

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

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WASHINGTON, Feb. 21 — Following, as made public today by the State Department in unofficial translation from the Lao language, is the text of the cease-fire agreement reached by the Laotian Government and the Communist Pathet Lao:

In response to the supreme desire of His Majesty the King and the earnest aspirations of the people of all nationalities throughout the country, who want to end the war as soon as possible and restore and safeguard lasting peace, in order 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 Indochina and Southeast Asia on the basis of the 1962 Geneva agreement on Laos and the present reality in Laos, the Vientiane Government side and the Patriotic Forces side have agreed on the following provisions:

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, unity and territorial integrity of Laos — are inviolable.

B. The 9 July 1962 communiqué on the neutrality of Laos and the 1962 Geneva agreement on Laos are the correct basis of the policy for peace, independence and neutrality of the Kingdom of Laos. The parties concerned in Laos, 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, implementing national concord and restoring national unification, and due to the present reality in Laos, which has two zones under the control of two sides, the internal 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 oppress the other side.

D. To safeguard national independence and sovereignty, implement national concord and restore 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, candidacy and elections, traveling, living where one wants and establishing business enterprises and ownership. All acts, regulations and organizations that violate these rights and freedoms must be abolished.

Chapter II PROVISIONS ON MILITARY AFFAIRS ARTICLE 2

Beginning at 1200 (0500 G.M.T.—F.B.I.S.) on 22 February 1973, a cease-fire in place will be observed simultaneously throughout the territory of Laos. This includes:

A. Foreign countries must completely and permanently cease the bombing against the territory of Laos, all acts of intervention and aggression in Laos, and all military involvement in Laos.

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

C. The armed forces of all sides must completely cease all military movements encroaching upon one another both on the ground and in the air.

ARTICLE 3

As soon as the cease-fire goes into effect:

A. It is definitely forbidden to commit small encroachment attacks or threats by army or air forces against the territory temporarily controlled by the other side.

B. It is definitely forbidden to commit any military acts that antagonize the other side, including the movement of bandits [word indistinct] and armed air reconnaissance. In case a particular side wants to transport food supplies across the territory under the control of the other side, the committee for implementation of the agreement must discuss and lay down a clear-cut procedure for this.

C. It is definitely forbidden to carry out mop-up, intimidation and suppression drives against the lives and property of the people or to discriminate against those who participated with the opposite side during the war. The people who were forced to evacuate from their native land during the war must be assisted to freely return to their domiciles to earn their living in accordance with their desires.

D. It is forbidden to bring into Laos military personnel of any type, regular forces or irregular forces, and all kinds of weapons and war means of foreign countries, as mentioned in the 1954 and 1962 Geneva agreements. In case it is necessary to replace damaged or out-of-

order weapons and war means, the two sides will discuss this and come to an agreement among themselves.

ARTICLE 4

Within 60 days at the latest after the establishment of the National Provisional Coalition Government and the National Political Coalition Council, the withdrawal of all military personnel and regular and irregular forces from Laos and the dissolution of all military and paramilitary organizations of foreign countries must be completed. The special forces organized, armed, trained and commanded by foreign countries must be disbanded, and their bases, military positions and strongholds must be completely dismantled.

ARTICLE 5

The two Lao sides will repatriate all persons, regardless of nationality, who were captured or detained because they collaborated with one side or the other in the war. The repatriation will be carried out in accordance with the principles agreed upon by the two sides and be completed within 60 days at the latest after the establishment of the National Political Coalition Council. Following the completion of the repatriation of captured personnel, each side will have the responsibility to provide the other side with information on those reported missing during the war in Laos.

Chapter III PROVISIONS ON POLITICAL AFFAIRS ARTICLE 6

General free and demo-

cratic 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. Pending the 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 the 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 Vientiane Government side and the Patriotic Forces side, in equal proportions, and two intellectuals who advocate peace, independence, neutrality and democracy, who will be agreed upon by both sides. The Prime Minister must be a person who is not a member of the representatives in the Government. The National Provisional Coalition Government is to be set up in accordance with special procedures by royal decree of His Majesty the King. It will perform its duties in accordance with principles unanimously agreed upon by both sides. It will have the responsibility to implement all agreements reached and the political program agreed upon by the two sides—for example, in implementing and main-

taining the cease-fire, permanently safeguarding peace, completely implementing popular rights and freedoms, implementing the policy for peaceful foreign relations and for independence and neutrality, for coordinating all economic development plans, expanding culture and accepting and distributing all aid materials from all countries aiding Laos.

ARTICLE 8

The National Political Coalition Council is to be an organization of national concord and to be composed of representatives of the Vientiane Government side and of the Patriotic Forces side in equal proportions, as well as 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 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, to bring about the realization of national concord, to scrutinize and endorse the electoral coalition government in holding general elections to establish the national assembly and the permanent national coalition government. The procedures in detail on the establishment of the National Political Coalition Council will be discussed and agreed

upon by the two sides and will be sent to the National Provisional Coalition Government to be forwarded to His Majesty the King for his decree of appointment. The abolition of the National Political Coalition Council must go through the same procedures as its establishment, as mentioned above.

ARTICLE 9

The two sides agree to neutralize the royal capital of Luang Prabang and the city of Vientiane and to take all measures to guarantee the security of the National Provisional Coalition Government and the National Political Coalition Council so they can carry out their tasks effectively, and to prevent all acts of sabotage or threats from any force from within or without.

ARTICLE 10

A. Pending the establishment of the national assembly and the permanent national coalition government, in the spirit of Article 6 in Chapter II of the joint Zurich communiqué of 22 June 1961, the two sides will maintain the territories under their temporary control, and will endeavor to implement the political program of the National Provisional Coalition Government, as agreed upon by both sides.

B. The two sides will promote the establishment of normal relations between the two zones, and create favorable conditions for the people to move about, make their living and carry out economic and cultural exchanges with a view to consolidating national concord and bringing about national unification at an early date.

C. The two sides acknowledge the declaration of the United States Government that it will contribute to healing the wounds of the war and the postwar reconstruction in Indochina. The national coalition government will hold discussions with the United States Government in connection with such a contribution regarding Laos.

Chapter IV

THE COALITION COMMISSION FOR IMPLEMENTATION OF THE AGREEMENT AND THE INTERNATIONAL COMMISSION FOR SUPERVISION AND CONTROL ARTICLE 11

The implementation of this agreement is the responsibility of the two sides concerned in Laos. The two sides will immediately establish a commission for implementation of the agreement, comprising representatives of both sides in equal proportions. This commission will begin functioning immediately after the cease-fire goes into effect. It will perform its tasks in accordance with the principles unanimously agreed upon by both sides.

ARTICLE 12

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

of work as provided for in the subagreement mentioned below.

Chapter V

OTHER PROVISIONS ARTICLE 13

The Vientiane Government side and the Patriotic Forces side pledge to implement this agreement and to continue discussions in order to effect all the provisions already agreed upon and to settle the other pending problems concerning them, in the spirit of equality and mutual respect with a view to ending the war, to restore and safeguard lasting peace, achieve national concord, create national unity in order to proceed to build a peaceful independent, neutral, democratic, united and prosperous Laos.

ARTICLE 14

This agreement is effective from the date of its signing.

Done in Vientiane 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.

On behalf of the Patriotic Forces side:

PHAGNA PHOUMI VONGVICHIT
Plenipotentiary special representative of the Patriotic Forces.

On behalf of the Vientiane Government side:

PHAGNA PHENG PHONGSAVAN
Plenipotentiary representative of the Vientiane Government.