chabert était une erreur, qu'on l'avait pris pour un Américain, qu'on ne voulait pas tuer un Français (on ne connaît ni l'UNESCO, ni les Nations Unies). La police paraît avoir découvert, au cours de l'enquête pour la première fois, qu'il y aurait dans la région un maquis de "dissidents" atteignant jusqu'à cinq cents hommes, en grande partie originaires de cette même région et plus ou moins de connivence avec les villageois.

A l'arrivée à Vientiane vers 18h.30, une ambulance emportait le corps à l'hôpital où une autopsie était pratiquée concluant à deux coups de poignard dans le ventre et deux coups violents sur la tête, l'un vraisemblablement infligé par un instrument contondant, l'autre avec force par un instrument plus pénétrant. Ces deux derniers coups ont dû causer la mort presque immédiate de Monsieur Chabert.

Une mise en bière provisoire avait lieu immédiatement après l'autopsie et à 21 heures le cercueil, recouvert du drapeau des Nations Unies, était disposé à la cathédrale de Vientiane conformément au vœu exprimé par Madame Chabert.

La mise en bière définitive, dans un cercueil conforme aux prescriptions de transit internationales a eu lieu le lendemain. Une messe pour le repos de l'âme de Monsieur Chabert sera dite le samedi 23 avril à 9 heures, ses nombreux amis ont organisé une veillée cette nuit.

Très attaché à son travail et à sa famille, calme, compétent, modeste, sérieux, travailleur et toujours de bonne humeur et généreux, Monsieur Chabert était apprécié et respecté par tous. Comptant beaucoup d'amis, il n'avait pas d'ennemi. Il venait de terminer, la veille même je crois, pour l'Education Nationale les programmes révisés des six années d'enseignement primaire, ce travail était accompagné d'indications méthodologiques, pédagogiques et didactiques fort détaillées.

Les autorités lao sont fort affectées par l'évènement et se donnent du mal pour nous aider. L'Ambassadeur de France, les autorités françaises et nos collègues des Nations Unies nous apportent toute leur précieuse et dévouée assistance. Tous ici témoignent à Madame Chabert et à la mission leur douleur et leur sympathie.

Nous attendons les comptes-rendus des informations ouvertes, les constatations des autorités locales et le procès-verbal d'autopsie et ne pouvons donc conclure que provisoirement, on note pourtant certains faits :

- 1.- Insistance des agresseurs à dire qu'ils sont Pathet Lao et anti-américains. Ne tiennent-ils pas à ce que cela soit répété ?
- 2.- Version générale des agresseurs et des habitants : c'est un malentendu. Pourquoi cette unanimité ?
- 3.- Phou Khao Khouai n'avait jamais jusque là été considéré comme présentant le moindre danger.
  - a)- Le Secrétaire Général des Nations Unies s'y rendait à la fin de l'an passé avec le Premier Ministre.
  - b)- Des Américains y logeaient il y a quinze jours à peine.
  - c)- Au moment où on venait lui annoncer l'assassinat de Monsieur Chabert, Monsieur Zellweger venait de conseiller à notre nouveau collègue des Nations Unies, Monsieur Morel, français comme Monsieur Chabert, d'y conduire sa femme et ses enfants déprimés par Vientiane, sa chaleur et son inconfort.
- 4.- Notre collègue Chabert n'a pas commis d'imprudence, il a été victime d'un accident aussi horrible que surprenant, alors qu'il accomplissait sa mission avec compétence et dévouement dans un pays bien insalubre.

L.M. RAVIET  
Chef de Mission.

Royaume du Laos  
MINISTERE  
des  
AFFAIRES ETRANGERES

No. 309/AE.PROT

Vientiane, le 22 avril 1960

LE MINISTRE

Excellence,

C'est avec une vive émotion que nous avons appris la mort de Mr. Chabert, Expert de l'UNESCO auprès du Gouvernement Royal du Laos, survenue dans la nuit du 20 au 21 Avril 1960. Les éminentes qualités de ce fonctionnaire international, sa compétence et son urbanité lui avaient attiré la sympathie générale. Je tiens à vous dire combien les circonstances tragiques qui ont entouré sa mort, ont causé non seulement dans les sphères gouvernementales, mais dans l'ensemble de la population un vif et légitime émoi.

Je vous serais reconnaissant de bien vouloir être également mon interprète auprès de l'UNESCO et des membres de la famille du défunt, en particulier de Madame Chabert pour leur exprimer les plus vives condoléances du Gouvernement Royal, et leur donner l'assurance qu'aucun effort ne sera négligé pour établir les circonstances de cette mort.

Veillez agréer, Excellence, avec encore une fois l'expression de tous mes regrets, l'assurance de ma haute considération.

Khamphan PANYA

Son Excellence Mr. Edouard ZELLWEGER,  
Consultant Spécial du Secrétaire Général  
pour la Coordination des Activités des Nations  
Unies au Laos

à Vientiane

NOUVELLES DU LAOS (suite)

CONFERENCE DE PRESSE DE S.E. KHAMPHAN PANYA.

Ce n'est seulement qu'aujourd'hui que je puis vous donner des indications sur les résultats du premier tour de scrutin pour l'élection de la prochaine Assemblée, a déclaré S.E. Khamphan PANYA, Ministre des Affaires Etrangères, aux quelques 30 journalistes et correspondants qui assistaient hier après-midi à sa conférence de presse.

A midi aujourd'hui, a poursuivi le Ministre, 46 candidats avaient été élu définitivement. Il reste à attendre les résultats de 9 circonscriptions. Jusqu'à présent 4 centres sont en ballottage.

Tous les élus, a déclaré S.E. Khamphan PANYA, appartiennent à des partis gouvernementaux tels que R.P.L., Front National, Parti démocratique. Aucun des candidats de l'opposition n'a pu recueillir le nombre de voix suffisant pour se voir attribuer un siège.

Tous les rapports qui nous parviennent, a encore déclaré le Ministre, disent que partout les opérations se sont déroulés dans le calme malgré quelques essais des Pathet Lao de saboter le scrutin dans certains bureaux. Ces essais ont été vains car partout les forces de l'ordre se trouvaient présentés pour maintenir la liberté et la sécurité du vote.

A un journaliste qui lui demandait les raisons de la grande différence des suffrages obtenus par les candidats gouvernementaux par rapport à ceux de l'opposition le Ministre répondait :

Certaines provinces ont énormément souffert des dernières actions des bandes armées. Or, dans ces mêmes provinces, les candidats du N.L.H. avaient axé leur propagande sur le thème suivant : si nous sommes élus, les bandes armées quitteront votre pays. Que voulez vous que pensent les populations ? interroge le Ministre. Elles ont pensé que les candidats en question étaient les chefs des dites bandes puisque, d'après leurs propres déclarations il leur était possible de leur donner l'ordre d'évacuer. Se souvenant des exactions commises et étant protégées par les forces de l'ordre ces populations se sont refusées à apporter leurs suffrages à ces candidats.

Un autre journaliste ayant fait remarquer que M. QUINIM, candidat de l'opposition mais non du N.L.H. avait également recueilli très peu de voix, S.E. Khamphan PANYA déclare :

Je ne vous donne pas là mon opinion personnel mais celle de la population. Le Santiphab, parti auquel appartient M. Quinim est un parti très respectable mais qui, malheureusement, a souvent appuyé le N.L.H. La population a cru à une complicité et en a tiré les conséquences.

Avant de terminer, le Ministre des Affaires Etrangères a tenu à donner la preuve aux journalistes présents des menaces qui avaient été faites par les N.L.H. concernant ces élections et il a cité une lettre de M. Kayson, Vice-Président du parti qui réside actuellement à Hanoï. Cette lettre qui était adressée au Chef du Gouvernement Lao et qui avait été postée à Phnom-Penh demandait la libération du Prince Souphanouvong et de ses collaborateurs sous peine si cette requête était repoussée de déclencher des troubles pendant les élections.

NOUVELLES DU LAOS (suite)

Conférence de presse de S.E. Khamphan Panya (suite)

Quoi qu'il en soit a déclaré le Ministre des Affaires Etrangères le Gouvernement avait su prendre les mesures nécessaires pour parer aux manoeuvres d'intimidation dont il était l'objet et par rapport à la précédente consultation, le nombre des électeurs a doublé.

Et le Ministre a conclu : l'action du Gouvernement a barré la route aux actions mensongères de ses ennemis et ces élections ont donné la preuve que le Pays ne veut pas suivre ceux qui le trompent.

+  
+ +

BULLETIN METEOROLOGIQUE

Prévisions valables pour la journée du 28 Avril 1960 de 12 heures à 19 h.

- Dans le Centre et le Sud Laos vent de Sud-Ouest de 7 mètres par seconde.
- Ciel nuageux par la formation de nuages bas.
- Visibilité bonne réduite localement par des brumes sèches en particulier sur la région de Vientiane.
- Averses et orages isolés sur relief dans le Sud Laos.

Températures minima relevées sous-abri à 7 h. ce matin

- VIENTIANE : 21°
- XIENGGHOUANG : 18°
- LUANG-PRABANG : 21°
- SENO : 27°8
- PAKSE : 24°6

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+ +  
+

FIN DES NOUVELLES DU LAOS

LAO HOUAN SAMPHAN  
UNION NATIONALE LAO

Vientiane, le 25 Avril 1960

Comité Directeur  
Vientiane

N° 30

Le Président du Parti "Union Nationale Lao"

Aux Membres du Parti et Aux Compatriotes qui ont droit de vote lors des ELECTIONS GENERALES du 24 Avril 1960 (4<sup>e</sup> législature).

Ces Elections ont été conduites et se sont déroulées de la façon suivante pour la circonscription de Vientiane-Centre.

1- D'après la liste de la Préfecture arrêtée au 17 Mars 1960, le nombre des électeurs inscrits est de 15.351, celui des bureaux de vote est de 23.

2- L'inscription des NOMS et la délivrance des cartes d'électeur se sont poursuivies jusqu'au 23 Avril 1960. Le nombre total d'inscrits s'est élevé en définitive à 23.185, 6 bureaux de vote supplémentaires sont installés.

3- Beaucoup de nos Compatriotes n'ont pas pu obtenir leurs cartes d'électeur.

4- Certains qui ont en main leur carte d'électeur n'ont pas pu voter parce que d'autres ont déjà voté pour eux. Le nom et le numéro d'ordre sont les mêmes.

5- Une personne a plusieurs cartes d'électeur et vote plusieurs fois, soit dans des bureaux différents, soit dans un même bureau. Le nombre de ces personnes "légalés" est estimé à 100, chacune d'elles vote de 50 à 60 fois, soit au moins 2 fois pour un même bureau. Au total nous avons donc au moins 6.000 voix légalement acquises par certains candidats.

6- L'ELU est imposé aux Electeurs dépendant d'un chef par l'AUTORITE. Toute infraction serait sévèrement SANCTIONNEE.

7- L'isoloir n'est pas un isoloir. L'Electeur est "conseillé" et surveillé même lorsqu'il est dans l'isoloir.

8- L'enveloppe est symbolique et bien transparent. Le bulletin se voit très bien à travers.

9- Les bulletins non utilisés sont constamment vérifiés, soit par le Comité, soit par un certain groupe passe-partout.

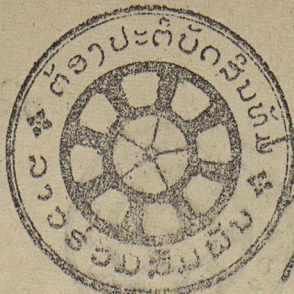
10- Du fait que les ELECTIONS se sont ainsi conduites et les preuves sont suffisantes, il est estimé que le vote est légalement faussé et n'a pas sa raison d'être.

Le Comité Directeur du Parti s'est réuni d'urgence ce jour, décide à l'unanimité de ne pas s'associer à ce jeu, approuve et accepte le retrait des candidats du Parti pour le 2<sup>e</sup> tour:

-Bong SOUVANNAVONG, candidat n°1, pour Vientiane-Centre,  
-Khamchan SOUVANNAVONG, candidat n°2, pour Atsaphangthong.

Le Président du Parti "Union Nationale Lao" tient à en informer ses Membres et ses Compatriotes, et remercie vivement ceux qui ont le courage de donner leur voix aux Candidats du Parti.

Le Président du Parti,



Bong SOUVANNAVONG

ລາວຮ່ວມສັມພັນ  
ກັມມະການກາງ  
ວຽງຈັນ

ເລກທີ ວີ.

ວຽງຈັນ, ວັນທີ ໒໔ ອາວຮົນ ໑໙໖໐  
ຫົວຫນ້າ ພັກ "ລາວຮ່ວມສັມພັນ" ທີ່ວຽງຈັນ  
ຂໍຮຽນມາຍັງ ບັນດາສະມາຊິກພັກ "ລາວຮ່ວມສັມພັນ" ແລະ ເພື່ອນພິນ້ອງຮ່ວມ  
ຊາດ ບຶງຊາບ ຜູ້ມີສິດເລືອກຕັ້ງເອົາຜູ້ແທນຮາສດອນ ທີ່ເດົາຮົບທັງຫລາຍ.

ການເລືອກຕັ້ງຜູ້ແທນຮາສດອນຊຸດທີ ໔ ເມື່ອວັນທີ ໒໔ ອາວຮົນ ໑໙໖໐ ນີ້ ໄດ້ໄປໄປດັ່ງນີ້ ສະເພາະ  
ເຂດວຽງຈັນກາງ.

໑/ ຜູ້ມີສິດເລືອກຕັ້ງ ຕາມບັນຊີຂອງທ່ານຜູ້ຄອງກຳແພງນະຄອນວຽງຈັນ ລົງວັນທີ ໑໗ ມາກ ໑໙໖໐  
ນັ້ນ ມີຈຳນວນ ໑໕.໓໕໐ ຄົນ, ມີຈຳນວນຫນ່ວຍເລືອກຕັ້ງ ໒໓ ຫນ່ວຍ.

໒/ ຕໍ່ມາ ຈົນຮອດ ວັນທີ ໒໓/໔/໖໐ ຈຳນວນລາຍຊື່ຜູ້ມີສິດປ່ອນບັດ ໄດ້ເພີ່ມຂຶ້ນເຖິງ ໒໓.໑໘໕ ຄົນ,  
ຈຳນວນຫນ່ວຍເລືອກຕັ້ງ ກໍໄດ້ເພີ່ມຂຶ້ນຮອດ ໒໙ ຫນ່ວຍ ພ້ອມທັງຈຳນວນຊື່ຄົນ ຕາມ ແຕ່ລະຫນ່ວຍ ກໍເພີ່ມ  
ຂຶ້ນຕາມງຸກນັ້ນ.

໓/ ຜູ້ບໍ່ໄດ້ຮັບບັດປະຈຳຕົວຈາກອາດບາສິດ ເພື່ອໄປປ່ອນບັດ ກໍມີມາກມີຫລາຍ

໔/ ຜູ້ໄດ້ຮັບບັດປະຈຳຕົວແລ້ວບໍ່ໄດ້ປ່ອນບັດກໍມີຫລາຍ ເພາະມີຜູ້ອື່ນມີບັດຊື່ດຽວເລກດຽວກັນໄປ ປ່ອນ  
ກ່ອນແລ້ວ.

໕/ ຜູ້ດຽວໄປປ່ອນບັດຢູ່ຫນ່ວຍດຽວຫລາຍເທື່ອ ຫລື ປ່ອນຫລາຍຫນ່ວຍຫລາຍເທື່ອກໍມີ. ຈຳນວນຄົນ  
ຊຶ່ງຮີດທ່ຽວຂຶ້ນມາປ່ອນບັດສຳລັບ ໒໙ ຫນ່ວຍນັ້ນ ມີປະມານ ໑໐໐ ຄົນ, ຜູ້ນຶ່ງປ່ອນຢ່າງຫນ້ອຍ ໕໐ ຫາ ໖໐ ເທື່ອ  
ເປັນ ໖.໐໐໐ ສຽງ ຊຶ່ງຕົກມາຈາກເດືອນ

໖/ ການປ່ອນບັດເລືອກເອົາຜູ້ແທນຮາສດອນຊຸດນີ້ ຜູ້ມີອຳນາດໃສ່ຄົນຈຳພວກໃດ ກໍມີຄຳສັ່ງໃຫ້ຄົນຈຳ  
ພວກນັ້ນ ປ່ອນບັດເອົາຜູ້ທີ່ເຂົາຕ້ອງການໃຫ້ໄດ້ໄປນຸ່ງຜູ້ແທນ ພ້ອມທັງກຳນົດໂທດອັນຫນັກໄວ້ດ້ວຍຖ້າບໍ່ຟັງ  
ຄວາມເຂົາ.

໗/ ຫ້ອງລັບ ກໍບໍ່ເປັນຫ້ອງລັບ ເພາະມີຄົນສ່ອງເບິ່ງຜູ້ທີ່ເຂົ້າໄປພ້ອມທັງໃຫ້ຄວາມແນະນຳສ່ຽງອີກດ້ວຍ

໘/ ຊອງປ່ອນບັດເຮັດດ້ວຍເກື້ຍບາງໆ ສ່ອງເຫນນ້ຳເບີ່ຍໄປ.

໙/ ມີຄົນຊອມກວດເບິ່ງບັດເຫລືອທີ່ຜູ້ເລືອກຕັ້ງເອົາໄປຖິ້ມລົງກະໂຫລງຊຶ່ງຕັ້ງໄວ້ໃນເຂດບ່ອນປ່ອນບັດ.

໑໐/ ເທົ່າທີ່ເຫດການເລືອກຕັ້ງ ໄດ້ເປັນໄປເຊັ່ນນີ້ໂດຍມີຫລັກຖານພຽງພໍນັ້ນ ເຫັນວ່າບໍ່ເປັນທັນ.

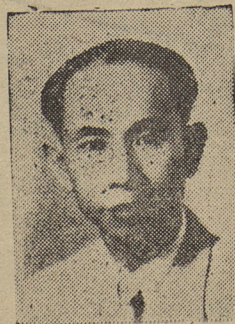
ດ້ວຍເຫດດັ່ງກ່າວມານີ້ກັມມະການກາງປົກຄອງ ພັກ "ລາວຮ່ວມສັມພັນ" ຈຶ່ງໄດ້ປະຊຸມກັນຕ່ວນນີ້ແລ້ວ  
ໄດ້ເຫັນພ້ອມກັນເປັນເອກກະສັນວ່າ ເຮົາບໍ່ຄວນຮ່ວມໃນການເລືອກຕັ້ງນີ້ຕໍ່ໄປອີກ ແລະ ເຫັນດີໃຫ້ສະມາຊິກພັກ ທີ່  
ສະມັກຢູ່ໃນເຂດທີ່ຕ້ອງມີການຄັດເລືອກເທື່ອທີສອງນັ້ນ ຖອນໄປສມັກຂອງຕົນນັ້ນເອງ

ຜູ້ທີ່ຮູ້ຈັກບົນການເລືອກຕັ້ງແລ້ວນັ້ນ ມີ:

ບົງ ສຸວັນນະວົງ, ສມັກໃນເຂດວຽງຈັນກາງ ຫມາຍເລກ 1

ຄຳຈັນ ສຸວັນນະວົງ, ສມັກໃນເຂດອາດສະພັງທອງ ຫມາຍເລກ 2

ຫົວຫນ້າ ພັກ "ລາວຮ່ວມສັມພັນ" ຈຶ່ງຂໍຂ່າວມາຍັງບັນດາສະມາຊິກແລະເພື່ອນພິນ້ອງທີ່ເດົາຮົບທັງ  
ຫລາຍ ເພື່ອຊາບ ແລະ ຂໍສະແດງຄວາມຂອບໃຈນຳພວກທ່ານທີ່ໄດ້ໃຫ້ສຽງແກ່ຜູ້ໄປສະມັກໃນນາມ ພັກ  
"ລາວຮ່ວມສັມພັນ" ມາພ້ອມນະທິນີ້ດ້ວຍ.



ຫົວຫນ້າ ພັກ "ລາວຮ່ວມສັມພັນ"

*[Handwritten signature]*  
ບົງ ສຸວັນນະວົງ

Read  
TIME  
See  
LIFE

# VIENTIANE WORLD

ALL  
ABOUT  
LAOS.

Vol. 1 No. 2

Vientiane, Sunday April 24, 1960

Price 10 Kip

## Somsanith Tipped as Premier

The way was clear late this week for veteran politician Mr. Tiao Somsanith to become the next Prime Minister of Laos.

A pro-Government coalition is assured of power after the elections to be held tomorrow, and it is reliably learned that Mr. Somsanith has been approved by all pro-Government factions as the next premier.

Up to the beginning of this week, observers were predicting a tussle for the top position between former Prime Ministers Phoui Sananikone and Prince Souvanna Phouma, both members of the Rally of the Lao People party.

Mr. Somsanith appeared likely as a possible compromise selection, and that is how things have appeared to have turned out.

The selection of Mr. Somsanith followed close consultations between the two factions of the RLP and the Committee for the Defense of National Interests.

The CDIN backed Mr. Somsanith, and this proposal was agreed to first by Prince Souvanna Phouma and then Mr. Phoui.

General Phoumi Nosavan,

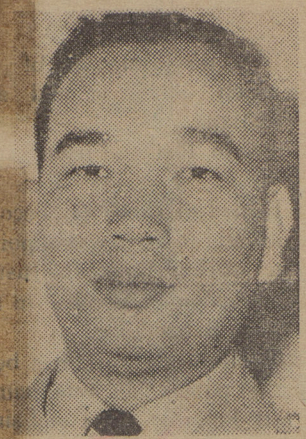


Somsanith

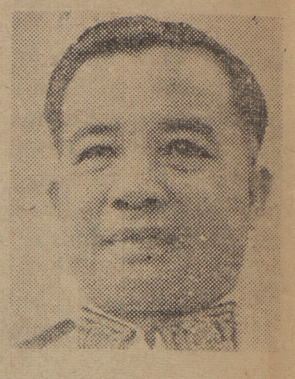
who stayed out of the running for the premiership, indicated in an interview early this week that Mr. Somsanith was the only man to be considered for the position at this time.

He declared that Prince Souvanna Phouma's policies were not strong enough to deal with the situation in the country, and Mr. Phoui's too strong.

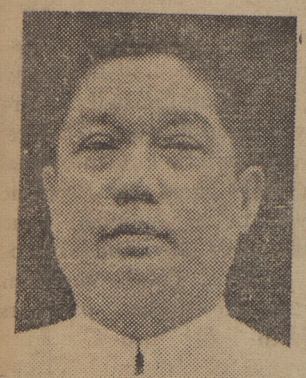
Gen. Phoumi said also that (See Page 2)



Phoumi



Prince Souvanna Phouma



Phoui

### Phoumi Gives Interview

## Army Stopped Rebel Move

Defense Minister Phoumi Nosavan said this week that army maneuvers in the south of Laos prevented moves planned by the Pathet Lao to cause trouble during the elections.

General Phoumi said in an interview that Army intelligence learned that Pathet Lao rebels trained by the Vietminh intended to infiltrate several areas in the south, including Pakse, Saravane and Attopeu.

Soldiers were immediately sent into the areas, General Phoumi said, to perform maneuvers aimed at reassuring the people of the government's strength.

General Phoumi added that the Pathet Lao, on seeing the strength of the Army, cancelled earlier plans and concentrated on a propaganda drive.

He said he was sure that there will be no trouble from the Pathet Lao tomorrow when voting is held.

Referring to the election campaign, General Phoumi

said he had given strict orders to the Army not to interfere in any way in the elections.

He said: "I feel certain that these elections are really free. There will be no reason for the Pathet Lao to claim that this is not the case."

On the policy of the government after the elections, he said a neutral Laos is needed, backed by a strong army.

"But ours will be a real

neutrality, not like that practised by other countries such as Cambodia," he said.

General Phoumi added that high-ranking officers in the Khmer army, of Loatian descent, are dissatisfied with the neutrality practised by Cambodia.

The Defense Minister also mentioned an incident which "surprised" him when he

(See Page 2)

### Stabbing

## His Friends Were Right

Nai Bua of Nong Thevador, near Vientiane, was a trusting husband, so when friends came to him last year with tales of his wife's infidelity he brushed them aside.

He resisted the rumors until last week when an acquaintance claimed he had seen his wife with another man.

Last Friday he yielded to his friend's insistence that he check up on his wife, and early that evening, after indicating to his wife he intended visiting Vientiane for a

few hours, secretly returned an hour later to his house.

His wife was indeed with another man, and 20 minutes later Nai Bua burst from his hiding place and stabbed the man to death.

Crying and shouting he raced out of the house and later gave himself up to police.

For the authorities, it was the fourth violent death within 10 days. A man had been found murdered at the Kowluang Boxing Stadium, a Vietnamese laundryman was

stabbed to death by thieves and his wife seriously injured, and a Vietnamese girl was killed in a bomb outrage.

Police are still searching for clues to determine the perpetrators of the bomb outrage. The man injured in the bombed car has been interviewed several times in Mahosot Hospital, and experts have been going over the vehicle to determine what explosive caused the damage.

Police declined to comment on the bombing, saying only that it may have been the result of a quarrel.

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OVER

# VIENTIANE WORLD

Vol. 1, No 2. Saturday April 23, 1960

## THIS WEEK IN LAOS

This week in Laos was notable for some concerted behind-the-scenes political in-fighting, not an unusual occurrence considering it was election week. The result of the decisions made will be known officially next week, but it looks likely that Laos' next Prime Minister will be a youngish, unassuming man with plenty of Government experience.

Mr. Tiao Somsanith, who got the nod for the premiership this week from all pro-Government factions, is 47 years old and a nephew, of former Prime Minister Souvanna Phouma. He is actually a member of the Prince's faction of the Rally of the Lao People, a position that did not go against him in this week's discussions.

This fact gives an indication of the trust placed in him. Prince Souvanna Phouma was regarded by the two other pro-Government factions — the RLP and the CDIN — as pursuing a policy not strong enough to handle the rebels. And former Prime Minister Phoui Sananikone, the leader of the other RLP faction, was not averse to becoming the new Premier himself.

The selection, therefore, of Mr. Somsanith, was achieved fairly smoothly, everything considered. A big point in his favor is that His Majesty King Savang Vatthana has indicated he has full trust in him.

Mr. Somsanith is standing in these elections at Nam Tha. He was elected to the National Assembly in the first general elections held in Laos in 1955, and became secretary of the Interior of the Prevoynance Sociale in the Government of Prince Souvanna Phouma.

In November and December of last year he was Minister of Interior in the Cabinet of Prime Minister Phoui Sannanikone, a position he retained in the interim cabinet formed early this year.

Mr. Somsanith, who was born in Luang Prabang in 1913, was active in the resistant movement in 1945, and was named Interior Minister in the Lao Issara Provisional Government. Prior to that, following training in

the civil service, he was a member of the Cabinet of the French Governor and also Chaomuong of Vientiane.

He was a refugee in Thailand from 1947 to 1949.

In 1949 he returned to Laos to become Minister of Finance and in 1950 was appointed Chief of Cabinet of the Minister of Justice and Health of the Prevoynance Sociale in the Government of Phoui Sananikone.

Much of Mr. Samsanith's work has been concerned with the police. He was named director of National Police in 1954 and since that time has spent a lot of his efforts in creating a more efficient force.

He seems to be the man best able to pursue Laos' avowed course of firm neutrality.

In the meantime, the 150-odd candidates standing in the elections were reminded during the week of "certain principles" to be observed in the closing stages of the electoral campaign.

An announcement pointed out that complete freedom has been given to candidates and their followers to organize support. Adding that regulations had been scrupulously respected, the announcement said "...but with the approach of the ballot, the fervency of the propagandists may grow. In order to avoid any misunderstanding, it seems to be good to recall once more that:

"1: slander, calumny or defamation is liable to punishment;

"2: No placards can be placed on public buildings;

"3: Uniforms may not be worn during the campaign;

"4: Government equipment may not be used for propaganda."

These elections will also serve as a rough census of the country. Each voter has been required to mark on the electoral roll details of family, occupation and so on. From these details will be computed various statistics, the most important being the actual population of the country. It is variously estimated as being between two million and three and a-half million.

### Somsanith...

(Contd. from Page 1)

His Majesty the King would not object to the appointment of Mr. Somsanith.

The portfolio of Minister of Interior was held by Mr. Somsanith in the interim Cabinet formed early this year (see biographical details page 2).

Meanwhile, campaigning for these elections, the third ever held in Laos, was scheduled to close today. A

total of about 800,000 voters is expected to go to the polls tomorrow (Sunday) to vote for the 59-member National Assembly.

The RLP is expected to win about 22 seats and the CDIN a possible 20 including pro-CDIN independents.

The remaining seats are expected to be distributed amongst the Santiphab Party, the Neo Lao Hak Xat and independents.

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### Army....

(Contd. from Page 1)

visited Pakse recently.

He said that on the border between Laos and Cambodia he was "very personally surprised" to find a clandestine military installation comprising one regiment.

None of the personnel of the regiment was in the area, but in addition to the usual equipment of the regiment there were 150 trucks and 150 canoes, each canoe capable of carrying about 10 men.

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Photo by Lapitan

**Festival...** One of the highlights of last week's New Year festival at Luang Prabang was this dance of the Pou Gueu Gna, the original male and female ancestors of the Lao people. The gaudy masks and flaxen raiments of these two dancers bobbed and weaved through the Royal capital.



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