INTRODUCTION

This Fourth Interim Report of the International Commission for Supervision and Control in Laos reviews the Commission's activities and the very important political and military developments in Laos between May 17, 1957 and May 31, 1958. It should be read in continuation of the Commission's three earlier Interim Reports to the Co-Chairmen of the Geneva Conference on Indo-China which, taken together, covered the period from the establishment of the Commission in August 1954 until May 15, 1957.

The period under review in this Fourth Interim Report saw historic developments in Laos. The Commission took great pleasure in reporting that, in November 1957, the lengthy negotiations between the Royal Laotian Government and Fighting Units of the Pathet Lao had been successfully concluded with the signing by the two Parties of Political and Military agreements providing for the reunification of the country; the creation of a coalition Government including representatives of the Fighting Units of the Pathet Lao; the formation of a political party - Neo Lao Haksat - successor to the Fighting Units of the Pathet Lao; and the integration of Pathet Lao Forces into the National Army and the national community. The Commission noted with satisfaction that the terms of the military agreement had been implemented in February 1958. This, together with the Supplementary elections, voting in which took place on May 4, would constitute the political settlement envisaged in Article 14 of the Geneva Agreement.

As a result of these developments, peace has at last been restored to Laos.

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