

INTERNATIONAL COMMISSION FOR SUPERVISION  
AND CONTROL IN CAMBODIA

Progress Report on the Implementation of the Geneva  
Agreement for the period January 1 to March 31, 1955.

INTRODUCTION

1. In the period under review, there were major developments in the internal political situation which had their repercussions on the work of the Commission. On January 24, the Royal Government headed by His Excellency M. Penn Nouth resigned and gave place to an Elections Government under the leadership of His Excellency M. Leng Ngeth. It was officially announced at that time that General Elections would be held on April 17. A referendum seeking the verdict of the people on the "Royal Mission" also took place on February 7 in which a large majority of votes in favour of the King was registered.
2. After the referendum, the King proposed important changes in the Constitution. His Majesty announced that a second referendum would be held to ascertain the wishes of the people on the proposed reform project. It was stated that elections would be postponed pending the result of the referendum on the reforms.
3. As a result of related political developments in the country and due to his own desire to free himself from the fetters of kingship so as to be able to work more freely, King Norodom Sihanouk announced on March 2 his abdication in favour of his father and mother, King Norodom Suramarit and Queen Kossaman. On March 15, the Royal Government announced that it had decided to drop the proposal to hold a second referendum on the reform project. It also announced that elections would be held on September 11, 1955.
4. These internal political developments caused a great stir in the country, particularly as they concerned an outstanding personality as King Norodom Sihanouk. The normal work of the Commission took second place, though a certain amount of progress was recorded in the first few weeks of the period in tying up some loose ends. Because of these developments, the earlier expectations that the political phase of the Commission's work would be completed by May, have not fulfilled. But it must be recorded that in the latter half of March the internal political situation returned to normal and the Commission is now looking forward to a period of fruitful activity.

MEETINGS WITH GOVERNMENT:

5. It was stated in the last report that the Commission had established a satisfactory working relationship with the Royal Government. In the months of December and January, the Commission had weekly meetings with the Government which were cordial and frank. The results of the meetings can be summarised briefly as follows:

REINTEGRATION:

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As indicated in the last report, the problem of reintegrating the former resistance personnel into the national community in terms of Article 6 has presented difficulties as there are deep-rooted suspicions and