

Assembly Areas in Saravane, Attapeu and Pakse by 30th September, 1954, and from Savannakhet, Thakhek and Vientiane by 15th October, 1954.

48. As regards the provinces of Phong Saly and Sam Neua, the Franco-Laotian side, basing themselves on Article 12, rejected the Vietnamese People's Volunteers/"Pathet Lao" contention of constituting the totality of the province of Phong Saly into Provisional Assembly Areas for the Vietnamese People's Volunteers/"Pathet Lao" forces and the whole of the province of Sam Neua for the fighting units of "Pathet Lao" only. The Vietnamese People's Volunteers/"Pathet Lao" side based their proposal concerning the provinces of Phong Saly and Sam Neua as regards the fighting units of "Pathet Lao" on Articles 12 and 14 of the Agreement read together. On 18th August 1954, both the Delegations submitted to the International Commission for its recommendation, a list of their differences, including those concerning the Provisional Assembly Areas.

responsibility of the Joint Commission
Transfer
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Assembly
Plans

49. The problem received the attention of the International Commission from the very beginning. At its 8th meeting (26th - 29th August), it decided to ask the Joint Commission to bear in mind the following points while fixing the Assembly Areas:

Recommendation of the International Commission

- (a) actual strength of the forces to be assembled in each area;
- (b) the necessity for facilitating supervision and check by the Joint Groups and Fixed and Mobile Teams of the International Commission;
- (c) the locations occupied by the Laotian National Army to be excluded;
- (d) roads and routes for supplying Laotian National Army to be excluded;
- (e) withdrawal routes to be taken into consideration.

50. Almost simultaneously, on 30th August, 1954, the Joint Commission signed an agreement which indicated a similarity of approach between it and the International Commission.

The Agreement signed by the Joint Commission on August 29-30

51. The agreement of 30th August between the two Parties was on the following points:

- (a) Provisional Assembly Areas - The 5 Provisional Assembly Areas for the French Union troops remained the same as proposed in the Franco-Laotian side's communication of 9th August, 1954. Those for the Vietnamese People's Volunteer and the "Pathet Lao" forces were further reduced in area, and in addition a change was made in that the Vietnamese People's Volunteers were allotted a Provisional Assembly Area in the province of Sam Neua instead of the