

political settlement had been arrived at between the Royal Laotian Government and the Pathet Lao, and supplementary elections had been held in which the political party formed to succeed the Pathet Lao had participated. On the ground that the Commission's tasks had been completed, the Laotian Government had requested its withdrawal. It was the view of Canada that since the Commission itself recognized that the task assigned to it by the Geneva Conference had been fulfilled, it should accede to this request.

Regarding suggestions for the possible return of the Commission to Laos made at the end of 1960, it was the Canadian view that the breakdown of the political settlement of 1957-58 and the outbreak of civil war had created a new situation. The task originally assigned to the Commission was to supervise and control the application of a cease-fire agreement negotiated at the Geneva Conference in 1954. There was no question of the Commission itself bringing about a cease fire. In the changed circumstances, and with terms of reference no longer wholly appropriate, the Commission would have great difficulty in performing any useful function under conditions that were substantially different from those existing when it was first established. While fully in sympathy with the desire to take action quickly in a critical situation, Canada sought to ensure that the means adopted would be those that would give the best promise of success in the new situation.