Text of Cease-Fire Agreement Signed by Laotian Government and the Pathet Lao

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WASHINGTON, Feb. 21 — Pathet Lao officials today by the State Department in unofficial translation from the Lao languages, text of the cease-fire agreement reached by the Laotian Government and the Pathet Lao Communists: Pathet Lao.

In response to the supreme desire of His Majesty the king, the laos, and the sovereigns of all the people of all the nations throughout the country and the states, the red army will be active in fighting to achieve national concord and unification and build Laos as a country of peace, independence, neutrality, democracy, unity, and prosperity, and to diligently contribute to improving peace in Indo-China and Southeast Asia on the basis of the 1962 Geneva agreement on Laos and the present agreement.

Chapter I

GENERAL PRINCIPLES

ARTICLE 1

A. The desires of the Lao people to safeguard and exercise their cherished fundamental national rights — the independence, sovereignty, and territorial integrity of Laos — are inviolable.

B. The desire of the Laotian Government and the Pathet Lao to establish a neutral and nonaligned Laos, on the basis of the 1962 Geneva agreement on Laos, and the correct basis of the policy for peace, independence, and neutralization, and the stabilization of Laos. The parties concerned in Laos in the United States, Thailand, and other foreign countries must strictly respect and implement this agreement. The internal affairs of Laos must be conducted by the Lao people only, without external interference.

C. To achieve the supreme objective of restoring peace, enhancing independence, and implementing national concord and restoring national unification, and due to the present reality in Laos, which has two zones under the control of the Pathet Lao and two zones under the control of the government, the problems of Laos must be solved in the spirit of national concord and on the basis of equality and mutual respect, with neither side trying to swallow or oust the other side.

D. To safeguard national independence and sovereignty, implement national concord and reconciliation, and national unification, the people's various rights and freedoms must be absolutely respected — for example, privacy, ideology, speech, press, writing, assembly, establishing political organizations and associations, elections, living where they wish, and establishing private businesses and ownership. All acts, regulations and organizations that violate those rights and freedoms must be abolished.

Chapter II

PROVISIONS ON MILITARY AFFAIRS

ARTICLE 3

Beginning at 1200 (0000 GMT) on 22 February 1973, a cease-fire in all military and paramilitary actions is established throughout the territory of Laos. This includes: a. All armies, guerrillas, and special forces will cease all military activities in Laos.

b. All armed forces of foreign countries must completely and permanently cease all military activities in Laos.

c. The armed forces of all sides will cease all military movements en route or in Laos.

ARTICLE 4

As soon as the cease-fire goes into effect:

A. It is definitely forbidden to commit small arms or air attacks or threats by army or air forces against any guerrilla force or other party, and all forces must be controlled by the other side.

B. It is definitely forbidden to commit any large-scale attacks or actions that will challenge the other side's military security. It is forbidden to establish military bases in Laos, to send in or arm from any other side, and to allow any military units or personnel to move into Laos.

C. It is definitely forbidden to carry out mop-up, intensive, or supplementary operations against the lives and property of the people or to discriminate against any who participated in the opposite side during the war. The people who were forced to evacuate from their native land during the war must be assisted to return to their homes to live in accordance with their desires.

D. It is forbidden to bring in any military personnel of any kind, regular forces or irregular forces, and all American and other foreign wars must be stopped.

E. The cease-fire will be carried out throughout the territory of Laos in all military and paramilitary organizations of foreign countries. As mentioned in the 1964 and 1962 Geneva agreements, in case it is necessary to remove damaged or out-of-order weapons and war materials, the two sides will discuss and agree on their mutual use of the agreements.

Chapter III

PROVISIONS ON POLITICAL AFFAIRS

ARTICLE 6

General free and democratic elections are to be carried out to establish the national assembly and permanent national coalition government, which are to be the genuine representatives of the people of all nationalities in Laos. The principles and procedures of the general elections will be discussed and agreed upon by the two sides. The Pathet Lao general elections, the two sides must set up a National Provisional Coalition Government and a National Political Coalition Council within 30 days at the latest after signing of this agreement, to implement all the agreements signed and to administer national tasks.

ARTICLE 7

The new National Provisional Coalition Government is to be composed of representatives of the Viengtiane Government side and the Pathet Lao Forces side, in equal proportions, and two intellectuals who advocate peace, independence, neutrality, and democracy, whose number will be determined by the two sides. It will perform its duties in accordance with principles unanimously agreed upon by both sides. It has the responsibility to consult with and express views to the United Nations and the National Provisional Coalition Government on major problems relating to domestic and foreign policies, to support and assist the National Provisional Coalition Government as well as the two sides in implementing the agreements signed, and its tasks in accordance with the principles unanimously agreed upon by both sides.

ARTICLE 8

The International Commission for Control and Supervision, which was established in accordance with the 1962 Geneva agreements on Laos, is composed of the representatives of India, Poland, and Canada, and is chaired by India. It will continue to perform its duties in accordance with its rights and principles of work as provided for in the subagreement on the agreement mentioned below.

Chapter VII

OTHER PROVISIONS

ARTICLE 12

The Viengtiane Government side and the Pathet Lao Forces side pledge to implement this agreement and to continue discussions in order to effect the provisions already agreed upon and to settle the remaining issues, and to achieve peace in Laos, to restore and guard lasting peace, create national unification, and in order to present a neutral, independent, democratic, united, and prosperous Laos.

ARTICLE 14

This agreement is effective from the date of its signing.

Determined in Viengtiane 21 February 1973, in the Lao language in five copies. One copy will be submitted to His Majesty the King. Each side will retain one copy. The remaining two copies will be kept in the files of the National Provisional Coalition Government and of the National Political Coalition Council.