

Commission on 20th October at midnight which indeed represented the longest time-limit that had been provided for in the Geneva Agreement. He continued that if his Government had insisted on this stand, it was because they considered that most of the important tasks assigned to the Joint Commission, namely, withdrawal of foreign troops and demobilisation on the spot, had been completed. As to reintegration in the national community, the Khmer Government, Colonel Lon Nol continued, regarded the matter as a domestic problem, and having regard to the measures already taken or being taken by Government, this problem could be said to have been solved or being in the process of solution. Should however any new problem arise, Colonel Lon Nol said, his Government would be available to the International Commission for any information that might be required. As to the other less important questions, Colonel Lon Nol added that his Government did not consider it necessary that the Joint Commission should continue functioning any more. He particularly referred to the question of release of prisoners of war and said that he had submitted a list of 900 prisoners not yet liberated by the other side. The reply that his Delegation had so far received on this point was evasive, viz., that the prisoners had migrated to Vietnam or were afraid to go back to their home for fear of being enlisted again. If discussions continued in this way, Colonel Lon Nol said, they would be sitting for, say, another six months without coming to any conclusion.

8. The Commissioner for Poland enquired, without going into the merits of the decision of the Khmer Government, whether Colonel Lon Nol had reported to his Government that it was the unanimous view of the International Commission that the Joint Commission should be prolonged by a week or ten-days after the midnight of 20th October in order to settle the outstanding issues.

Colonel Lon Nol replied in the affirmative. He said that he had sent a message to the Chairman of the International Commission at Phnom Penh indicating the decision of his Government. He added that the Cambodian Government would be prepared to discuss with the International Commission any outstanding issues after the Joint Commission had ceased functioning.

(At this stage there was a recess for five minutes)

9. After the meeting had reassembled, the Chairman referred to Colonel Lon Nol's statement and said that the International Commission did not agree that October 20th had been fixed for the termination of the Joint Commission under the Geneva Agreement. He continued: "I must say that we were disappointed that the Government of Cambodia have turned down our suggestion for extending the life of the Joint Commission by a few days. Our idea in making the suggestion was to provide some time to both the parties to consider the outstanding questions at some leisure in order to reach mature decisions. However, we are happy to find that both the sides have achieved a great measure of agreement in the discussions they have had during the