

The two Princes are agreed to note that the two Delegations to the Joint Political Committee and to the Joint Military Committee have discussed these matters in detail and that the views of the two Delegations are very close to each other; the two Princes are, therefore, agreed on the necessity for the two Delegations to increase their efforts in order to reach a conclusion as early as possible.

On the question of general supplementary elections, the two Princes are agreed that the Electoral Law which will soon be worked out by the National Assembly should guarantee to all citizens of both sexes the right to elect and be elected in conformity with the principles of equal direct, free and secret ballot and include measures for the guarantee of justice and the impossibility of frauds, in conformity with the spirit of the Constitution of the Kingdom.

In order to enable the cooperation between the two Parties, to achieve National unity and facilitate the settlement of the pending questions, the two Princes are agreed on the expansion of the present Government before the holding of the general supplementary elections. The coalition government to which the Pathet Lao Forces will be adequately represented, will thus constitute a symbol of the national reconciliation on the basis of a proper policy aiming at building up a pacific, democratic, united, independent and prosperous Laos. The coalition government will have to receive the confidence of the National Assembly in accordance with the Constitution.

Once the coalition government is formed, the Pathet Lao Forces will function as a political organisation named 'Neo Lao Haksat' which will undertake its activities according to law like all other political parties.

On the question of the two provinces, the two Princes are agreed that immediately after the formation of the coalition government, the administration as well as the fighting units in the two provinces of Phong Saly and Sam Neua, be placed under the authority of the coalition government and reorganised according to the normal pattern in the Kingdom.

As to the details for the concrete implementation they will be entrusted by the coalition government to Joint Political and Military Committees which will reach agreement in conformity with the spirit of the Joint Declarations of 5 and 10 August 1956, to hasten the settlement in a reasonable manner satisfying the two Parties and in compliance with the aspirations of the whole people.

Finally, the two Princes are agreed to meet again as soon as necessary.

Done in Vientiane, 28 December 1956.

H.H. Prince Souvanna Phouma,
Prime Minister of the Royal
Government

H.H. Prince Souphanouvong,
Representative of Pathet
Lao forces.