

of royal administration in the two northern provinces and also for the holding of general elections throughout the country. However, no agreement was reached on these two issues. The negotiations were resumed in Vientiane in the last week of October but they quickly broke down at the beginning of November. Thereafter both the Royal Government and the Pathet Lao wrote letters to the Commission outlining their respective positions, which were reported to the co-chairmen. Meanwhile the Royal Government continued with its preparations to hold elections in the area under its control, and these took place on December 25, in accordance with the constitution and the final declaration of the Geneva Conference, which stated that these elections were to be held during 1955.

During the year the Commission sent two interim reports to the co-chairmen covering its operations from their beginning up to June 30.

In October Mr. Paul Bridle succeeded Mr. L. Mayrand as Canadian Commissioner in Laos.

(c) Cambodia

Following completion of the military phase of its task under the Cease-Fire Agreement, the Commission in 1955 turned its attention to the political phase: the integration into the national community of the former Khmer resisters and the holding of general elections. The ex-resisters had already been demobilized, granted amnesty, and offered identity cards as citizens in good standing in the realm, but there was still some misunderstanding, suspicion, and fear of reprisals in the air which the Commission helped to dissipate by its investigation of complaints. As a result, these soon dwindled to a very small number and all citizens were able to resume constitutional political activity and to participate in the electoral campaign. The elections, originally scheduled for April 17, were postponed until September 11, when the party of the former King Sihanouk won all 91 seats with about 83 per cent of the popular vote. The Commission reported to the co-chairmen of the Geneva Conference that "the elections passed off peacefully" and that the electoral "settlement foreseen under Article 6 of the Geneva Agreement had been completed". As a result, the Commission's tasks diminished and a reduction of personnel by 40 per cent was effected in October. The remaining tasks of the Commission are the prevention of reprisals and the supervision of imports of war materials into Cambodia.

During the year the Commission sent four interim reports to the co-chairmen covering the operations of the Commission from their beginning up to the September 11 elections.

In August Mr. Arnold Smith succeeded Mr. R. Duder as Canadian Commissioner in Cambodia.

2. China

There were no important developments during the year in Canadian-Chinese relations. Canada continued to recognize diplomatically the National Government of President Chiang K'ai-shek on Formosa, while expressing a willingness to accept the *de facto* authority of the régime in Peking in respect of certain questions, such as a Korean or Indochinese peace settlement, where only that régime could represent China.