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submitted a preliminary plan of action, parts of which are already being carried out.

22. Lao National Army Training. French representatives in Laos have been reluctant to accept U. S. and British views on the nature of the communist threat in Laos and on the need for training of the Lao National Army by qualified persons other than the French.

Status of U. S. Actions: Much progress has been made in bringing French policy in Laos into agreement with our own and British views on the nature of the communist threat in Laos, especially since last May. Furthermore, the French have agreed to accept Filipino civilian trainers for the Lao army, and steps are being taken to strengthen the PEO by the assignment of regular military officers in civilian clothing.

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