

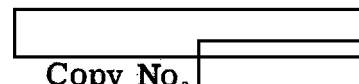
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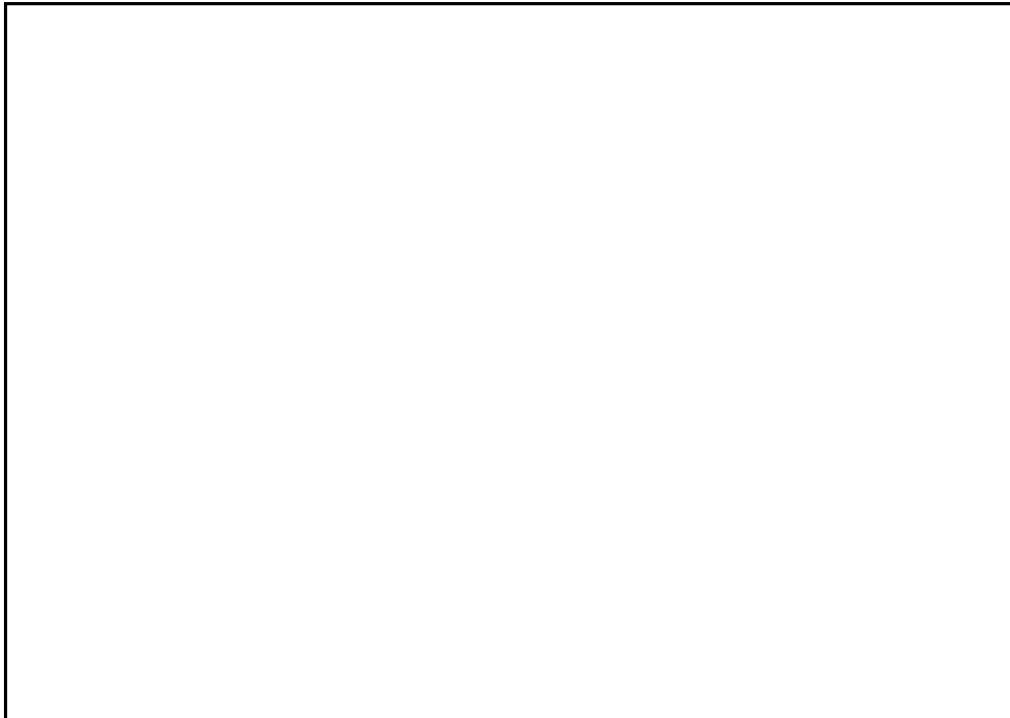
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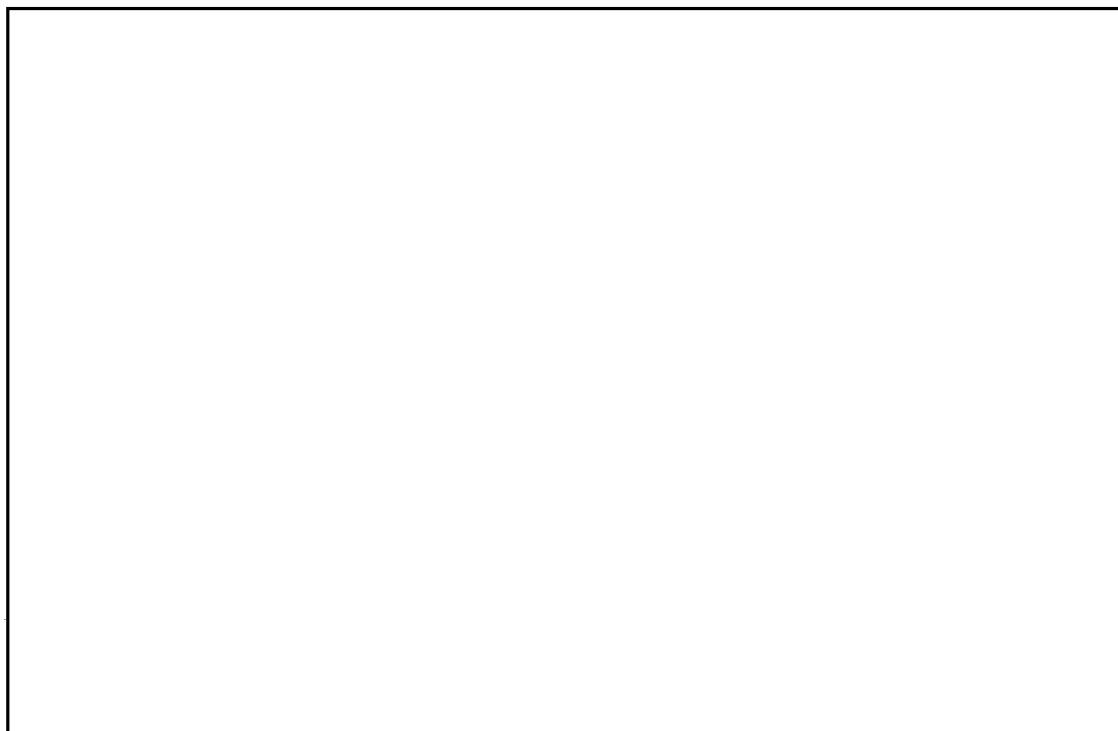
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CONTENTS

25X1



6. PATHETS BELIEVE THEIR PARTICIPATION IN LAOTIAN
GOVERNMENT IS GUARANTEED

25X1A

7. HONDURAN CHIEF BELIEVES ANOTHER REVOLT IMMI-
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12 Aug 56

Current Intelligence Bulletin

Page 2

25X1A

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25X1

Approved For Release 2003/01/29 : CIA-RDP79T00975A002700040001-7

Next 5 Page(s) In Document Exempt

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6. PATHETS BELIEVE THEIR PARTICIPATION IN LAOTIAN GOVERNMENT IS GUARANTEED

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[redacted] the Pathets believe the accords signed in Vientiane on 10 August guarantee them participation in the government regardless of their success in the coming supplementary elections and even if the Souvanna Phouma administration falls. The binding effect of this agreement is, however, interpreted variously in different quarters.

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[redacted] a coalition government would be particularly dangerous because of the weak party structure in Laos, and the tendency of political leaders to be naive and opportunistic about the Pathet Lao problem.

The top government and Pathet Lao conferees have now adjourned while working-level discussions are being conducted by political and military mixed committees. Souvanna is confident that these talks will result in final civil and military integration of the Pathets within two months, and he is prepared to meet again with his brother Souphanouvong if necessary. Meanwhile, he is preparing to leave for Peiping on 19 August on what he terms purely a "courtesy visit."

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7. HONDURAN CHIEF BELIEVES ANOTHER REVOLT IMMINENT

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Honduran chief of state Lozano said on 9 August that he expects a revolt to erupt very soon with street fighting in the capital and in the north coast area. He said he is prepared to quash it.

The American embassy notes that public apprehension is growing and that morale has reached a new low among all echelons of government employees, with graft rampant and resentment over political pressure widespread.

Comment

Leaders of the opposition Liberal Party, who were exiled in mid-July, reportedly said on 7 August that their party was planning a revolt to take place within two weeks. The Liberals have considerable popular support, particularly among the restive workers of the north coast, and have an unknown quantity of arms. Communists have infiltrated the Liberal Party and a future Liberal government might be Communist-influenced.

Key army leaders pledged their loyalty to Lozano last June, but the American army attaché estimates that only about half the commandants in outlying areas are completely reliable.

25X1A

12 Aug 56

Current Intelligence Bulletin

Page 10

25X1A

Approved For Release 2003/01/29 : CIA-RDP79T00975A002700040001-7

25X1

Approved For Release 2003/01/29 : CIA-RDP79T00975A002700040001-7

Next 1 Page(s) In Document Exempt

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