

In Vietnam, withdrawals and transfer of troops have taken place in accordance with the regroupment plan, but the process will not be complete until May 1955, when the last Franco-Vietnamese forces are to be withdrawn from Haiphong and the last Viet Minh forces from central Vietnam. The prisoner of war and civilian internee exchange was for the most part completed in September 1954. Civilians who wish to move from one zone to the other are entitled to do so under the terms of the cease-fire agreement until the completion of the regroupment of forces; the International Commission has been closely concerned with this process in view of the number of complaints and petitions received. The commission also has the continuing task of supervising the rotation of military personnel and the introduction into Vietnam of replacement military equipment and war material in accordance with the restrictions prescribed in the cease-fire agreement. The International Commission as at present constituted has not been given any responsibilities in connection with the general elections for Vietnam, which, according to the Final Declaration of the Geneva Conference, are to take place in July 1956 under the supervision of an international commission which is also to be composed of representatives of India, Poland and Canada.

In Laos and Cambodia all troop withdrawals have been completed on schedule, as have the releases of prisoners of war and civilian internees. The remaining work of the commission in Cambodia has to do with overseeing the entry of war material, considering petitions and complaints from individuals and from the government, and supervising the implementation of other clauses of the agreements, the most difficult of which is, perhaps, that concerning the reintegration of all citizens into the national community. In particular, the agreement calls for the demobilization on the spot of the Khmer resistance forces, and the commission was given a special responsibility to see that these Cambodians were allowed to enjoy all the rights and freedoms of other citizens without discrimination, including the right to participate freely as electors and candidates in general elections which, according to the constitution, are to be held in 1955.

The remaining task in Laos is somewhat different. One of the outstanding problems has to do with the two northern provinces of Phong Saly and Sam Neua, to which the fighting units of Pathet Lao were moved in accordance with the agreement "pending a political settlement". The manner of re-establishing the authority of the Royal Government in these two provinces is, of course, a problem for the Laotian authorities in Vientiane to work out with representatives of the Pathet Lao. On the other hand, the commission is still endeavouring to carry out investigations of complaints received by both sides about alleged violations of provisions of the cease-fire agreements relating to the northern provinces and to the Pathet Lao.

There is no doubt that the presence of three international commissions in this remote part of the world has contributed to a stabilization of the situation in Laos, Cambodia, and Vietnam. Although infringements were reported frequently in 1954 to the commissions, neither side complained of any violation likely to lead to a resumption of general hostilities.

At the end of the year the Canadian component of the three commissions in Indochina, including the fixed and mobile teams operating under the commissions' jurisdiction, consisted of some 135 service personnel