

We request Your Excellency kindly to find here-with a copy of this joint communique. We would be grateful if Your Excellency could kindly inform the Co-Chairmen of the Geneva Conference and assure them that once the general supplementary elections will have been held in the conditions and circumstances mentioned in the joint communique, the political settlement as foreseen by Article 14 of the Geneva Agreement will be realised. Suitable notice will be addressed to the International Commission and the Co-Chairmen of the Geneva Conference as soon as the arrangements foreseen in the joint communique are fully implemented.

Kindly believe, Excellency, in the assurance of our very distinguished consideration."

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We have the honour and the pleasure to inform Your Excellency and the International Commission for Supervision and Control in Laos that following the exchange of views, we have had since the 7 November 1956, we signed on 28 December 1956, a joint communique stating on the one hand the principles of the formation of a coalition government before the general supplementary elections are held and, on the other, the principles for the settlement of the preceding questions.

The signing of this joint communique constitutes an important step in the working in sincere cooperation between the Royal Laotian Government and the Pathet Lao Forces, with a view to reaching quickly the final settlement of the Laotian problem in conformity with the Geneva Agreement.

The signing of this joint communique has been made possible, thanks to the relaxed and reconciliatory atmosphere which went on increasing since the signing of the Joint Declaration of August 1956; thanks to the spirit of concession of both the Parties which only take into consideration the interests of the Fatherland and the people; thanks to the spirit of understanding and the support of the Members of the National Assembly and of all the Laotian people.

Besides, the signature of this communique has been facilitated by the attentive interest the International Commission has taken in the settlement of the Laotian problem, interest which in particular is proved by the opportune and correct report addressed to the Co-Chairmen of the Geneva Conference a copy of which has been forwarded to us by letter No. PS(1) 101/135(44) dated 23 November 1956. Moreover, the International Commission and specially Your Excellency, did not spare their efforts to help the happy success of our talks. The results thus reached contribute in a good measure to the strengthening of peace in the Laotian Kingdom, in South-East Asia and in the world.

We, therefore, avail ourselves of this opportunity to forward personally to the International Commission and to Your Excellency our most sincere thanks as well as those of the whole Laotian people.