

No. 21821

**GERMAN DEMOCRATIC REPUBLIC
and
LAO PEOPLE'S DEMOCRATIC REPUBLIC**

**Treaty of friendship and co-operation. Signed at Berlin on
22 September 1982**

Authentic texts: German and Laotian.

Registered by the German Democratic Republic and the Lao People's Democratic Republic on 7 April 1983.

**RÉPUBLIQUE DÉMOCRATIQUE ALLEMANDE
et
RÉPUBLIQUE DÉMOCRATIQUE POPULAIRE LAO**

**Traité d'amitié et de coopération. Signé à Berlin le
22 septembre 1982**

Textes authentiques : allemand et laotien.

Enregistré par la République démocratique allemande et la République démocratique populaire lao le 7 avril 1983.

[TRANSLATION — TRADUCTION]

TREATY¹ OF FRIENDSHIP AND CO-OPERATION BETWEEN THE GERMAN DEMOCRATIC REPUBLIC AND THE LAO PEOPLE'S DEMOCRATIC REPUBLIC

The German Democratic Republic and the Lao People's Democratic Republic, Proceeding from the close fraternal friendship, solidarity, all-round co-operation and mutual assistance, based on Marxism-Leninism and proletarian internationalism, that exist between the German Democratic Republic and the Lao People's Democratic Republic;

Building upon the traditional good relations that firmly bind the two States and peoples;

Firmly convinced that all-round reinforcement of their close friendship and co-operation is in the fundamental interests of the peoples of both States and serves to further the fraternal relations between the socialist States and peoples;

Guided by the desire to contribute to reinforcing the cohesion of the community of socialist States, which is based on a common social system and ultimate objectives;

Desiring to develop and promote still further all-round co-operation between the two States and, at the same time and in particular, to devote close attention to political, ideological and economic co-operation;

Reaffirming that the consolidation, development and protection of the revolutionary achievements resulting from the dedication of both peoples constitute an internationalist duty incumbent on both States;

Encouraged by the efforts made to ensure, in keeping with the principles and purposes of socialist foreign policy, optimum international conditions for building socialism, and resolved to put into practice their anti-imperialist solidarity with all peoples struggling for their national and social liberation;

Standing up, therefore, for the unity and co-ordination of all forces struggling for peace, national independence, democracy and social progress against imperialism, hegemonism, expansionism, colonialism, neo-colonialism and racism in all its forms;

Resolved to promote further consolidation of peace and security in Europe, Asia and throughout the world and to contribute to the development and extension of relations between States with different social systems on the basis of the principles of peaceful coexistence in accordance with the aims and principles of the Charter of the United Nations;

Attaching great importance to further developing and improving the contractual bases of their mutual relations,

Have agreed as follows:

Article 1. The High Contracting Parties, motivated by the principles of proletarian internationalism, shall continue to develop the comradely relations of fraternal

¹ Came into force on 24 January 1983, the date of the exchange of the instruments of ratification, which took place at Vientiane, in accordance with article 10.

friendship, solidarity and mutual assistance between the peoples of the German Democratic Republic and the Lao People's Democratic Republic and at the same time to consolidate and enhance all-round co-operation on the basis of complete equality of rights and mutual respect for independence, sovereignty, territorial integrity and non-intervention in internal affairs.

Article 2. The High Contracting Parties shall consolidate and extend their economic, scientific and technical co-operation on the basis of the most-favoured-nation principle and of mutual benefit and shall thereby make a contribution towards strengthening socialism and towards steadily improving their response to the material and cultural needs of the peoples of both countries. In so doing, they shall attach increasing importance to bilateral and multilateral co-operation among the States of the socialist community.

The two Parties shall co-operate closely in the fields of culture, science, education including vocational training, public health, literature, the arts, the press, radio and television broadcasting, the cinema, physical education and sports. They shall encourage further development of co-operation between social institutions and mass organizations and shall use them as an important medium for familiarizing the people of each country with the life, experiences and achievements in building socialism of the other country.

Article 3. The High Contracting Parties shall constantly strive, on the basis of Marxism-Leninism and proletarian internationalism, to promote the further consolidation of fraternal relations and cohesion among the States of the socialist community.

The Parties shall do their utmost to strengthen the socialist world system. They shall actively contribute towards developing and protecting the achievements of socialism and steadfastly support the struggles of peoples for peace, national independence, democracy and socialism.

Article 4. The High Contracting Parties shall do their utmost, in the interest of peace and the security of peoples, to contribute actively towards foiling all the machinations and plots of imperialism and the forces of international reaction.

They shall actively support the just struggle of peoples to eliminate, once and for all, colonialism, neo-colonialism and racism in all its forms.

The two Parties shall encourage close co-operation and solidarity with all the peoples of Asia, Africa and Latin America liberated from imperialist and colonial domination in their struggle against imperialism, hegemonic designs and expansionism and for the consolidation of independence and social progress.

Article 5. The High Contracting Parties shall continue to contribute actively to the struggle for peace and international security. They shall make every effort to strengthen international détente, to bring about general and complete disarmament, including nuclear disarmament, and to eliminate all forms of hegemonism and expansionism in international relations. The two Parties shall work for the peaceful settlement of all international disputes without infringing the right of States, set forth in the Charter of the United Nations, to individual and collective self-defence against aggression.

Article 6. The High Contracting Parties shall support the development and improvement of relations between States with different social systems on the basis of respect for the independence, sovereignty, territorial integrity and inviolability of frontiers of States, non-intervention in internal affairs, equal rights, mutual benefit and principles of peaceful coexistence.

Article 7. The High Contracting Parties consider the inviolability of the State frontiers resulting from the Second World War in Europe, including the State frontier between the German Democratic Republic and the Federal Republic of Germany, to be an important prerequisite for guaranteeing peace and security in Europe. They shall support the efforts to consolidate peace and security in that region.

The two Parties shall support all efforts to make South East Asia a zone of peace, stability, friendship and co-operation.

Article 8. The High Contracting Parties shall maintain and develop their relations with West Berlin in accordance with the Quadripartite Agreement of 3 September 1971,¹ bearing in mind that West Berlin is not a constituent part of the Federal Republic of Germany and continues not to be governed by it.

Article 9. The High Contracting Parties shall inform and consult each other on problems concerning relations between the two States and international questions of interest to both countries.

Article 10. This Treaty is subject to ratification and shall enter into force upon the exchange of the instruments of ratification which shall take place shortly at Vientiane.

Article 11. This Treaty is concluded for a period of 25 years and shall be automatically renewed every 10 years, unless either of the High Contracting Parties notifies the other Party in writing, 12 months prior to the expiry of the period of validity, of its wish to denounce it.

DONE at Berlin on 22 September 1982, in two original copies in the German and Laotian languages, both texts being equally authentic.

For the German Democratic
Republic:

[ERICH HONECKER]

For the Lao People's Democratic
Republic:

[KAYSONE PHOMVIHANE]

¹ United Nations, *Treaty Series*, vol. 880, p. 115.