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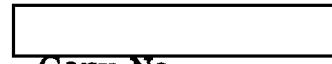
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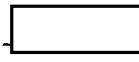
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State Dept. review completed

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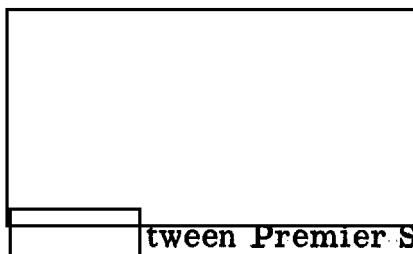
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4. PATHET LAO STALLING FINAL SETTLEMENT IN LAOS

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The Pathet Lao has not yet sent representatives to the mixed civilian and military commissions to work out a detailed settlement implementing the agreements in principle reached between Premier Souvanna Phouma and Prince Souphanouvong earlier this month. Moreover, the Pathets have frequently violated the cease-fire agreement in the two disputed northern provinces of Sam Neua and Phong Saly, Souvanna reportedly told the French chargé on 31 August.

Souvanna Phouma said he was "most disturbed" by this turn in government-Pathet relations. He was, however, determined to have the mixed commissions begin their work, and has "summoned" Souphanouvong to come at once to Vientiane with his negotiating teams.

Comment

Souvanna, who has returned generally pleased with the success of his trip to Peiping and Hanoi, has gone to great lengths to reach a settlement with the Pathet Lao and bring about the reunification of Laos. A final settlement, however, is dependent on the negotiations of the mixed commissions.

The Pathets, who are tightly controlled by the Viet Minh, have been reluctant to discuss the details of such vital matters as the restoration of the government's control over the disputed provinces and the integration of Pathet troops into the royal army. With the support of Peiping and Hanoi, they are apparently stalling for terms which would leave them in control of both their troops and their territory.

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5. SOVIET PARTY MEETING REPORTED SCHEDULED FOR
EARLY SEPTEMBER

[Redacted]
Ralph Parker, former London Daily Worker correspondent in Moscow, told an American correspondent there recently that a central committee plenum is scheduled for the first part of September. Parker, who has a number of Soviet contacts and has from time to time accurately reported on party matters, understood the plenum would consider measures to raise the wages of the lowest-paid workers.

Comment

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[Redacted] The party's statutes call for at least one plenum every six months and the last known plenum was held on 27 February following the 20th Party Congress.

A discussion of wage matters might relate to the "resignation" of Lazar Kaganovich on 6 June as chairman of the State Committee on Wages and Labor. If so, there may be some clarification of his present position in the top leadership. Khrushchev at the party congress had called for raising the wages of the lowest-paid workers. A month later Mikoyan indicated they would be raised by one third this year. The plenum could also discuss the Suez Canal crisis and harvest difficulties in the New Lands.

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