

(b) the fighting units of "Pathet Lao" would be concentrated in 12 Provisional Assembly Areas, one in each province of Laos;

(c) the troops of the Laotian National Army would remain in situ.

42. In accordance with Article 4(a), the two Parties communicated to each other, before 15th August, 1954, their transfer and assembly plans.

43. The Franco-Laotian side, in a communication dated 9th August, 1954, proposed 5 Provisional Assembly Areas for the French Union forces (3 in the northern provinces of Xieng Khouang, Luang Prabang and Vientiane and 2 in the southern provinces of Savannakhet and Pakse).

44. The Vietnamese People's Volunteers/"Pathet Lao" side, in a communication dated 10th August, 1954 proposed 5 Provisional Assembly Areas for the Vietnamese People's Volunteers (one each in the northern provinces of Phong Saly, Vientiane and Xieng Khouang and one each in the southern provinces of Savannakhet and Attapeu) and 8 Provisional Assembly Areas for the "Pathet Lao" (one each in the provinces of Luang Prabang, Xieng Khouang, Vientiane, the whole of the province of Sam Neua, the whole of the province of Phong Saly but excluding the area allotted to Vietnamese People's Volunteers, and one each in the southern provinces of Thakhek, Saravane and Pakse) instead of 12 to which they were entitled.

45. According to the Franco-Laotian side, the Vietnamese People's Volunteers/"Pathet Lao" side verbally agreed to the Franco-Laotian project of 9th August, 1954, but did not, in spite of two reminders, send any written confirmation of their approval. On 14th August, 1954, the Franco-Laotian side informed the International Commission that they would start moving their troops from 15 August to the Provisional Assembly Areas selected by them.

46. Regarding the Vietnamese People's Volunteers/"Pathet Lao" project of 10th August, 1954, the Franco-Laotian side said that:

(a) the Provisional Assembly Areas were too large;

(b) many of the Provisional Assembly Areas of the Vietnamese People's Volunteers and the fighting units of "Pathet Lao" were contiguous and were, therefore, against the principle of disengagement.

47. In view of these objections, the Vietnamese People's Volunteers/"Pathet Lao" side made fresh suggestions on 17th August, 1954. They reduced almost all the Provisional Assembly Areas except those in the provinces of Phong Saly and Sam Neua. The Franco-Laotian side agreed to these revised areas, provided the Vietnamese People's Volunteers/"Pathet Lao" forces completed their withdrawal from the proposed Provisional

Transfer and Assembly Plans

Recommendation of the International Commission

The Agreement signed by the Commission on August 29-30