

CHAPTER I

POLITICAL NEGOTIATIONS

Chronology of Important Events

- 15 June 1955: Commission addresses letters to the Parties calling for resumption of political negotiations (vide paragraph 70 of Second Interim Report).
- 15 July 1955 to 5 September 1955: Negotiations take place in Vientiane but make little progress.
- 9 October 1955: Conference at Rangoon opens between Prime Minister and Prince Souphanouvong. Joint communique issued on 13 October 1955.
- End of October 1955: Negotiations continue in Vientiane.
- 3/4 November 1955: Negotiations deadlock.
- 25 December 1955: Royal Laotian Government hold elections. Pathet Lao do not participate.
- 7 January 1956: Commission adopts resolution recommending ways and means to a settlement.
- 22 February 1956: Reconstituted government under Prime Minister Katay D. Sasorith fails to receive parliamentary support.
- 21 March 1956: Prince Souvanna Phouma forms new government and declares that he would give solution of Pathet Lao problem highest priority.
- 13 April 1956: Special report is sent to Co-Chairmen summarising difficulties in political and military fields.
- April-May 1956: Exchange of letters takes place between the Parties for reopening negotiations.
- 2 August 1956: Prince Souvanna Phouma, Prime Minister, leading delegation of the Royal Government, and Prince Souphanouvong, leading delegation of Pathet Lao, meet at Vientiane for negotiations.
- 5 & 10 August 1956: Joint Declarations are issued indicating broadly a programme for final settlement of all the problems.