

54. Another agreement was signed between the two parties on 29th August, 1954 on the subject of Joint Groups. The Franco-Laotian suggestion, at first, was to have, under the Joint Commission, twelve Joint Groups scattered in different areas of Laos. The Vietnamese People's Volunteers/"Pathet Lao" side, on the other hand, proposed the establishment of Joint Sub-Committees in the frontier areas under the control of the Joint Commission. In the next set of proposals, the Vietnamese People's Volunteers/"Pathet Lao" side suggested the creation of Joint Sub-Commissions (one at Mahaxay for Middle Laos and the other at Paksong for Lower Laos), in place of the Frontier Sub-Committees. The Franco-Laotian side accepted this proposal, but still insisted on having twelve Joint Groups (six under the Joint Commission and three under each Joint Sub-Commission in Middle Laos and Lower Laos). The agreement of 29th August finally provided for two Joint Sub-Commissions as suggested by the Vietnamese People's Volunteers/"Pathet Lao" side and for ten instead of twelve Joint Groups as suggested by the Franco-Laotian side.

Joint Groups

55. Further agreements were registered on 13th September when the Franco-Laotian side acceded to the following requests made by the Vietnamese People's Volunteers/"Pathet Lao" side:

Ancillary Agreements

(a) evacuation of the wounded and sick from Lower Laos. The Franco-Laotian side agreed to have them transferred to and treated at Pakse;

(b) assembly and transportation of Vietnamese People's Volunteers/"Pathet Lao" armaments and munition stocks of Lower Laos. The Franco-Laotian side agreed to transport 15 tons of Vietnamese People's Volunteers/"Pathet Lao" armaments (six from Bassac and nine from East Muong May) from Pakse to Ban Naphao. A bilateral agreement was signed on 17th September, 1954;

(c) supply for Vietnamese People's Volunteers/"Pathet Lao" troops in Lower and Middle Laos and in Vientiane. The Franco-Laotian side agreed to supply the Vietnamese People's Volunteers/"Pathet Lao" forces with rice during regroupment and withdrawal provided the latter stopped what the Franco-Laotian side called recruitment.

56. The sites and boundaries of the Provisional Assembly Areas having been fixed, the only remaining problem after 30th August was to get an overall agreement regarding the withdrawal of forces thus assembled. The Franco-Laotian side reported having completed the regroupment of French Union forces by 21st August. On 11th September, the International Commission enquired if the Vietnamese People's Volunteers/"Pathet Lao" side too had completed the regroupment of their forces. The Commission was informed that regroupment had been completed in the province of Saravane, Pakse and Attapeu. Relating to other provinces, information was not received from the Vietnamese

Action by the International Commission