

- UNOFFICIAL ENGLISH TRANSLATION -

AGREEMENT BETWEEN THE POLITICAL DELEGATION OF THE ROYAL GOVERNMENT AND THE POLITICAL DELEGATION OF THE PATHET LAO FORCES ON THE ELECTORAL LAW

The Joint Political Commission, composed of the Political Delegation of the Royal Government and the Political Delegation of the Pathet Lao Forces, members of which being:

On the Royal Government side:

- 1. H.E. Ngon Sananikone Head of the Delegation
- 2. H.E. Nou Ing Rattanavong Member
- 3. H.E. Thong Southivongnorath Member
- 4. Mr. Thao Tane Chounlamontri Member
- 5. Mr. Thao Van Tanouane Member
- 6. Mr. Bouavan Norasing Member
- 7. Mr. Inpeng Souryathay Member
- 8. Mr. Thao Amone Vimonphan Secretary

On the Pathet Lao Forces side:

- 1. Mr. Phoumi Vongvichit Head of the Delegation
- 2. Mr. Nouthak Phoumsavan Member
- 3. Mr. Singkapo Ghounnamali Member
- 4. Mr. Maha Khamphan Virachit Member
- 5. Mr. Aphou Chanavong Secretary

met at Vientiane from the 25th December 1956 to the 20th February 1957 to seek the appropriate measures of implementation of principles reached between H.H. Prince Souvanna Phouma, Prime Minister of the Royal Government and H.H. Prince Souphanouvong, Representative of the Pathet Lao Forces, in the Joint Declaration dated 10.8.56, which states in substance; 1/- to organise complementary elections throughout the kingdom by free and secret ballot as it obtains unto this day, with the participation of the Pathet Lao Forces and the ex-participants in the resistance, with a view to increasing the number of deputies in a manner that the number would be in harmony with that of the electors in conformity with the draft electoral law filed in the office of the National Assembly by the Royal Government and in the joint communique dated 23.12.1956 which states: "On the question of general supplementary elections, the two Princes are agreed that the Electoral Law which will soon be worked out by the National Assembly should guarantee to all citizens of both sexes the right to elect and be elected in conformity with the principles of equal, direct, free and secret ballot and include measures for the guarantee of justice and the impossibility of frauds, in conformity with the spirit of the Constitution of the Kingdom."

After a complete and detailed deliberation on the afore-mentioned principles, the two Parties made a joint study of the draft electoral law which the Government had filed with the National Assembly in order to amend it, make it more complete and in conformity with the aspiration of the entire people. The two Parties then unanimously agreed that the new Electoral Law should include the following text: