

March 25, 1961

**Cable from He Wei, 'Comrade Nguyễn Chí Thanh
Talked about the Situation in Laos with Me and the
Soviet Ambassador'**

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Summary:

He Wei reports on Nguyễn Chí Thanh's remarks that "the war in Laos develops quite well."

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Comrade Nguyễn Chí Thanh Talked about Situation in Laos with Me and the Soviet Ambassador

Ministry of Foreign Affairs:

In the morning, Comrade Nguyễn Chí Thanh had a meeting with me and the Soviet ambassador at the Foreign Ministry to talk about situation in Laos.

"The war in Laos develops quite well. After we conquered Sala Phou Khoun, we also liberated central Laos thus threatened Savannakhet, and demoralized the enemy. It shocked those in power in Luang Prabang and Vientiane. The US and Phoumi claimed that if they did not strengthen the military, they would not be able to handle the situation. We are facing some difficulties in military, while still possessing many advantages, which allow us to wage attack, strengthen and enlarge our victories, and conduct guerilla war. Yet at the moment we won't attack Luang Prabang or Vientiane because on one hand there were difficulties and on the other the effect is too great."

"The military and political issues in Laos are complex. The United States attaches great importance to Laos and is determined to limit the development of revolution in Laos. This stance has remained unchanged. However, due to our successive victories, the US has raised some new issues such as the International Committee. Some other Western countries are also considering about a political solution. Consider this, in order to not only consolidate and expand our victories, but also to limit the scope of the war in Laos, we are thinking about launching a political campaign at the same time of military offensives. We would like to hear from China and the Soviet Union." "Southeast Asian countries held discussion over the Lao issue recently. The United States also had contacts with Britain, Russia, and France. If China and the Soviet Union know anything about the situation, especially on American policy to Laos, please inform us."

He Wei
25 March [1961]