

WASHINGTON POST
At Least 20

Die in Laos
26 November 1968
Air Crash

~~NEW YORK TIMES~~
Associated Press

More than 20 persons, including six Americans, died yesterday when an Air America C-46 plane chartered by the U.S. Agency for International Development crashed in southern Laos, the State Department said.

Press officer Carl Bartch said the transport crashed shortly after takeoff from Savannakhet on a flight to the Laotian administrative capital of Vientiane. The crash was attributed to engine failure, Bartch said.

Bartch identified five of the six American victims as Donald S. Kobayashi of Petaluma, Calif., and Harold O. Sealok of Rushville, Ind., both members of the U.S. AID mission to Laos; and E. B. Hodgkins, J. C. Murray and Les Porter, all civilian employes of Air America.

One civilian employe of the U.S. Navy was killed, but his identity was not disclosed pending notification of relatives. Hometowns of the Air America employes were not available.

Another American was one of two survivors of the crash, but he was not identified by the State Department.

First reports indicated there were 32 or 33 persons aboard the aircraft. AID officials placed the number at 28 or 27, and the State Department said "more than 20" were aboard.

26 NOVEMBER 1968
32 Killed in Laos Crash,
Including 6 Americans
NEW YORK TIMES -

VIENTIANE, Laos, Nov. 25 (AP)—An Air America C-46 plane, chartered by the Agency for International Development, crashed soon after take-off from Savannakhet today, killing 32 of the 34 persons aboard.

The passengers were mainly United States aid officers and local employes.

The plane crashed about two miles from Savannakhet, about 170 miles southeast of Vientiane. First reports said a wing defect was the apparent cause of the crash.

WASHINGTON, Nov. 25 (AP) — A.I.D. officials said today seven Americans were aboard the plane and one of them, a civilian Army employe, survived.

The six Americans who died included two regular A.I.D. employes, one Navy employe under contract, two crew members and one Air America employe.

The second survivor was described as a Thai citizen, employed by the agency.

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