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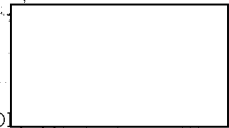
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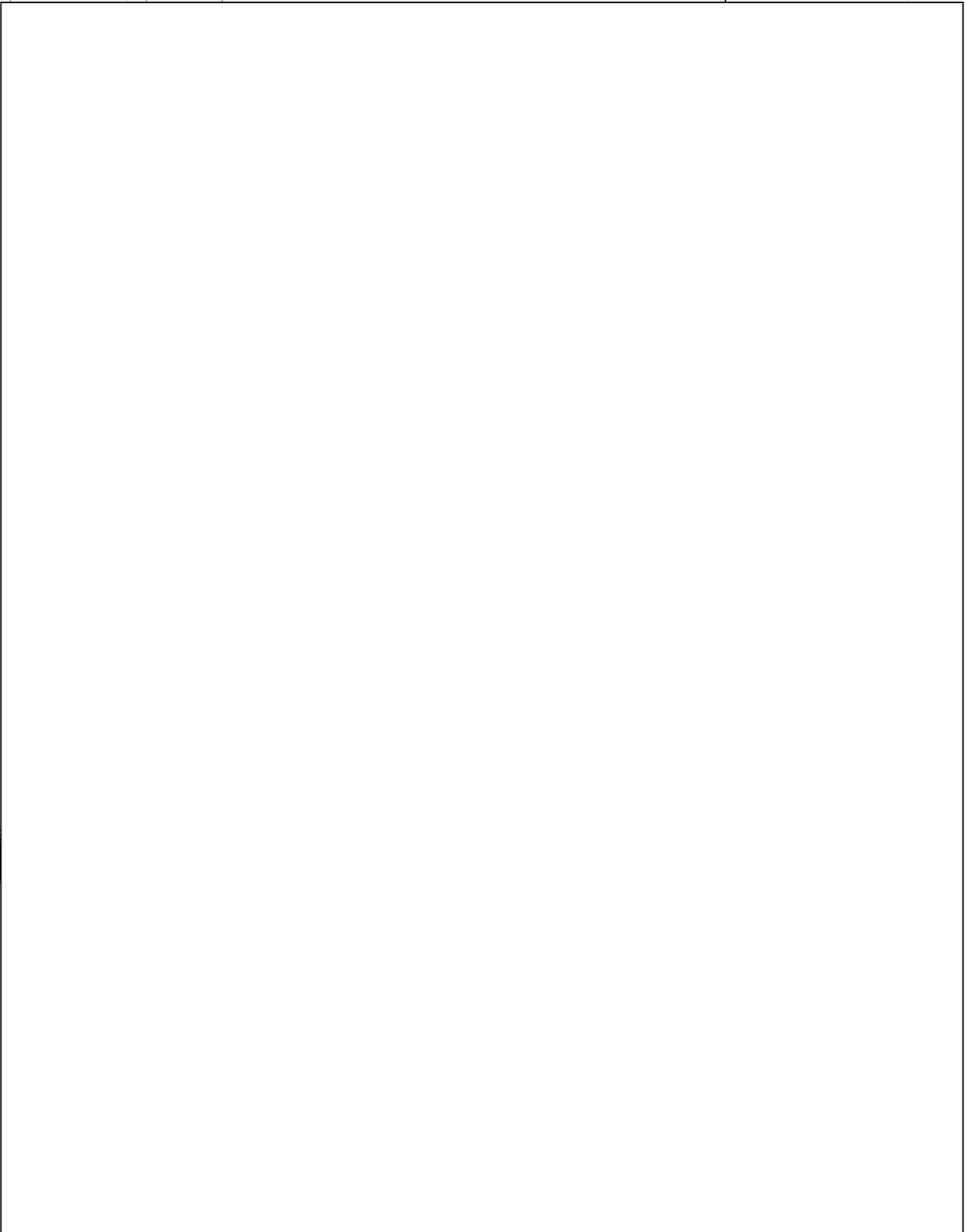


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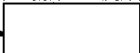
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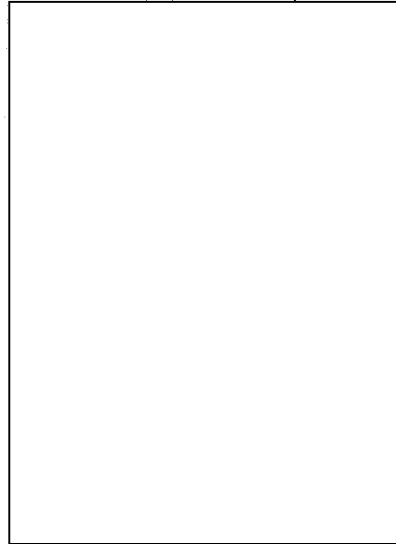


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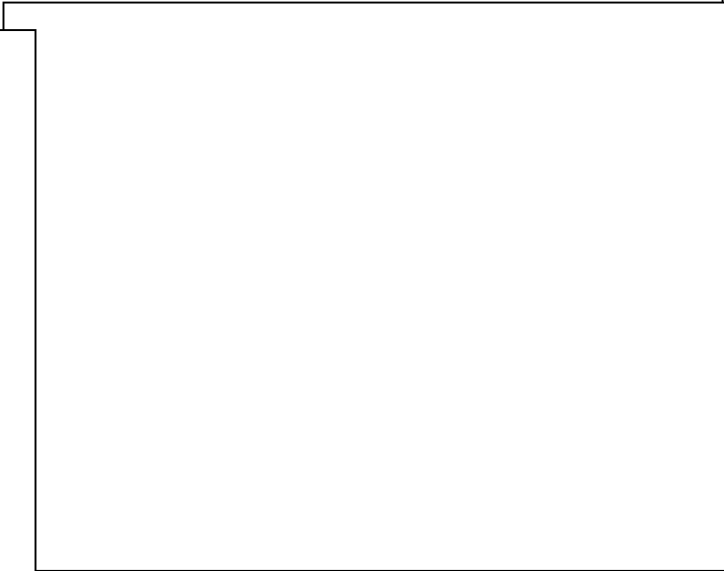
Lao Communist Frank, Affable With US Envoy

Ambassador Whitehouse came away from his first meeting with Deputy Prime Minister and Foreign Minister Phoumi Vongvichit yesterday with a highly favorable impression of the Lao Communist official. Whitehouse described Phoumi as cordial, frank, and extremely courteous. Phoumi gave every indication of wanting to maintain good relations with the US. According to the ambassador, Phoumi appears to be a person with whom serious matters can be discussed in a non-polemical manner.

In his discussion with the ambassador, Phoumi covered several points:

- He said he expected to be able to provide information on prisoners of war and the missing in action, but did not mention any specific time. He said he would inform the ambassador as soon as any decision was reached regarding Emmet Kay, the US commercial pilot held by the Pathet Lao.
- He stated it was essential for all foreign soldiers to leave Laos.
- He hinted that the Pathet Lao may ask for aid for refugee resettlement.
- He tried to play down apprehensions of a Communist takeover in Laos by saying that there are two political viewpoints in the country and that the Lao people should work calmly and amicably toward reconciling them.

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