

## CHAPTER I

### POLITICAL DEVELOPMENTS

1. As the period under review opened, the Royal Laotian Government and the Fighting Units of the Pathet Lao were continuing their negotiations to reach a settlement in accordance with the Geneva Agreement. However, it became apparent by the end of April 1957 that the parties were encountering difficulties of various kinds and the Commission felt that the two sides should be officially encouraged to reach a settlement with the least possible delay. This the Commission did in its resolution of May 16, 1957 (Annexure I) which recommended that negotiations be continued with the utmost vigour, urged that the Joint Political and Military Committees established by the parties be utilized to the maximum extent possible and called upon the parties to observe scrupulously the Cease-Fire. Both parties expressed a willingness to accept the recommendation contained in the resolution.

2. At the end of May a political crisis developed and the Government resigned on May 31, bringing about a suspension in the negotiations between the parties. As the Governmental crisis became prolonged, doubts arose as to when the negotiations would be resumed, and it appeared possible that a complete separation might occur between the parties. The Commission felt, therefore, that action by it might serve to bring the parties closer together. On July 15 the Commission adopted a resolution (Annexure 2) drawing the attention of the parties to the resolution of