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### INTERNATIONAL SUPERVISORY COMMISSIONS IN INDOCHINA

In addition to its international commitments for the United Nations, Canada continued to serve on the International Commissions in Vietnam and Cambodia set up as a result of the Geneva Conference in 1954.

#### Vietnam and Cambodia

In Vietnam no progress was made towards the political settlement envisaged in the final declaration of the Geneva Conference. The country remained divided with no immediate hope of reunification. As a result, there is no prospect of an early termination of the Commission's activities in Vietnam.

The Commission in Cambodia continued its limited activities in 1960. Canada believed that the Commission had completed the tasks assigned to it. However, the Government of Cambodia considered that it still performed a useful purpose in guaranteeing Cambodia's independence and integrity and indicated it wished the Commission to remain.

#### Laos

The situation in Laos had given promise of returning to some measure of stability following the critical period in September 1959 when the Laotian Government had appealed to the Security Council, claiming aggression from North Vietnam. It became critical again in August 1960 when a *coup d'état* in Vientiane overthrew the Government and brought to power a moderate Government led by Prince Souvanna Phouma which pledged to end the civil war and reintegrate the Communist-dominated Pathet Lao into the national community.

Souvanna Phouma was not, however, able to extend his authority throughout the country. He was opposed in particular by a Revolutionary Committee established at Savannakhet in Southern Laos under the leadership of General Phoumi, a former Minister of Defence, and Prince Boun Oum. The Revolutionary Committee gradually extended its hold over the army as the Vientiane Government's negotiations with the Pathet Lao progressed, until in December it was able to challenge the Government by military means. Souvanna Phouma left Vientiane for Phnom Penh on December 9; Vientiane was taken by the Revolutionary Committee forces in the following days; and a new Government, headed by Boun Oum as Prime Minister, was established.

The new flare-up of civil war in Laos led to suggestions to recall the International Commission for Supervision and Control in Laos, composed of Indian, Polish and Canadian members. The Commission, which had originally been established in 1954 to supervise the implementation of the cease-fire agreement for Laos, was adjourned *sine die* in July 1958. A