

and Sam Neua, pending a political settlement." This means that the transferred fighting units of "Pathet Lao" will station themselves throughout the two provinces because the term "province" implies the totality of the territory within its limits and, if it had been otherwise, the wording would have been that the fighting units of "Pathet-Lao" would move into a zone within the two provinces."

Furthermore, the same article states: "pending a political settlement, the fighting units of "Pathet Lao" shall move into the two provinces." This means also that till a political settlement has been reached, the fighting units of "Pathet Lao" will remain stationed in the two provinces to await this political settlement, and there is absolutely no necessity for them to be the subject of any other settlement if the political settlement has not yet been reached.

(2) The decision on the regroupment and withdrawal of forces, signed at Khang Khay on 30th August, 1954 has laid down only six Provisional Assembly Areas for the fighting units of "Pathet Lao" but made no reference to the provinces of Phong Saly and Sam Neua. This provision clearly indicates that the two provinces of Phong Saly and Sam Neua constitute in their totality the final regroupment area for the forces of "Pathet Lao", and that in these two provinces there exist no units of the forces of the other party; this fact caused the two Delegations to give up selecting in the two provinces Provisional Assembly Areas necessary for the disengagement of the forces of the two Parties in regions where they are.

(b) On the subject of negotiations carried out in a spirit of mutual concessions, no one can deny that the "Pathet Lao" Party, always peace loving, has already made great concessions. Before the signing of the Agreement, the forces of "Pathet Lao" controlled almost half of the whole territory of Laos having large bases of operations in the provinces of Luang Prabang, Vientiane, Thakhek, Savannakhet, Saravane, Attopeu, Pakse, etc. These bases contained "Pathet Lao" administrative organisations, armed forces, regular and irregular, and organisations of the National United Front, Neo Lao Issara. Now that the