

No. 6564

**BURMA, CAMBODIA, CANADA,
PEOPLE'S REPUBLIC OF CHINA, DEMOCRATIC
REPUBLIC OF VIET-NAM, etc.**

**Declaration on the Neutrality of Laos. Signed at Geneva,
on 23 July 1962**

**Protocol to the above-mentioned Declaration. Signed at
Geneva, on 23 July 1962**

Official texts : English, Chinese, French, Laotian and Russian.

*Registered by the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland on
14 March 1963.*

**BIRMANIE, CAMBODGE, CANADA,
RÉPUBLIQUE POPULAIRE DE CHINE, RÉPUBLIQUE
DÉMOCRATIQUE DU VIET-NAM, etc.**

**Déclaration sur la neutralité du Laos. Signée à Genève, le
23 juillet 1962**

**Protocole à la Déclaration susmentionnée. Signé à Genève,
le 23 juillet 1962**

Textes officiels anglais, chinois, français, laotien et russe.

*Enregistré par le Royaume-Uni de Grande-Bretagne et d'Irlande du Nord
le 14 mars 1963.*

No. 6564. DECLARATION¹ ON THE NEUTRALITY OF
LAOS. SIGNED AT GENEVA, ON 23 JULY 1962

The Governments of the Union of Burma, the Kingdom of Cambodia, Canada, the People's Republic of China, the Democratic Republic of Viet-Nam, the Republic of France, the Republic of India, the Polish People's Republic, the Republic of Viet-Nam, the Kingdom of Thailand, the Union of Soviet Socialist Republics, the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland and the United States of America, whose representatives took part in the International Conference on the Settlement of the Laotian Question, 1961-1962 ;

Welcoming the presentation of the statement of neutrality by the Royal Government of Laos of July 9, 1962, and taking note of this statement, which is, with the concurrence of the Royal Government of Laos, incorporated in the present Declaration as an integral part thereof, and the text of which is as follows :

THE ROYAL GOVERNMENT OF LAOS,

Being resolved to follow the path of peace and neutrality in conformity with the interests and aspirations of the Laotian people, as well as the principles of the Joint Communiqué of Zurich dated June 22, 1961, and of the Geneva Agreements of 1954, in order to build a peaceful, neutral, independent, democratic, unified and prosperous Laos,

Solemnly declares that :

(1) It will resolutely apply the five principles of peaceful co-existence in foreign relations, and will develop friendly relations and establish diplomatic relations with all countries, the neighbouring countries first and foremost, on the basis of equality and of respect for the independence and sovereignty of Laos ;

(2) It is the will of the Laotian people to protect and ensure respect for the sovereignty, independence, neutrality, unity, and territorial integrity of Laos ;

(3) It will not resort to the use or threat of force in any way which might impair the peace of other countries, and will not interfere in the internal affairs of other countries ;

(4) It will not enter into any military alliance or into any agreement, whether military or otherwise, which is inconsistent with the neutrality of the Kingdom of Laos ; it will not allow the establishment of any foreign military base on Laotian territory, nor allow any country to use Laotian territory for

¹ Came into force on 23 July 1962, upon signature, in accordance with the provisions of paragraph 5.

military purposes or for the purposes of interference in the internal affairs of other countries, nor recognise the protection of any alliance or military coalition, including SEATO ;

(5) It will not allow any foreign interference in the internal affairs of the Kingdom of Laos in any form whatsoever ;

(6) Subject to the provisions of Article 5 of the Protocol,¹ it will require the withdrawal from Laos of all foreign troops and military personnel, and will not allow any foreign troops or military personnel to be introduced into Laos ;

(7) It will accept direct and unconditional aid from all countries that wish to help the Kingdom of Laos build up an independent and autonomous national economy on the basis of respect for the sovereignty of Laos ;

(8) It will respect the treaties and agreements signed in conformity with the interests of the Laotian people and of the policy of peace and neutrality of the Kingdom, in particular the Geneva Agreements of 1962, and will abrogate all treaties and agreements which are contrary to those principles.

This statement of neutrality by the Royal Government of Laos shall be promulgated constitutionally and shall have the force of law.

The Kingdom of Laos appeals to all the States participating in the International Conference on the Settlement of the Laotian Question, and to all other States, to recognise the sovereignty, independence, neutrality, unity and territorial integrity of Laos, to conform to these principles in all respects, and to refrain from any action inconsistent therewith.

Confirming the principles of respect for the sovereignty, independence, unity and territorial integrity of the Kingdom of Laos and non-interference in its internal affairs which are embodied in the Geneva Agreements of 1954 ;

Emphasising the principle of respect for the neutrality of the Kingdom of Laos ;

Agreeing that the above-mentioned principles constitute a basis for the peaceful settlement of the Laotian question ;

Profoundly convinced that the independence and neutrality of the Kingdom of Laos will assist the peaceful democratic development of the Kingdom of Laos and the achievement of national accord and unity in that country, as well as the strengthening of peace and security in South-East Asia ;

1. Solemnly declare, in accordance with the will of the Government and people of the Kingdom of Laos, as expressed in the statement of neutrality by the Royal Government of Laos of July 9, 1962, that they recognise and will respect and observe in every way the sovereignty, independence, neutrality, unity and territorial integrity of the Kingdom of Laos.

¹ See p. 324 of this volume.

2. Undertake, in particular, that

- (a) they will not commit or participate in any way in any act which might directly or indirectly impair the sovereignty, independence, neutrality, unity or territorial integrity of the Kingdom of Laos ;
- (b) they will not resort to the use or threat of force or any other measure which might impair the peace of the Kingdom of Laos ;
- (c) they will refrain from all direct or indirect interference in the internal affairs of the Kingdom of Laos ;
- (d) they will not attach conditions of a political nature to any assistance which they may offer or which the Kingdom of Laos may seek ;
- (e) they will not bring the Kingdom of Laos in any way into any military alliance or any other agreement, whether military or otherwise, which is inconsistent with her neutrality, nor invite or encourage her to enter into any such alliance or to conclude any such agreement ;
- (f) they will respect the wish of the Kingdom of Laos not to recognise the protection of any alliance or military coalition, including SEATO ;
- (g) they will not introduce into the Kingdom of Laos foreign troops or military personnel in any form whatsoever, nor will they in any way facilitate or connive at the introduction of any foreign troops or military personnel ;
- (h) they will not establish nor will they in any way facilitate or connive at the establishment in the Kingdom of Laos of any foreign military base, foreign strong point or other foreign military installation of any kind ;
- (i) they will not use the territory of the Kingdom of Laos for interference in the internal affairs of other countries ;
- (j) they will not use the territory of any country, including their own for interference in the internal affairs of the Kingdom of Laos.

3. Appeal to all other States to recognise, respect and observe in every way the sovereignty, independence and neutrality, and also the unity and territorial integrity, of the Kingdom of Laos and to refrain from any action inconsistent with these principles or with other provisions of the present Declaration.

4. Undertake, in the event of a violation or threat of violation of the sovereignty, independence, neutrality, unity or territorial integrity of the Kingdom of Laos, to consult jointly with the Royal Government of Laos and among themselves in order to consider measures which might prove to be necessary to ensure the observance of these principles and the other provisions of the present Declaration.

5. The present Declaration shall enter into force on signature and together with the statement of neutrality by the Royal Government of Laos of July 9, 1962, shall be regarded as constituting an international agreement. The present Declaration shall be deposited in the archives of the Governments of the United Kingdom

and the Union of Soviet Socialist Republics, which shall furnish certified copies thereof to the other signatory States and to all the other States of the world.

IN WITNESS WHEREOF, the undersigned Plenipotentiaries have signed the present Declaration.

DONE in two copies in Geneva this twenty-third day of July one thousand nine hundred and sixty-two in the English, Chinese, French, Laotian and Russian languages, each text being equally authoritative.