

per province. This indicated that there was also an area in each of the provinces of Phong Saly and Sam Neua;

(b) article 14 stipulated that the "Pathet Lao" forces would assemble in the two provinces, but did not provide that each of these provinces constituted in its entirety an Assembly Area;

(c) taking into consideration the sovereignty of the Royal Government, as recognised by the Geneva Agreement, the administrative capitals (Phong Saly and Sam Neua) of these two provinces were expected to be included in the zones allocated to the Laotian National Army;

(d) the Laotian National Army "in situ" should have a separate area, since Article 11 prescribed "cease-fire by the separation of forces";

(e) the two provinces were not dealt with in the agreement of 30th August on the Provisional Assembly Areas, because the Franco-Laotian Delegation was only trying to facilitate the signing of the agreement by avoiding controversial matters.

164. The above arguments were put forward by the two Parties at the meetings of the International Commission with the Joint Commission between 29th September and 5th October, 1954. On the last day of the meeting, the International Commission requested each of the two Parties to send to it by 12th October an aide-memoire giving the background of the dispute regarding the two provinces and their interpretation of the Geneva Agreement. The subject was again discussed, in the light of these aides-memoire (Appendices 'G' and 'H'), at the meeting which the International Commission held with the Joint Commission between 29th October and 6th November, 1954.

165. The Franco-Laotian Party then reasserted the sovereignty of the Royal Laotian Government over these two provinces, and wanted the other Party to agree to the establishment of Royal Administration by locating the Governors appointed by the Royal Government at the capitals of the two provinces. As a temporary measure, until a final political settlement had been arrived at, the Franco-Laotian Delegation proposed a division of the two provinces into two military zones, one consisting of the Laotian National Army Units in situ and the other of the "Pathet Lao" Units which were to be concentrated there by 19th November, 1954. The division was to be made after taking into consideration the questions of communication, supply, resources and population.

166. The Vietnamese People's Volunteers/"Pathet Lao" Party rejected the Franco-Laotian Party's plan of partitioning the region and asserted that the problem of the two provinces was a political problem, included "in the ensemble of problems tied up with the general political settlement" and that hence the "Pathet Lao" units should remain stationed there till such a political settlement,

Franco-Laotian Aide-Memoire

PVV/PL Proposal