

about security and the temporary departure of Prince Souphanouvong from Vientiane (Annexures 9 and 10).

At the end of the two-week period, the International Commission guards were withdrawn and responsibility for the security of the Delegation was assumed by the Royal Laotian Government.

Formation
of a Coalition
Government

4. In June and July three unsuccessful attempts were made to constitute a new Cabinet, two by Mr. Katay Sasorith, Leader of the Nationalist Party, and one by Mr. Bong Souvannavong, Leader of the Lao Young Samphan Party. On August 8, Prince Souvanna Phouma presented a prospective coalition Government to the National Assembly and outlined a programme of action. In his speech (Annexure 11) Prince Souvanna Phouma gave a prominent place to the need for a political settlement to unify the country. He outlined a programme in which he foresaw the implementation of the recommendations of the December 28, 1956 Joint Communique between the Royal Government and the Fighting Units of the Pathet Lao (reproduced as Annexure 13 of the Third Interim Report) through the formation of an enlarged National Union Government, including representation of the Fighting Units of the Pathet Lao, to be followed by national supplementary elections. Such a settlement would include the immediate re-establishment of the Royal Administration in the northern provinces of Sam Neua and Phongsaly and the integration of the Fighting Units of the Pathet Lao into the Laotian National Army and into the national community. Regarding foreign policy, the Prime Minister stated that the policy of peace and neutrality for Laos was too well established to

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