

no clashes between the two Parties on the routes of withdrawal, nor were there any major incidents in the Provisional Assembly Areas at the time of evacuation by the forces of either Party. Finally, it is stressed that the Commission has had to rely to some extent on the assurances given by the two Parties that they have completely withdrawn their forces in accordance with the terms of the Geneva Agreement.

C H A P T E R : IV

SPECIAL CONVENTION REGARDING VIETNAMESE PEOPLE'S VOLUNTEERS SETTLED IN LAOS BEFORE HOSTILITIES

70. Article 4, para (b) of the Geneva Agreement reads: "The withdrawals of the Vietnamese People's Volunteers from Laos to Vietnam shall be effected by provinces. The position of those volunteers who were settled in Laos before the hostilities shall form the subject of a special convention."

71. The International Commission in its letter of 30th August to the Heads of the Franco-Laotian and Vietnamese People's Volunteers/"Pathet Lao" Delegations requested that the subject of the special convention be given a high priority and that the convention be drawn up as early as possible in view of the fact that the withdrawal and transfer of the Peoples Volunteers of Vietnam were to be completed within 120 days from the day on which the Cease Fire Agreement entered into force. It requested further that the special convention take into account, not only the Vietnamese who were settled in Laos and now belonged to the Vietnamese People's Volunteers but also similar Vietnamese who might be serving in the "Pathet Lao" and French Union Forces. The Vietnamese who were not defined by the convention as having the right to settle in Laos should then be transferred to the Assembly Areas set apart for foreign forces.

72. The points of view of both sides were presented at the session of the International Commission with the Joint Commission on 29th and 30th September, 1954.

73. The Franco-Laotian Party represented that it had presented the other Party with a rough draft for such a convention and was anxious for its conclusion because it was essential to the realisation not only of the disengagement of the forces of the Vietnamese People's Volunteers from those of "Pathet Lao" (Article 12) but also to the withdrawal and transfer of the Vietnamese People's Volunteers. The Franco-Laotian side promised to submit another draft after consulting the Royal Government, both to the International Commission and to the other Party. The Franco-Laotian Delegation, however, declared that should the convention not be signed by the date by which the forces of the Vietnamese People's Volunteers were to leave Laos, the Royal Government had decided that no exception would be made with respect to those individuals who were settled in Laos before the hostilities and were of Vietnamese nationality.

Letter to the Parties

View points of the Parties