

STATEMENT OF PRINCE SOUVANNA PHOUMA ON
4TH NOVEMBER, 1954.

I note with great satisfaction the statement made to the International Commission by M. Singkapo in the name of Prince Souphannou Vong. It marks a step forward towards the realisation of the desire expressed by the Royal Government in their Declaration at Geneva of bringing about the integration of all their citizens in the national community, without discrimination.

The statement of M. Singkapo will also contribute to dissipate a malaise in the public opinion by making a formal denial of the subversive propaganda which was manifesting itself in numerous villages and which questioned the supreme authority of His Majesty the King and that of his Government.

This statement shall be submitted to the future responsible government for its appreciation. The latter will not be able to do otherwise than follow the undertakings contained in the Governmental Declaration of which an official cognizance was taken by the 9 Powers represented at the Geneva Conference.

The unity of Government implies of necessity the unity of administration and unity of the Armed Forces.

The gesture that has just been made permits one to hope that the government called upon to succeed the Ministry which I had the honour to lead will, without major difficulties, arrive at an internal political settlement as necessitated by the march of events.

The Kingdom of Laos will emerge strengthened.

(Translation from original French in the "Lao Presse" of 4th November, 1954).