

11. Both Parties replied to the Commission by the prescribed date. In their first replies both Parties were generally prepared to accept the resolution, although each made a number of observations about the contents and either gave their own interpretation of what the Resolution was intended to mean or made suggestions for amending the Resolution. The Commission did not consider it desirable to alter the Resolution in any way or to interpret its clauses in a manner to suit either one or the other Party. In accordance with this view, the two Parties were informed that the Resolution would stand as it was and they were requested again to accept the Resolution in its entirety as it stood. The Pathet Lao replied on 31 December, 1953 accepting the Resolution in toto. The Royal Government replied on 6 January, 1956, accepting the Resolution, but again reiterated their point of view regarding the interpretation of the different documents (The Rangoon Agreement and the Minutes of 28 October, 1955) which had been mentioned in the Resolution. The Commission on receipt of these replies of the two Parties authorised the Military Committee to meet the representatives of the two Parties and take further action towards implementing the Resolution.

12. On 10 January, 1956, the Military Committee met the two Parties and requested them to submit their proposals duly marked on appropriate maps showing the demarcation line and the neutral zones.

13. The maps received from the Pathet Lao tallied with the positions taken by them in the Joint Minutes of 28 October, 1955. The maps received from the Royal Government differed from the views expressed in the Joint Minutes on the subject of demarcation line and involved the demanding of a larger area for Royal Laotian Government troops.

FINAL PLAN OF MILITARY COMMITTEE:

14. After hearing the points of view of both Parties, the Military Committee prepared a final plan for the implementation of the resolution of the International Commission dated 9 December, 1955. In this plan, in so far as the exact details of the demarcation line were concerned, the proposals given in the plan had the approval of the Polish and Indian members of the Military Committee, while the Canadian member reserved his position. The following were the basic guiding concepts of the proposals:-

- a) There should be a demarcation line separating the forces and that line, being continuous, could not permit of two or three posts being separated from the main post of any one side.
- b) There should be a demilitarised zone 2 kilometers in width, on either side of the demarcation line.
- c) The corridor between the 3 Laotian National Army posts in the north and the main Laotian National Army area in the south should run along a track connecting Muong Peun and Ban Houei Nha.