

that on 21 February 1957, the two Parties signed an agreement on the modalities of elections (Annexure 15). On 1 March 1957, the Assembly passed a revised electoral law which is understood to be generally in conformity with the agreement of 21 February 1957. On 8 April, the mixed political committee published a communique (Annexure 16) in which they stated that "The Committee acknowledged the need for making efforts in order to implement concretely the agreements signed already, and at the same time acknowledged that the question of guarantee of democratic freedoms for the People under discussion since some time could also be settled by an agreement. Finally, the Committee started discussions on the political programme of the National Union Government and jointly saw the need for steering the discussions towards a complete agreement." In spite of this declaration, it was clear to the Commission by the end of April that the Parties had encountered difficulties of various kinds. The Polish Delegation began discussion on these, and the Commission felt it necessary to encourage the Parties further to come to a speedy solution and accordingly on 16 May 1957, it adopted the following resolution:-

The International Commission for Supervision and Control in Laos,

CONSIDERING that it has become advisable, in view of developments and circumstances, to review the question of the final settlement in Laos,

NOTES with concern and regret from its study of the situation that the Parties have encountered difficulties of various kinds, so that they have not been able to achieve a final political settlement as foreseen in the Geneva Agreement together with the Final Declaration and the Declaration of the Royal Government of 20 July 1954;

DECLARES its conviction that a political settlement should be achieved as a result of full and free discussions between the Parties and that in these negotiations the International Commission continues to adhere to the policy that the Parties should remain free to discuss and determine between them what is most equitable and acceptable;

RECALLS that it noted with satisfaction the Common Declarations of August 5 and 10, 1956, and that subsequently it addressed three letters to the Co-Chairmen forwarding the various agreements signed between the parties (viz. on 31 October 1956, 2 November 1956, 24 December 1956 and the Common Declaration of 28 December 1956). In its letter of 11 January 1957 to the Co-Chairmen the Commission described briefly their background and indicated the progress towards a settlement which in the view of both the parties these agreements marked. This letter concluded by expressing strongly the hope that "these measures which the Parties affirm as representing 'a great step forward towards the final solution of the Laotian Problem in conformity with the Geneva Agreement' will soon lead to a final settlement of the Laotian problem", and pledged the Commission's willingness to "continue to assist, in so far as it lies in its power, the Parties to attain a settlement satisfactory to both and in conformity with the Geneva Agreement";