

The Co-Chairmen shall exercise supervision over the observance of this agreement and the declaration[s] on the neutrality of Laos.

The Co-Chairmen will keep the parties to this agreement constantly informed and when appropriate will consult with them. Ends.

In the second sentence, there has been a re-arrangement of the order in which the Commission's functions are listed and the word "report" replaces the former word "inform." The Western Four consider that this new wording is just as satisfactory as the previous one in giving the Commission a function vis-à-vis the neutrality declaration. The letter "s" at the end of the word "declaration(s)" in the penultimate sentence of the article is enclosed in square brackets since the matter has not repeat not yet been decided as to whether or not repeat not this sentence will refer to both declarations or only the declaration of the Thirteen, which will include the declaration the Laotian Government. We are not repeat not as confident as our British and American colleagues (who attach much more importance to the efficiency of this article than we do) are about the legal interpretation of this article which would ensure that the Commission will have a clear-cut function vis-à-vis the declarations on neutrality on the other hand, it was evident that nothing better could be obtained.

(d) *Inspection Teams*. The agreed article will read as follows: Begins. For the exercise of its functions the International Commission shall, as necessary, set up inspection teams, on which the three member-states of the Commission shall be equally represented. Each member-state of the Commission shall ensure the presence of its own representatives both on the Commission and on the inspection teams, and shall promptly replace them in the event of their being unable to perform their duties.

It is understood that the dispatch of inspection teams to carry out various specific tasks takes place with the concurrence of the government of Laos. The points to which the Commission and its teams go for the purposes of investigation and their length of stay at those points shall be determined in relation to the requirements of the particular investigation. Ends. We were able to obtain a change in the last sentence to make it more logical by designating places before length of stay. The word "points" now replaces the word "places." While this change is more specific geographically, Western Four did not repeat not think it would in any way affect the Commission's freedom of movement.

(e) Commission functions re arms imports and "corridor." The formulae for these articles (see our telegram 1921 November 24)† which will be considered in the restricted session, have not repeat not been altered.

2. The only outstanding items still to be negotiated are: (a) time limits for withdrawal of foreign military personnel; (b) private armies; (c) SEATO; and (d) French presence. We shall report developments as they occur.

[C.A.] RONNING