

MILITARY COMMITTEE'S VISIT TO PLAINE-DES JARRES

In accordance with the verbal instructions from the Commissioners, the Military Committee consisting of Major General Tara Singh Bal, Chairman, Indel, Major G.F. Halliwell, Candel, and Lt. Col. Alfons Olkiewicz, Poldel, on the morning of 7th January left Vientiane for Xieng Khouang in order to carry out a supervisory function arising from the recent political and military integration in Laos.

The Committee flew on the 7th January in a helicopter from Xieng Khouang to Plaine-Des Jarres and along the tract to Lat Boua and beyond to see the progress of ex-Pathet Lao foot convoy coming from Sam Neua to the dispersal centre at Plaine-Des Jarres. The Committee whilst flying over Lat Boua, saw some parachutes pitched and as Lat Boua is one of their halting camps en route, on return journey, the Committee landed there for 10 to 15 minutes. There they met LNA Detachment responsible for looking after ex-PL personnel on route to Plaine-Des Jarres. Big quantity of rice was stored there for feeding these personnel. The Committee also discovered from the LNA representative that some 400 people had passed through Lat Boua yesterday and that they would be reaching Plaine-Des Jarres today. The Committee was also informed that on the track some three to four kilometres towards Plaine-Des Jarres, Royal Government had established a hospital to look after the sick. The Committee landed at a place mistaking it to be a hospital and not finding the exact position of the hospital, returned to Plaine-Des-Jarres flying over the track. Some 6 to 7 kilometres away from Plaine-Des Jarres, the Committee saw a long foot convoy of approximately 350 to 400 people marching towards Plaine-Des Jarres. On arrival at Plaine-Des Jarres, they visited the LNA Headquarters, which is responsible for receiving, accommodating and dispersal of the personnel. There they met Commandant Tamsook who regretted his inability to take them round the camp in the absence of instructions from