

*Pres file*~~CONFIDENTIAL~~

Wednesday, November 8, 1967

## MEMORANDUM FOR THE PRESIDENT

SUBJECT: Visit of Crown Prince of Laos

Crown Prince Vong Savang will arrive tomorrow (Nov. 9) at 12:30 p.m. at the diplomatic entrance and will accompany you to your office for a 30-minute talk before lunch.

The Crown Prince is 35, shy but friendly, and has no real responsibilities in the government. He is being groomed to succeed his father. We do not expect the Prince to raise any matters of substance.

You may wish to:

-- recall your useful talks with Prime Minister Souvanna Phouma last month and his helpful analysis of the situation in Laos and Southeast Asia;

-- praise the headway Laos has made toward political stability despite the strains of prolonged war;

-- tell him you have heard of his interest in agriculture and note we have made arrangements for him to see some of our agricultural experimental facilities at Beltsville and something of rural America;

-- say we are following progress of the Nam Ngum (Nahm-Goom) Dam with great attention. (We are one of nine countries involved in financing the dam which will produce 30,000 KW of power and will irrigate more than 12,000 acres of rice land;

-- express our regret and concern at the loss of life (200-300 a month) and the economic drain of North Vietnamese aggression against Laos;

-- ask for his view on recent heavy fighting in Laos, some of it 50 miles north of the royal capital (Luang Prabang).

The Prince may ask for U.S. help in building a new hospital outside Luang Prabang. The King is deeply interested in this.

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E.O. 12356, Sec. 3.4

NEJ 94-477

By WJ, NARA, Date 6-28-95~~CONFIDENTIAL~~

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You may wish to reply:

-- we are cooperating with UNICEF (United Nations Children's Fund) and the British in building a new maternal and health center in Luang Prabang;

-- while we have no funds available now for a new hospital, we would be willing to help renovate the existing provincial hospital in Luang Prabang.

W. W. Rostow

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