



MEMORANDUM
WORLD
CONCERN

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ນະຄອນວຽງຈັນ

20 October 1992

NGO Representatives in the Lao P.D.R.

My Dear Colleagues,

A week ago during our monthly NGO meeting I distributed a statement regarding the situation which I was experiencing. I am writing at this time to inform you that the situation has been resolved.

After waiting in uncertainty for two months, yesterday I met with Mr. Alounkeo, at the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, who informed me that the Lao government would give me 24 hours in which to leave the country. I have received nothing in writing, and there still seems to be some confusion as to what the charges were. Although he has not seen the evidence himself, Mr. Alounkeo specifically mentioned a book I had which had been written by a general of the former Lao government. He said that book is revolutionary and illegal. The reason why I suggest that there is still some confusion, is because Mr. Alounkeo also stated that I brought in a book which talked about bringing back the Royal Lao Kingdom. I categorically denied that charge and challenged him to produce such a book--I do not have such a book.

While I deeply regret what has transpired, I will abide by the demands of the government. I am very sorry that I have to leave; and I am also very sorry that I have to leave in this way. I do trust that the message (whatever that may be) has been communicated to our community, and that you will find things easier now.

I appreciate the good cooperation that the NGO community in Laos experiences; and the support that the NGO community has been to me personally. I hope that the level of cooperation will continue, and that mutual support may be forthcoming with my successor. World Concern continues committed to serving the Lao people as long as the opportunity is permitted.

My best wishes to you in your endeavors on behalf of the people of the Lao P.D.R.

Sincerely,

David I. Andrianoff
Laos Country Manager

MEMORANDUM

TO: NGO's in the Lao P.D.R.
FROM: David I. Andrianoff
RE: Statement Regarding Andrianoff Situation

On August 13, returning from a brief trip across the river to Thailand where he had a meeting, Dave Andrianoff brought back mail bags of personal books which the Andrianoffs had mailed to their post office box in Thailand. Because there were so many of them (six bags for them plus three bags for friends) they attracted the attention of the border police in Laos. While no duty is charged on books, because the bags included some religious books, the border police made the decision to have him pick up the books at the Ministry of Interior the following day.

It was not to be so easy. Dave was called to a meeting at the Ministry of Interior also attended by representatives from the Post Office, the Ministry of Culture, and the Ministry of Foreign Affairs. At that meeting he was accused of proselytizing and of inciting revolution to bring back the former Lao kingdom. With reference to the accusation of proselytizing, the confiscated books did contain many that were religious; however they are **all** in the English language, there are no two books of the same title, and they are all for personal edification--they have nothing to do with proselytizing. Regarding the charge of inciting a revolution to bring back the former Lao kingdom, one of the confiscated books was written by a former royalist Lao general describing warfare in the 1960's in Laos. There is also a theological book about the "coming kingdom" which has nothing to do with Laos. Evidently the Ministry of Interior decided to use this as an opportunity to send a message to expatriates (and NGO's in particular) living in Laos. It appears that some in the Lao government would like to remove Dave Andrianoff (if not the World Concern organization) from the country. However, this case is still not resolved, and more importantly, to date no charges have been pressed.

So far the only result has been that Dave's passport and identification card have been retained by the government. That means that he has been confined to Vientiane. And there is no way that he can leave until this is resolved.

At this time it seems that a decision may have been made by the Council of Ministers. The government is waiting for the return of officials responsible to formally inform World Concern of the decision.