

- (c) in view of the Declaration by the Royal Government of Laos relative to Article 3 of the Final Declaration annexed to the said Geneva Agreement;
- (d) in view of the Declaration of the then Prime Minister, Prince Souvanna Phouma, on 4th November, 1954, and also that of the Prime Minister H.E. M. Katay D. Sasoritha on 23rd November, 1954, (Appendices J & K)
- (e) in view of the Declaration by Prince Souphannou Vong of 28th December, 1954 and that of 4th November, 1954, by Colonel SINGKAPO in the name of the fighting units of "Pathet-Lao";
- (f) having been notified that the withdrawals of foreign forces provided for under the said Geneva Agreement were completed on 19th November, 1954;

(g) being of the opinion that nothing, in these conditions, now stands in the way of the political settlement envisaged in Article 14 of the said Geneva Agreement and that the Declarations mentioned in paragraphs (d) and (e) above clear the way for direct contacts between the two Parties concerned for reaching such a political settlement; recommends: that representatives of the Royal Government and of the fighting units of "Pathet Lao" examine together the means to adopt with a view to attaining this political settlement, inter alia as regards the re-establishment of the Royal Administration in the two Provinces of Sam Neua and Phong Saly".

170. The response from both sides has been prompt. In fact, the "Pathet Lao" Delegation arrived in Plaines-Jarres on the 30th of December. The Royal Government representatives were to go there in the beginning of January. Although the meetings are understood to be in the nature of preliminary contacts, it is hoped they will pave the way for a political settlement in the near future.

171. The International Commission is watching the developments with keen interest. While the two sides are conferring together, the International Commission feels that it should avoid taking any decision or step which may tend to disturb the atmosphere.

172. It is unfortunate, however, that locally there has been some evidence of increasing tension in the two provinces. This is perhaps inevitable when two forces, after six years of open and violent conflict, are now situated so near to each other. There have been a number of complaints. Such complaints, received prior and subsequent to the 19th of November, may broadly be classified under the following: -

173. Vietnamese People's Volunteers/"Pathet Lao" Complaints:

"Pathet Lao" Delegation
Existence of two forces side by side

Political Settlement in Laos from sides

International Commission's Report - Increasing Tension

PVV/PL Complaints