

Laos 1959-1961 -
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Laos - 1961

23 Jan.

Message from Vientiane, Laos (by Reuters)

R11

LAOTIAN

VIENTIANE, LAOS, JAN. 23-(REUTERS)-PRO-AMERICAN PREMIER PRINCE BOUN OUM WANTS A NEUTRAL NATIONS OBSERVATION TEAM SET UP UNDER THE UNITED NATIONS AS THE FIRST STEP TOWARD RESTORING PEACE TO THIS CIVIL WAR-RENT INDOCHINA KINGDOM. I

BUT THE PREMIER IN AN EXCLUSIVE INTERVIEW YESTERDAY TURNED THUMBS DOWN ON PROPOSALS FOR AN INTERNATIONAL CONFERENCE ON LAOS AND VOICED STRONG RESERVATIONS ON PROPOSALS FOR RE-ACTIVATING THE THREE-NATION TRUCE SUPERVISORY COMMISSION ON LAOS.

THE THREE-NATION BODY, COMPRISING INDIA AS CHAIRMAN WITH CANADA AND COMMUNIST POLAND WAS SET UP UNDER THE 1954 GENEVA AGREEMENT ENDING THE INDOCHINA WAR, BUT HAS NOT MET FOR TWO YEARS.

BOUN CAME TO POWER AFTER THE FALL OF A NEUTRALIST REGIME HEADED BY PRINCE SOUVANNA PHOUMA WHICH HAD SUCCEEDED IN PREVIOUS PRO-AMERICAN GOVERNMENT UNSEATED IN A PARATROOP COUP IN AUGUST. HE WOULD NOT ELABORATE ON HIS PROPOSAL FOR AN INTERNATIONAL OBSERVATION TEAM.

OF THE THREE-NATION COMMISSION, HE SAID IT COULD "ONLY CONTRIBUTE TO THE REESTABLISHMENT OF REAL AND LASTING PEACE IN LAOS IF IT HAD EFFECTIVE MEANS AND SUFFICIENT POWER TO HALT THE AID BEING GIVEN BY COMMUNIST COUNTRIES TO THE LAOTIAN REBELS AND TO PREVENT THESE COUNTRIES INTERVENING IN LAOTIAN AFFAIRS."

HE SAID HIS GOVERNMENT HAS NOT BEEN OFFICIALLY INFORMED OF A PROPOSAL BY CAMBODIAN HEAD OF STATE NORODOM SIHANOUK FOR A 14-NATION CONFERENCE ON LAOS, BUT SAID SUCH A MEETING WOULD ONLY PROVIDE THE COMMUNISTS WITH A NEW OPPORTUNITY TO SPREAD PROPAGANDA AND INTERFERE MORE DEEPLY IN LAOTIAN AFFAIRS.

THE SIHANOUK PLAN WOULD CALL TOGETHER THE COUNTRIES WHICH TOOK PART IN THE 1954 GENEVA TALKS, THE THREE MEMBERS OF THE CONTROL COMMISSION SET UP UNDER THE GENEVA AGREEMENTS, AND NEIGHBORING STATES TO LAOS.

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