



LAOS COMMISSION MESSAGE NO.35 OF SEPT. 16, 1965

BACKGROUND NOTE

Message No. 35 of September 16, 1965, from the International Commission for Supervision and Control in Laos to the Co-Chairmen of the 1961-62 Conference on the Settlement of the Laotian Question, is based on the results of an investigation carried out by the Commission at the request of the Prime Minister of Laos, Prince Souvanna Phouma, following the capture by Laotian Government forces in September, 1964, of three North Vietnamese soldiers.

The Geneva Conference of 1961-62 was summoned in order to achieve a peaceful settlement of the Laotian question which threatened to bring about the large-scale involvement of major powers in the hostilities between the various parties in Laos. It was recognized that the escalation of hostilities which was taking place in Laos represented a threat to the peace of the world, and it was accepted by members of the conference that peace in Laos could be ensured only by an agreement which confirmed the respect of the members of the conference for the sovereignty, independence, unity and territorial integrity of Laos and non-interference in its internal affairs. After more than a