

need defending. The Government would entertain good relations with all its neighbours, would retain its traditional friendships, and would improve its relations with foreign countries, emphasizing the five principles of peaceful co-existence. Laos would be willing, said the Prime Minister, to accept foreign aid from any source provided that the conditions under which it was given did not conflict with the sovereignty and freedom of the Kingdom.

5. On August ⁹~~8~~ the Assembly voted its approval of the Government proposed by Prince Souvanna Phouma, thus ending the ministerial crisis.

6. In a statement on August 13 (Annexure 12), Prince Souphanouvong expressed satisfaction that the ministerial crisis had been brought to an end with the investiture of the new Government of Prince Souvanna Phouma, and welcomed the Prime Minister's programme as presented to the National Assembly on August 8. Prince Souphanouvong stated that the Fighting Units of the Pathet Lao was pleased with the new Government because it had been under Prince Souvanna Phouma that the previous Government had successfully carried out the talks between the parties. Concluding his declaration, Prince Souphanouvong appealed on behalf of the Fighting Units of the Pathet Lao to the entire Lao people to unite and support the new Government of Prince Souvanna Phouma in the formation of a Government of National Union with adequate participation of Pathet Lao representatives in order to realize all the agreements concluded between the two parties to defend the country, religion and the King.