

APPENDIX 'G'LETTER NO. 129/VL DATED 20th OCTOBER, 1954 FROM  
THE VIETNAMESE PEOPLE'S VOLUNTEERS/"PATHET LAO"  
DELEGATION ADDRESSED TO THE INTERNATIONAL COMMIS  
SION

The problem of the two provinces of Phong Saly and Sam Neua is a political problem, included in the ensemble of problems tied up with the general political settlement. This problem must be settled at the same time as other political problems as catered for in the Geneva Agreement, after the fighting units of "Pathet Lao" have regrouped in the two provinces.

But the Franco-Laotian Delegation has proposed to solve this problem in the framework of military questions, and therefore the Vietnamese People's Volunteers/"Pathet Lao" Delegation considers it necessary to clarify its point of view on this question as follows:-

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Article 14, Chapter III of the Geneva Agreement states:-

"Pending a political settlement, the fighting units of "Pathet Lao", concentrated in the Provisional Assembly Area, shall move into the Provinces of Phong Saly and Sam Neua, except for any military personnel who wish to be demobilised where they are. They shall be free to move between these two Provinces in a corridor along the frontier between Laos and Vietnam bounded on the south by the Line Sop Kin, Na Mi, Sop Sang, Muong Son.

"Concentration shall be completed within one hundred and twenty (120) days from the date of entry into force of the present Agreement."

The implementation of the Geneva Agreement and bearing in mind the concrete and true situation in Laos, the decision on the regroupment and withdrawal of forces, signed at Khang Khay on 30th August, 1954, laid down six Provisional Assembly Areas for the fighting units of "Pathet Lao" and stated at the same time that all these units, thus assembled in the six Provisional Assembly Areas, will transfer themselves to the two provinces of Phong Saly and Sam Neua to await a final political settlement.

(a) From a legal point of view: the two above-mentioned Agreements have already clearly laid down that the whole of the two provinces of Phong Saly and Sam Neua constitutes the final regroupment area for all the fighting units of "Pathet Lao", for; -

1) The terms used in Article 14 have clearly specified that the fighting units of "Pathet Lao" "shall move into the two provinces of Phong Saly