

Handover of
Northern
Provinces
to Royal
Laotian
Government

18. On December 8 the Province of Sam Neua was officially transferred by Prince Souphanouvong to the Royal Laotian Government, represented by the Prime Minister in a ceremony at the town of Sam Neua attended by the Commissioners. In a similar ceremony in Muong Koua on December 12, the Province of Phongsaly was transferred to the Royal Government. Reference was made in speeches at the ceremonies to the part played by the Commission in bringing about integration.

19. During the early months of 1958 members of the Commission observed the progress of integration in the various provinces. In particular, during March 1958, the Commission's Political Committee visited the Commission team sites at Sam Neua in Sam Neua province and Boun Neua in Phongsaly Province to observe the progress of integration in accordance with the November agreements (Annexures 22 and 23).

Military
Integra-
tion.

20. At a special ceremony at Plaines des Jarres on February 18 attended by the Military Committee about 1500 army personnel of the Fighting Units of the Pathet Lao were integrated into the Royal Laotian Army. The Commission informed the Co-Chairmen in a telegram dated March 5 (Annexure 24) that with this ceremony the terms of the Military Agreement had been fully implemented.

Government's
Decision on
Winding up
the Commission.

21. In a letter dated March 20, 1958 (Annexure 25) the Prime Minister thanked the Chairmen for the distinguished services rendered to Laos by the International Commission and informed him that the Cabinet had decided on March 13 to request the withdrawal of the Commission as of May 4, the date of the