

Quiet People In Conflict Because Of Place On Map

By TOM HENSHAW
VIENTIANE (AP)—The Lao national anthem begins: "Our Lao race had once known in Asia a great renown."
 The anthem, Phing Sad Lao, harkens back wistfully to the happy time of Lan Xang, the great kingdom of the Lao that flourished while Europe was emerging from the middle ages.
 Now, the Laotians and their neighbors in Southeast Asia are knowing renown once again, this time as unhappy pawns in the power struggle between east and west.

More than anything else, the accident of geography has placed the gentle, friendly peoples of Southeast Asia in the centre of a world conflict which interests the bulk of them little if at all.
 They are among the world's leading producers of rice, the staple food of the Far East and an attraction to the hungry millions in Red China, which hovers over them to the south like a darkening cloud.
 Part of Southeast Asia, the southern half of Viet Nam, has fallen to the communists already. An estimated two-thirds of Laos is in the hands of the Communist Pathet Lao guerrillas.

STEM THE TIDE
 Stemming the tide of Red invasions are the strongly anti-Communist states of Thailand, South Viet Nam and Malaysia. Cambodia and Burma maintain a precarious neutrality in the east-west struggle while the eighth state of Southeast Asia, Singapore, is guided in its foreign relations by Britain.
 A large percentage of the populations of all eight states are pure Chinese—or overseas Chinese—who are the shopkeepers and merchants.
 Many have strong ties with their homeland, now in the hands of the Communists.
 Here are capsule sketches of the eight states of Southeast Asia:
Laos — Area: 80,780 square miles. Population: 1,700,000. French protectorate until 1949 when it became independent. Chief of state: King Sri Savang Vatthana, whose capital is Luang Prabang. Premier: Prince Bouan Oum, whose administrative capital is Vientiane. Bouan Oum is pro-Western.
 About two-thirds of the territory controlled by Communist Pathet Lao, headed by Prince Souphanouvong, who organized Pathet Lao in 1951.
 About 95 per cent of working force engaged in farming, chiefly rice. No railroads. Most roads impassable during rainy season. Overseas Chinese: 10,000.
Thailand — Area: 198,270 square miles. Population: 25,500,000. Member of Southeast Asia Treaty Organization.
 King Bhumibol, born in Cambridge, Mass., while his father was studying medicine at Harvard.
 Screenshot: Field Marshal Sarit Thanarat, who assumed control of the country in 1958 in a bloodless coup. Strongly pro-Western.
 More than 80 per cent of work force in agriculture, largely rice. Big producer of teak wood and tin ore. Overseas Chinese: 2,500,000.
North Viet Nam — Area: 65,930 square miles. Population: 13,300,000. French protectorate until 1954.
 President: Ho Chi Minh (Ho Who Shines), a Communist who led the forces against the French in the Indochina War of 1954.
 President: Ngo Dinh Diem, who outlawed Communism in 1956, and is hampered in developing country by heavy defence spending.
 Recently, the 190,000-man South Viet Nam army has been fighting guerrilla warfare against Communist-led Viet Cong.
 About 80 per cent of work force in agriculture, chiefly rice. Overseas Chinese: Estimated as high as 550,000.
Burma—Area: 261,769 square miles. Population: 30,662,000. British Crown colony until 1948. Shares 1,000 mile frontier with Viet China.
 Screenshot: Gen. Ne Win, who took control in a military coup last February. Strictly neutral in cold war.
 Seven out of 10 in work force engaged in farming, chiefly rice. Opium produced in northern states, overseas Chinese: 230,000.
Cambodia — Area: 66,590 square miles. Population: 4,980,000. French protectorate until 1953.
 Chief of state: Norodom Sihanouk, who resigned as King in 1955 to become premier. Maintains neutrality, receiving aid from United States, Soviet Union and Red China.
 About 85 per cent of cultivated land devoted to rice. Overseas Chinese: 215,000.
Malaya—Area: 80,600 square miles. Population: 6,278,763. British possession until 1957.
 Chief of state: Raja of Perlis, one of nine state princes, chosen paramount ruler in 1961 for five-year term. Actual ruler: Premier Prince Abdul Rahman. Member of Commonwealth.
 World's largest producer of natural rubber. Overseas Chinese: 1,500,000.
Singapore — Area: Island 217 square miles. Population: 1,580,000.
 Self-governing state under British protection. British naval base called "Gibraltar of the east."
 Extremely cosmopolitan with four official languages — English, Malay, Chinese, Tamil. Overseas Chinese: 1,100,000, almost 80 per cent of the population.
 Mr. and Mrs. Herrule Gaudet of Saint John, N. B., recently spent several days in Misoucouche at the home of Mr. and Mrs. Reggie Gaudet.
 Mr. and Mrs. Edmond Gallant and son, John of Misoucouche, recently spent some time in Misoucouche, where they visited with relatives and friends.
 Craftman Paul Desroches, son of Mr. and Mrs. Phil H. Desroches of Misoucouche, graduated at Royal Canadian Artillery, Camp Shilo, Man., after completing 15 weeks of military training.
 Armand Desroches, who has attended St. Dunstan's University during the past year, arrived at his home on Thursday and left on Friday for Vancouver where he will be with the reserve Air Force for the summer months. Armand is the son of Mr. and Mrs. Tilmon S. Desroches of Misoucouche.
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19 The Guardian, Charlottetown, Wed. May 23, 1962
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MISCOCUCHE
 Mr. and Mrs. Howard McDougall of Charlottetown were visitors to Misoucouche on Sunday at the home of Mr. and Mrs. John C. Polier.
 On Monday evening a bingo was held in the school auditorium with a good attendance. This was sponsored by the Misoucouche Catholic Women's League.
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