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*Le chef de la délégation à la Conférence sur le Laos à Genève
au secrétaire d'État aux Affaires extérieures*

*Chairman, Delegation to Conference on Laos, Geneva,
to Secretary of State for External Affairs*

TELEGRAM 1924

Geneva, November 25, 1961

CONFIDENTIAL. EMERGENCY.

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STATE OF NEGOTIATIONS

In an effort to reach agreement on voting Western Four had prepared two alternative drafts which were ready for submission to our respective governments for approval. At this juncture Pushkin unexpectedly submitted a compromise draft based on our most recent proposal. This draft is quoted in full in paragraph 2 below.

2. Begins: The International Commission for Supervision and Control in Laos functions as a single organ of the International Conference for the Settlement of the Laotian Question. The members of the Commission will work harmoniously and in co-operation with each other with the aim of solving all questions within the terms of reference of Commission.

Decisions of the International Commission on questions relating to violations of articles/items 2(a), 2(c), 2(d), 3 (and provisions of article 5(a)) of this agreement as well as all the conclusions and recommendations shall be adopted unanimously. On other questions, including procedural questions, and also questions relating to the initiation and carrying out of investigations (article ...), decisions of the International Commission shall be adopted by majority vote. Ends.

3. This draft suggests that decisions on article 5(a) are associated with its provisions and not repeat not violations. It is therefore not repeat not included with the articles listed in the first sentence of the second paragraph of the article. Reason given for this separation is that article 5(a) deals with functions of Commission. Article 5(a) however does make reference to the cease-fire and we therefore would like to include violations of cease-fire with other articles specifically listed. MacDonald thinks there is some hope of Pushkin giving favourable consideration to the following substitute sentence: "decisions of the Commission on questions relating to violations of articles (items 2(a), 2(c), 2(d), 3) of this agreement and of the cease-fire arrangements referred to in article 5(a), and all the conclusions and recommendations shall be adopted unanimously."

4. To meet our fears that article on voting could be interpreted to prevent the Commission from submitting majority and minority reports on articles specified, there is a possibility that Pushkin may accept a revision in Co-Chairmen article (discussed below) ensuring that unanimity will not repeat not apply. MacDonald says Pushkin may make this concession in Co-Chairmen article if we accept his revised draft on voting even if voting article is amended as we propose.