

were ostensibly completed by September 1954, as stipulated in the agreement, the Commission had to conduct, with only partial success, detailed inquiries into the claims and counterclaims made by the two parties against each other.

The Vietnam Commission devoted considerable time and energy to supervising the implementation of Articles 14(c) and 14(d) of the Cease-Fire Agreement guaranteeing democratic freedoms for the civilian population, particularly freedom from fear of reprisals or discrimination because of activities during the hostilities, and freedom of movement between the two zones for those who, during the period of military regroupment only, chose to change their zone of residence. While the former is a continuing responsibility, Article 14(d) was not. For this reason, the Canadian delegation attached a minority note to the covering letter accompanying the Commission's Third Interim Report, drawing the co-chairmen's attention to the unsatisfactory implementation of Article 14(d) in the PAVN zone and requesting that, in view of the time limit involved, the members of the Geneva Conference consult each other on measures to be taken to ensure the proper implementation of the article. Although the period of the application of Article 14(d) was extended to July 20, 1955, the Canadian member still could not agree with the Polish and Indian members of the Commission that the article had been satisfactorily implemented. He therefore attached a minority note of amendment to the Fourth Interim Report presenting what he considered to be a more accurate account of the implementation of Article 14(d) in the North and the South than that given by the majority of the Commission, and insisting that the Commission had a continuing responsibility with respect to freedom of movement.

In August Mr. David Johnson assumed his duties as the new Canadian Commissioner in Vietnam, succeeding Mr. Sherwood Lett.

(b) *Laos*

As the Pathet Lao claimed the whole area of the two northern provinces of Phongsaly and Sam Neua for themselves and the Royal Government insisted on its right to have forces therein, there were frequent military incidents in Laos throughout 1955. This military problem was complicated by the political one of the restoration of royal administration in the two provinces, where the Pathet Lao at present enjoy military, and in practice administrative, control. In view of the divergent legal positions of the parties on this problem, efforts were made to bring them together at military and political negotiations. These had taken place from time to time during the first few months of the year, but were resumed on a more systematic basis in July after a clash more serious than the preceding ones had occurred in the province of Sam Neua. The Commission attended the negotiations in order to assist in bringing the parties together, but little progress was made during the summer.

Towards the end of September a military solution was in sight, and the parties then agreed that the Commission should organize a meeting of their respective heads (Prime Minister Katay of the Royal Government and Prince Souphanouvong of the Pathet Lao) in Rangoon. At this meeting, which lasted from October 9 to October 13, the parties brought the preceding military negotiations to a conclusion by agreeing to stop all military incidents. At the same time, the Indian Chairman of the International Commission suggested a possible scheme for the restoration