

(a) all prisoners of war and civil internees will be liberated and handed over by each Party. Each Party is responsible for handing over to the other all prisoners of war and civil internees;

(b) prisoners of war who are not of Laotian nationality and civilian internees of Vietnamese nationality will be handed over and received at Sam Son (Province of Thanh Hoa, Vietnam);

(c) prisoners of war and political officers of Laotian nationality of each side will be handed over and received at a suitable place in the Province of Sam Neua (Laos);

(d) Laotian civilian internees will be liberated in the provinces in which they were captured;

(e) the Joint Commission* for Laos is responsible for the handing over of prisoners of war and civilian internees as follows:-

(i) handing over of prisoners of war and political officers - The two Parties will send special envoys to the place earmarked, to carry out the plan of the Commission and to report to the Joint Commission regarding the prisoners of war and officers of their side;

(ii) if necessary, the Joint Commission will detail special envoys to control the handing over of civil internees in the different provinces. The local civil authorities should give all possible help to these operations.

89. The Franco-Laotian Delegation immediately agreed, but only to point (b) of the Vietnamese People's Volunteers/"Pathet Lao" project, in conformity with which 195 French Union prisoners of war were handed over by the Vietnamese People's Volunteers/"Pathet Lao" side on 11th September, 1954 in exchange for 109 (35 prisoners of war and 74 civil internees) Vietnamese liberated by the Franco-Laotian side on 8th September, 1954. The bulk of the Laotian prisoners of war remained unaccounted for, and thus the two Parties failed to keep to the timetable laid down under Article 16 of the Geneva Agreement. The International Commission contacted them again, but no agreement could be reached between the Parties before 27th September, 1954.

90. The agreement between the Vietnamese People's Volunteers/"Pathet Lao" and the Franco-Laotian Delegations of 27th September, 1954 incorporated all the five points enumerated above of the Vietnamese People's Volunteers/"Pathet Lao" project of 17th August, 1954. It divided all prisoners into three categories -

* No special organisation for exchange should be set up.

Number of Claims - 75 - Number Released

Agreement Between Parties