

DISSOLUTION OF THE JOINT COMMISSION

1. It is specified in the Geneva Agreement that while the "control and supervision of the application of the provisions of the Agreement" are vested in the International Commission under Article 25, the responsibility for "the execution of the Agreement" lies under Article 24, with the Parties themselves. Therefore the Parties set up under Article 28 at Khang Khay a Joint Commission consisting of the representatives of the Vietnamese People's Volunteers/'Pathet Lao' High Command on the one hand and those of the Franco-Laotian High Command on the other.

2. The International Commission since its inception was closely associated with the Joint Commission in the implementation of the military clauses of the Geneva Agreement, leading to the final withdrawal of foreign troops on 19th November, 1954.

3. The Royal Laotian Government, on the plea that the withdrawals had been completed, instructed the Franco-Laotian Delegation on the Joint Commission on 20th December, 1954 to recall their representatives on the Joint Sub-Commissions of Mahaxay and Paksong, and on the Joint Groups, by 1st January, 1955, and to regroup them all at Khang Khay.

4. The Royal Laotian Government thereafter proposed to the International Commission that the Joint Groups be disbanded, since Article 28 of the Geneva Agreement stipulated that "the Joint Groups shall follow the forces in their movements and shall be disbanded once the withdrawal plans have been carried out." The Royal Government alleged that the continued activity of these Joint Groups constituted "a foreign interference in the affairs of the Kingdom."

5. The International Commission informed the Royal Government on 7th January, 1955 that though "the action taken by the Franco-Laotian side in regrouping their personnel from the Joint Groups was within the letter and spirit of the Geneva Agreement and the Khang Khay Agreement, it would have been conducive to harmony and goodwill had the Franco-Laotian side consulted the Vietnamese People's Volunteers/'Pathet Lao' side before taking action." It added that "the Joint Sub-Commissions in Central and Lower Laos were created under the Khang Khay Agreement for certain tasks. Before regrouping the Joint Sub-Commissions the International Commission feels that the Parties in the Joint Commission should examine whether these have been fulfilled by the Joint Sub-Commissions. In case of disagreement on this point, they may again come to the Commission for a recommendation."

6. The Vietnamese People's Volunteers/'Pathet Lao' Delegation protested vehemently against this unilateral action of the Franco-Laotian Delegation. The contention of the Vietnamese People's Volunteers/'Pathet Lao' Delegation was that:-