

insisted that the meeting should take place in "neutral" territory and it was finally arranged at Rangoon with the concurrence of the Government of Burma which offered both the Parties and the Commission its full co-operation and hospitality. The Conference at Rangoon began on 9 October 1955 and lasted until 13 October 1955.

9. On the morning of 9 October 1955 before the commencement of the Conference at Rangoon, the Chairman of the Commission, in consultation with his colleagues, presented both the Parties with a personal and confidential letter together with an "Outline of Settlement", which it was thought might be used as a working document (Annexure 1). The Commission was not present at all the discussions between the Parties but was kept generally informed of the proceedings.

10. The Agenda was discussed first, the Royal Government Delegation taking the view that political questions should receive prior consideration while the Pathet Lao Delegation desired to take up the problem of the military settlement first. The Royal Government Delegation finally agreed to the following agenda:-

- Item 1: Cessation of hostile acts;
- Item 2: Reinstallation of Royal Administration in the provinces of Phong Saly and Sam Neua;
- Item 3: General Elections;
- Item 4: Future status of the Fighting Units of the Pathet Lao.

Item 1: Cessation of all hostile acts:

The Agreement (Annexure 2) reached between the two Parties on 11 October 1955 is self-explanatory. The Commission expressed the hope to the Parties that the various time limits indicated in the agreement would be observed and that concrete steps would be taken at the appropriate stages for a satisfactory implementation of the agreement.

Item 2: Establishment of Royal Administration in the provinces of Phong Saly and Sam Neua.

The Royal Laotian Government proposed that its administration in the two northern provinces be restored on the basis of half of the important functionaries in each province being appointed by itself and the other half by the Pathet Lao. The Pathet Lao confirmed their declaration to place the administration of the provinces of Phong Saly and Sam Neua under the Royal authority, but considered that a Joint Consultative Council should be constituted for each province to study and implement the reorganisation of the administration in successive phases. Pending the Council's decisions the Royal Laotian Government should entrust the administration to the Pathet Lao functionaries