

NOTES that the Agreements so far signed and the terms of negotiations, so far as they are known to the Commission, are not contrary to the Geneva Agreement and the resolutions adopted by the Commission, including that of 7 January 1956;

CONSIDERS IMPORTANT the implementation of the Agreements necessary for the political settlement;

RECOMMENDS to the Parties that the negotiations now in progress between them should be continued with the utmost vigour in an atmosphere of existing goodwill and mutual understanding until a final settlement on all outstanding points is reached with the least possible delay;

URGES that the machinery of the Joint Political and Military Committees established by consent between the Royal Government and the Pathet Lao should be utilized to the maximum extent possible;

CALLS UPON the Parties to observe scrupulously the cease-fire; to ensure that no hostile actions or provocations should be taken or given, that force should not be resorted to and that the peace should be firmly maintained, so that the Geneva Agreement is fully observed and a proper atmosphere for a political settlement is maintained.

CHAPTER II

MILITARY SITUATION IN PROVINCES OF

SAM NEUA AND PHONG SALLY

1. Until April, 1956, the military situation in the two northern provinces of Sam Neua and Phong Sally continued to be unsatisfactory. Numerous clashes occurred between the troops of the Royal Government and the Fighting Units of Pathet Lao. In their attempt to consolidate scattered posts in the northern provinces, the Laotian National Army extended its control in the intervening territory and in the process created new posts in the perimeter and had, on occasions, attacked the Pathet Lao. What was considered consolidation by the Royal Laotian Government was viewed as expansion and attack by the Pathet Lao and the latter had, from time to time, harrassed or attacked Royal Laotian Government positions. Complaints were therefore received from the Royal Laotian Government regarding Pathet Lao encirclement and attacks and from the Pathet Lao of expansion of Royal Laotian Government forces and attacks. In this situation which was viewed strategically as a whole by both the Royal Laotian Government and the Pathet Lao, clashes occurred, particularly in places where the opposing forces were near each other.

The tension generated by this unsatisfactory situation showed signs of abatement once the Parties started preliminary exchange of letters for political talks. As soon as these talks opened, the Parties reaffirmed their desire to maintain complete peace and strict cease-fire. As a result, tension lessened and a relatively satisfactory state of calm was reached by August, 1956, at which time general hostilities ceased. From that time the Commission received no official requests for investigation from either side, and the Parties decided to deal themselves with all problems of a military nature in the Joint Military Committee. Towards the end of the period