

**Laos 1959-1961 -
correspondence, official
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HS L 179:89



Dag Hammarskjöld's saml.

Laos - 1961

3 - 5 Jan.

- a) Steeves, John M. (Deputy Assist. Secy of State
Washington, USA)
- 1 letter from D.H.
- b) 1 letter from J. M. Steeves to D.H.

ASSISTANT SECRETARY OF STATE
WASHINGTON

January 5, 1961

*Mr. Rogers
secret of*

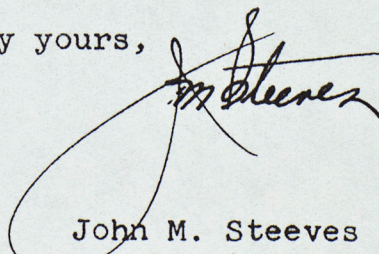
Dear Mr. Secretary General:

I wish to express my appreciation for your courtesy in informing me of the conversations which your representative in Vientiane, Dr. Zellweger, has had with the King of Laos and to assure you that this information has been passed to the Secretary of State. It is good to know that the King reacted positively to the suggestions which Dr. Zellweger made to him concerning your proposals for a policy of internal peace and strict international security.

With respect to your suggestions concerning the stabilization of the internal political situation, we have been pleased to note that the National Assembly yesterday voted confidence in the provisional government and that steps are now substantially completed to accomplish the formal investiture of that government. We note also that in the course of the Assembly's debate leading to the vote of confidence, there was a discussion of measures to be taken in order to confirm a posture of international neutrality for Laos.

I was most grateful for the opportunity which you gave me last week in the midst of your busy schedule to exchange views with you on this subject of such critical interest to my Government and to the peace in Southeast Asia. I hope you and your staff will continue to provide us with any information or suggestions which you may have affecting actions to which the United States might be able to make a positive contribution toward the establishment of peace and stability in Laos.

Sincerely yours,


John M. Steeves
Deputy

His Excellency
Dag Hammarskjold,
Secretary General of
the United Nations,
United Nations,
New York.

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3 January 1961

Dear Mr. Steeves,

After our talk last Thursday Dr. Zellweger, our representative in Vientiane, had a conversation with the King. On that occasion Dr. Zellweger stated my views to the effect that I was in complete agreement with the often expressed policy which had been confirmed lately by Khampan Fanya, a policy of internal peace and strict neutrality in all directions, and in every respect. In this connexion I had added that one of the prime necessities of the moment would be a national government which would have the broadest possible base and would have to be legally constituted in accordance with the Laotian Constitution. I had also indicated the desirability of a declaration of neutrality drafted in such a way as to invite recognition by the interested Powers.

On the question of a national government the King let it be known that he agreed with my opinion, adding that he would be happy if Souvanna Phouma would return and that it would even be possible to keep a place in the government open for him.

With regard to the constitutional question, the King indicated that he had been in favour of regularizing the position of the provisional government and that he had recommended that it present itself before the National Assembly to receive a vote of confidence.

The King also was in agreement with my personal stand in favour of a "statute of neutrality" to be recognized by the Powers.

I am sure that the Secretary of State will be interested to hear the King's reaction to my suggestions.

Yours sincerely,

Dag Hammarskjöld.

Mr. John M. Steeves,
Deputy Assistant Secretary of State,
Department of State,
Washington, D.C.