

People's Volunteers/"Pathet Lao" side until 29th September, when they announced at the meeting of the International Commission with the Joint Commission that regroupment had been completed.

57. Neither party, however, gave to the other or to the International Commission precise information regarding the movement of its troops sufficiently in advance as to make supervision effective. On this subject, the Vietnamese People's Volunteers/"Pathet Lao" side stated on 9th September that the withdrawal of 3,000 Vietnamese People's Volunteers and 1,400 "Pathet-Lao" troops would start from Pakse, Attapeu and Saravane on 15th September, 15th October and 20th October respectively. Only a list of the location of French Union troops was received from the Franco-Laotian side on 27th September.

58. The International Commission, therefore, brought the subject up at its meeting with the Joint Commission between 29th September and 5th October. It succeeded in securing some information from both sides. The Vietnamese People's Volunteers/"Pathet Lao" side gave the total strength of their effectives and their routes of withdrawal.

59. The Chief of the Franco-Laotian Delegation, however, made it clear that he "had no objection to inform the International Commission in good time of the details of troops withdrawals", but that "as long as he did not know the dates of withdrawal and the size of the forces of the other party, the Franco-Laotian Delegation would not give any information of its own troops of the same nature." Following this, the Vietnamese People's Volunteers/"Pathet Lao" side, at the request of the International Commission, gave a breakdown of their troops according to each Provisional Assembly Area. They stated that troops would start withdrawing from Vientiane area on 1st October. On 5th October, they further intimated that two "Pathet Lao" Companies had already been withdrawn from the provinces of Savannakhet and Thakhek, and that one more "Pathet Lao" Company and one Vietnamese People's Volunteers battalion would start evacuating on 20th October and 15th November respectively. At its meeting of 9th October, the International Commission noted once again that the two parties had failed to inform it of the agreed dates of withdrawal. On 12th October, the Vietnamese People's Volunteers/"Pathet Lao" side gave a more detailed plan of withdrawal. The Franco-Laotian side too forwarded a rough plan as well as a schedule of withdrawals on 13th October. At this stage, it was apparent that more detailed information would not be forthcoming and that the Joint Commission and the International Commission would have to ensure satisfactory execution of the withdrawals on the information so far made available.

60. The International Commission had planned to keep itself informed of the progress of withdrawals through its Fixed Teams which were in constant touch with the Joint Sub-Commission/Joint Groups and, in addition, had arranged to send out Mobile Teams to check the moves at starting points and at suitable places en route. In view of the fact, however, that precise information could not be provided by either of the parties sufficiently in advance, the Commission decentralised supervision of withdrawals to the Fixed and Mobile Teams in their areas of

Detailed Information

Supervision of Withdrawals