

INTERNATIONAL COMMISSION FOR SUPERVISION AND CONTROL IN LAOS

Vientiane,
26 July 1955.

No. 8\ (3) - ICL\ 54-55\ 1857.

Your Excellency,

I have the honour to refer to your letters No. 117 and 118-SP-MP-C2 of July 7, 1955, regarding the control on the equipment and armament of the Fighting Units of Pathet Lao in the provinces of Phong Saly and Sam-Nuay.

Under the Geneva Agreement, the liabilities and responsibilities of the Royal Government on the one hand, and the Fighting Units of Pathet Lao on the other hand, in the matter of import of arms, are not the same. It is the Royal Government alone that has the right to import arms, in a specified manner and in specified quantity. It is for that reason that the International Commission systematically controls the imports of arms by the Royal Government, under Article 27(c).

The Fighting Units of Pathet Lao are totally denied the right to import arms; and, therefore, the question of their consulting the International Commission in advance or submitting data does not arise. In the normal course of things, the International Commission should not need to request and control data in so far as the Fighting Units of Pathet Lao are concerned.

Of course, a different situation arises if the International Commission has reason to believe that the Fighting Units of Pathet Lao in the two northern provinces are actually importing arms, in contravention of the provisions of the Geneva Agreement. In such a case, it becomes the duty of the International Commission to investigate with a view to bringing abuses to an end.

You will appreciate that the International Commission is physically unable to control the entire northern boundary with regard to general allegations of illicit imports and in order to detect such imports of arms, the International Commission has to depend on sufficiently specific information received either from its teams or from the approved party.

While recognising its limitations in this field the International Commission is nonetheless prepared to examine the suggestions contained in your letters No. 117 and 118-SP-MP-C2 of July 7, 1955 in order to devise measures for a more efficient supervision.

I avail this opportunity to renew to your Excellency the assurances of my highest consideration.

Sd. S. Sen,
Chairman, ICSC.

H.E. Mr. Katay, D. Saorith,
Prime Minister of Laos, Vientiane.