

were received on November 14 and forwarded to the Co-Chairmen with a covering letter dated November 16 (Annexure 18).

First stage
in implemen-
tation of
Agreements.

13. As the first step in the implementation of the settlement, Prince Souphanouvong in a symbolic ceremony on November 18, formally returned to the authority of His Majesty the King of Laos, represented at the ceremony by His Royal Highness the Crown Prince, the administration of the two provinces of Sam Neua and Phongsaly, together with all the troops, civil servants and war material of the Fighting Units of the Pathet Lao. The ceremony was attended by the Chairman and members of the King's Council, the National Assembly, the Royal Government, the International Commission and the Diplomatic Corps. After Prince Souphanouvong's declaration, the Crown Prince, on behalf of His Majesty the King, acknowledged with satisfaction the assurances of loyalty, sincerity, and respect for the democratic constitution of the Kingdom made by all the Fighting Units of the Pathet Lao soldiers and functionaries.

Government
of National
Union.

14. In the afternoon of November 18 the National Assembly approved by unanimous vote a National Union Government led by Prince Souvanna Phouma, which included two members of the former Fighting Units of the Pathet Lao, Prince Souphanouvong as Minister of Plans, Reconstruction and Urbanism, and Phoumi Vongvichit as Minister of Cults and Fine Arts. The same day, in accordance with the agreement between the parties, the Neo Lao Haksat party, successor of the Pathet Lao, started its activities throughout the Kingdom. The Co-Chairmen were informed of these developments in a telegram dated November 19 (Annexure 19), in which