

Article 14 stipulates that "Pathet Lao" forces will assemble in the provinces of Phong Saly and Sam Neua without defining that each of these provinces constitutes in its entirety an Assembly Area.

This lack of definition is at the origin of divergent interpretations of the two Parties. The Franco-Laotian Delegation referring to the basis of agreements - "Cease-fire by the separation of forces" prescribed by Article 11 - has concluded in the necessity of an equitable separation (2) as being the only means to separate forces which two months after the end of hostilities are still engaged in murderous operations.

The first three points seem to have been approved by the International Commission in its letter ICSC/13 of 30th August.

- 4)- A fourth point must be the subject of a decision on its part. It seems that, taking into consideration the sovereignty recognised by the Agreement of the Laotian Government, the administrative capitals of these two provinces - Phong Saly and Sam Neua - can only be situated inside the zones allocated to the Laotian National Army.

II. SOLUTION PROPOSED BY THE FRANCO-LAOTIAN DELEGATION

The provisional division of these two provinces could be established along the following lines:-

- a) necessity to centre the assembly of Laotian National Army and "Pathet Lao" units in regions of which the greater part was held by them at the time of the "Cease-Fire";
- b) need to provide liaison between the two regions assigned to the fighting units of "Pathet Lao" in order to respect the liaison possibilities which are granted them by Article 14;
also between the regions allocated to the Laotian National Army in these provinces and in the contiguous provinces of Xieng Khouang and Luang Prabang;
- c) need to take into account in this provisional division which may mean that certain areas held by the Laotian National Army and "Pathet Lao" at the time of the "Cease-Fire" will have to be abandoned, of economic resources, of the importance of population and the possibility of getting any supplies;
- d) need to include Sam Neua and Phong Saly in the zones reserved for the Royal Government of Laos, these chief towns being the obligatory Headquarters of the Representatives of this Government, the

N.B. (2) The Northern corridor of the province of Luang Prabang being only for the "Pathet Lao" units just an area of free circulation and not of assembly as defined in Article 14, Chapter III.