

Vientiane peace agreement of February 21, 1973. 1974-05

Souphanouvong, Chao
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Encl. 1/10/74

Project for the Construction of Peace, Independence,
Neutrality, Democracy, Unity, and Prosperity of the
Kingdom of Laos

- With reference to the spirit of the Vientiane Peace Agreement dated February 21, 1973, concerning the restoration of peace and the achievement of unification and harmony in Laos, the implementation of the Peace Protocol of the said Agreement, based on the spirit of the Geneva Treaty of 1962 relating to Laos,

- With reference to the real situation of Lao society at present based on the political report which His Excellency Chao Souphanouvong had proposed to the National Joint Political Council at the third session of its first ordinary meetings,

- In order to build the Kingdom of Laos into a peaceful, independent, neutral, democratic, unified, and prosperous country in response to the strong desire of His Majesty the King, and the people of all ethnic origins,

The National Joint Political Council at the third session (May 10, 1974) and the fourth session (May 24, 1974) of its first ordinary meetings considered and accepted the project proposed for the construction of

peace, independence, neutrality, democracy, unity, and prosperity as will be described below. It is supposed to be a guide for the Provisional Government of National Union, government organizations, the people in general, the army, and the peace maintaining force throughout the country.

General Responsibilities

As present situation in the world stands, the aggressive and the war-craving power is being attacked and weakened by the resisting movement of those who want to maintain peace, national independence, democracy, and social progress throughout the world. The long war that the Lao people had fought courageously in order to resist the colonialism had been won successfully and gloriously. The Vientiane Peace Agreement signed on February 21, 1973 and the Protocol dated September 13, 1973 stated that: The United States, Thailand and other countries must respect the rights of the nation that no one can violate, that is: independence, democracy, unity, and the integrity of the Kingdom of Laos. Foreign countries must stop all kinds of interference, aggression, and

anything related to military actions in Laos. Those who are responsible for maintaining peace must guarantee the ceasefire and stop all hostile actions, and ensure complete, democratic rights of the people. Make the capitals of Vientiane and Luang Prabang neutral. Set up a National Joint Political Council and form a new Provisional Government of National Union. Prepare and be ready for the general election by following the principles of freedom and true spirit of democracy in order to elect trustful members of the National Assembly and to form a Coalition Government. Work for peaceful unification and harmony.

To implement the Peace Agreement and Protocol and to build Laos into a peaceful, independent, neutral, democratic, unified, and prosperous country we will have to face with many problems and obstacles which are caused by the colonialism power and its followers within the country.

So, the biggest and most urgent duties for everyone -- those from different ethnic groups, government organizations, political powers, the qualified, educators, intellectuals, monks, civil servants, soldiers and policemen who are patriots, peace-seekers, independent-restorers, neutralists, and democratists -- are:

To encourage unity among the population of the country; encourage unity and friendly relationships with all countries in the world, especially the neighboring countries. Exert for the implementation of, and respect for Vientiane Peace Agreement and Protocol of 1973.

Struggle firmly against the new colonialism of the United States and the reactionaries within the country in order to maintain long, lasting peace, and to restore complete independence. Acknowledge the people's democratic rights. Continue negotiation until the attainment of peace; at the same time, build and develop national economy and culture. Improve the population's living condition. Build the Kingdom of Laos into a peaceful, independent, neutral, democratic, unified, and prosperous country so that it can share in maintaining peace in Indochina, in Southeast Asia, and in the world.

Peace, independence, neutrality, democracy, unity, and prosperity are firmly integrated into an important part. True, lasting peace cannot be obtained unless complete independence is restored and unless the people can live freely as a citizen of a democratic country.

So independence and democracy become the foundation for long and lasting peace, for reconciliation, unification, and for the reconstruction of the country.

Internal Policies

1. Unify the people in the country -- people from *Samakul pong song thang sat.* different tribes, different religions, and at different levels of society. Exert for the implementation of the Peace Agreement and Protocol and build the Kingdom of Laos into a peaceful, independent, neutral, democratic, unified, *ekke phap* and prosperous country.
2. Equality in every aspect: politically, economically, *Phadeebat kuam sameu phat mai tuk dane.* culturally, and social among different groups of people. Representatives from various ethnic groups of all types must have suitable positions in the administrative organizations of the government. Help the ethnic minority groups to improve their living condition and promote their education in every way.
3. Every man is entitled to his democratic rights *Phadeebat banda nit seriphat, ~~demosa~~ pasat, patai kong pasason yang kop tuan.* such as: individual freedom, freedom of worship, freedom in speaking, freedom in writing, freedom in calling a meeting, freedom in organizing political parties,

freedom to run for an election and freedom to vote, freedom to travel, and to settle down, freedom in setting up private business organizations, and the right to own some private properties. Abolish laws or regulations, organizations, or any practices that are against these rights.

4. Should have a democratic-type election in order to
Leuk tang beab pasat: pa tai peua papong band da ong kam puk kong, khong
improve the effectiveness of administration in the government
Lat.
organizations at the levels of Tasseng, Muong and Khoueng,
including members of the National Joint Political Council,
and the administrative staff. Check and revise the regulations
on general election and arrange for freedom in voting in
electing members to the National Assembly and in forming
a Coalition Government. Improve the power of judgment
so that it is just. Check and revise the constitution with
respect to the throne and the assurance of the people's
democratic rights in order to build the Kingdom of Laos
into a peaceful, independent, neutral, democratic, unified,
and prosperous country.

5. Respect and believe in Buddhism or any other
Khuo Lop map teu puta sasana leh sasana eam eam
religion. Protect and care for temples and other religious
buildings and materials. Protect the rights of the monks,

priests and the followers of any religion.

6. Politic, economic, cultural, and social equality
Phadexbat sit sameupap lawang phetning kapphet sai
of men and women. Help promote women's education in
every aspect and expand or promote women's capability
by assigning them to construction work and in protecting
the country. Improve the standard of living for working
women in ethnic groups. Special care and attention
should be given to mothers and children.

7. A step by step construction of a financial
Khoh sang peun tam setakut kany nyun heng sat tai pen chao tone
foundation for the nation depending on the natural
eng, leh mang kany somboun pai teua la kao doi vittee ing sai sak
resources and the people. At the same time accept foreign
panakone, tama sat pbai nai phateht.
assistance that has no political obligations in order to
build the nation's strength so the people can live happily.

Expand agricultural work, forestry, industry and
handicrafts, commerce, communication, and transportation
based on agriculture and forestry as a means of building
national industry which would lead to economic development.
Strongly encourage the people to produce; at the same time
broaden the economic circles that are controlled by the
government. Encourage the people to invest in private
businesses or join in government cooperatives that would

be beneficial to the country and to themselves. Follow the system of tax collecting that is just and reasonable in order to maintain the stability of the financial matters.

8. Protect and preserve the good customs of various ethnic groups. *Phonk phak huksa hit kong phapiinee an di ngam khong ban da*
Sone sat sone phao. Expand national culture and education, and gradually promote the feeling of patriotism and friendliness among different groups of people. Use Lao as the language of instruction in each school at all levels. Provide and expand each type of education such as: academic education, professional education in secondary schools, and university studies. Train workers, civil servants, and ordinary people who are skillful to serve in the construction work and in protecting the country.

9. Broaden the circle of public health to the level of *khamai vong kann sataramasuk hai long het tasseng leh mui ban tu*
u hang kai peua pong kann soukharup kong ban da sone sat sone phao. Tasseng and the villages that are far away from town so everyone is healthy. Prevent infectious diseases, especially malaria, leprosy, venereal disease, intestinal disease, etc. Prevent immature death and accidental death in order to increase the growth of population.

10. Guarantee and provide work for everyone.
Lap pha kann hai mee wak het ngantam

Improve the standard of living materially and intellectually
leh poua peng sawit kann pen u dan wat tau leh chitchai hai
for everyone in both urban and rural areas. Abolish the
keh pone la muong lao tuk kone.
policy of seizing the land, crop plantation, use of
manpower, and farm equipment. Help war veterans,
old people, orphans who have no dwelling places, and the
disabled. Help soldiers who had been demobilized, such
as war veterans, family members of soldiers and policemen
so each can earn a living and share in the construction of
the nation. Protect the rights of our country fellowmen
abroad, and the rights of foreigners who live in our country,
and who lead peaceful lives and respect the laws of our
country.

11. Destroy all traces of foreign cultures that are bad
Lop lang hong hoi kong watanatham an suamsam kong tang
and social threats such as killing for the purpose of
phathet leh bam da phai antalai thang dan sangkome
stealing, prostitution, and gambling in order to maintain
national order and peace. Protect the good characteristics
and dignity of Lao and the young members of the youth
movement.

12. Build an army and a peace maintaining force so
Koh sang khong thap leh phamlang peng kann kuam samos p an
the people in general will have the feeling of patriptism,
pen ekephap kong sat hai mui namchai haksat, hak pasason,
love of their country fellowmen, and be ready to protect
giium some tu cha pok phak hak sa pathet sat leh

the integrity of the country, peace, lives, and properties
senti phag buam sanouk sok kong parason
of the people. Soldiers must produce something in the

form of foodstuff in order to reduce the burden of other people's responsibilities. The army as a whole must join in the building of national economy and culture, and improve the people's standard of living. Within the army and the peace maintaining force, there must be the spirit of democracy and strict discipline, with special care given to the living condition of soldiers and policemen.

Foreign Policies

1. Ask the United States, Thailand, and other countries to respect the national rights such as: democracy, independence, unity, and integrity of our country. Strict and complete implementation of the Peace Agreement and Protocol of 1973. Ask the United States to help heal the wounds resulted from war.
2. Extend friendly relationships with foreign countries and set up diplomatic relations with those that respect our democratic rights and independence. Follow the five points for peaceful living. Carry-on normal relationships with other countries without considering their political and social concepts, especially the

neighboring countries. There is to be no foreign interference of any kind. We shall not take part in any organizations or military groups whose activities show signs of non-conformity to the concepts of peace, independence, and neutrality of Laos. We will not accept the protection from any friendly group or military parties.

3. Accept assistance from well-wishing countries that has no political obligations in our renaissance, effort to construct national economy and expand our culture with respect to independence and democratic rights. Continue trading and economic cooperation with every country by following the principles of equality to assure the spirit of democracy and independence.

4. Respect various agreements that we have signed with foreign countries which are beneficial to the Lao people. Abolish any agreement that is contrary or goes against the said principles.

5. Look for support from the government, population, foreign countries, and international organizations that care to improve long, lasting peace in Laos which would lead to the restoration of complete independence and neutrality of Laos.

6. Support the effort of all countries in Indochina, Southeast Asia, and in the world, that try to maintain peace, independence, democracy, and social progress.

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Now our country is like a land divided into two parts, being inspected and controlled by two parties who work for one general objective, that is, to maintain peace, independence, neutrality, democracy, unity, and prosperity of the country. So both parties must follow the above aim strictly and completely with guidance from the highest institutions that they had established, that is: the National Joint Political Council and the Provisional Government of National Union. At the same time both parties must continue negotiating and discussing in order to find a way to solve problems related to them as appropriate and with mutual understanding. For peaceful harmony and unification, one party should not be pressed by the other or be swallowed by the other in order to have its own way.

The National Joint Political Council sincerely requests that each one -- in any level of society, in government

organizations, political powers, the qualified, educators, the intellectuals, monks, civil servants, soldiers and policemen, who love their country, peace, independence, neutrality, and democracy -- must find for the implementation of this political project in order to build the Kingdom of Laos into a peaceful, independent, neutral, democratic, unified, and prosperous country.

The National Joint Political Council claims for national respect from every foreign country and those who love peace and justice in the world to continue their support for the maintenance of peace, independence, and national development.

Luang Prabang, May, 1974

President of the National Joint Political Council
Chao Souphanouvong

Two Vice-Presidents

Phagna Khamsouk Keola

Chao Sisoumang Sisaleumsack