

EXTRACT FROM A SPEECH MADE BY H.E. KATAY D. SASORITH ON 23RD NOVEMBER, 1954, WHILE PRESENTING HIS GOVERNMENT TO THE NATIONAL ASSEMBLY

I would have liked indeed to be able to appeal also on this question to certain select men, who form part of this last group of resistance, called "Pathet Lao". Unfortunately, it is not possible to contact them in the shortest possible time, when, considering the exceptional gravity of the present situation, the governmental crisis cannot be prolonged without compromising the future of the country. But as soon as you would have given us your confidence, we shall work with all our ardour and with all our patriotic belief for the integration of all partisans of the "Pathet Lao" into the national community. And we undertake to offer our resignation as soon as this integration has been realised in order to give to the National Assembly the possibility of associating with the task of national restoration the most competent and most capable children of the land without distinction of origin or of blood.

The gesture that has just been made permits one to hope that the government called upon to succeed the Ministry which I had the honour to lead will, without major difficulties, achieve its internal political settlement as necessitated by the march of events.

The Kingdom of Laos will emerge strengthened.

(Translation from original French in the "Lao Presse" of 25th November, 1954)

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