

in service at that time, and the supervision of elections should be made the responsibility of joint committees of all parties in order to guarantee that the elections might be properly held. These proposals were unacceptable to the Royal Laotian Government, which considered that it would not provide guarantees that the organisation and supervision of the election would take place in a proper manner.

Item 3: Elections:

The two Parties agreed on the following:

- i) setting up of new electoral rolls;
- ii) election to be direct and by secret ballot;
- iii) right of eligibility for former adjutants of the Fighting Units of the Pathet Lao and former functionaries of Pathet Lao;
- iv) equivalence of Pathet Lao education certificates with those of the Royal Laotian Government;
- v) general guarantees of democratic freedoms and assurances against reprisals and discriminatory measures.

The following differences, however, continued from the Rangoon Conference and from the previous period:

- i) reduction of age of eligibility for candidates to 25 years;
- ii) right of votes for women;
- iii) prolongation of the duration of the electoral campaign;
- iv) the time limit for the nomination of the Pathet Lao candidates and the possibility of their nomination all over the country;
- v) the scope of the function of the joint advisory committees of all parties.

Item 4: Future status of the Fighting Units of the Pathet Lao:

This item was not discussed, both sides agreeing to take it up at Vientiane at a later date.

At the close of the Rangoon Conference on 13 October, the Parties agreed that further discussion of outstanding points and the drafting of appropriate agreements would be carried on by the Parties in Vientiane, and that the Prime Minister and Prince Souphanouvong would meet again, if necessary.