

24 September 1956: Commission adopts resolution expressing satisfaction with Important Events Declarations.

31 October 1956: Agreement is signed for full implementation of cessation of hostilities.

2 November 1956: Agreement is signed for the implementation of policy of peace and neutrality.

24 December 1956: Agreement is signed on measures to guarantee civic rights and non-discrimination.

28 December 1956: Joint Communique is issued indicating agreed measures for the settlement of outstanding problems.

21 February 1957: Agreement is signed on the modalities of elections.

16 May 1957: Commission adopts resolution for continuance of negotiations.

1. During the period under review, the International Commission continued to follow closely the efforts of the Royal Laotian Government and the Fighting Units of the Pathet Lao to reach a political settlement. The Commission offered its good offices at all stages and at times took the initiative for resolving the impasse between the Parties.

2. The Parties replied in the affirmative to the Commission's letter of 15 June 1955 (given in paragraph 70 of the Second Interim Report) calling for a resumption of the political negotiations and they started their second series of political talks in Vientiane on 15 July 1955. The Commission participated as observers in these talks which lasted until 5 September 1955 and included 11 formal meetings.

3. The Royal Laotian Government preferred to begin the negotiations by considering the question of the restoration of its administration in the northern provinces. The Pathet Lao believed that if agreement could be secured on the electoral question, all other aspects of the political settlement, including restoration and reintegration, would be easy of solution. The Royal Government agreed to taking up the electoral problem first and the following agenda was finally decided upon:

a) General Elections;

b) Establishment of Royal administration in the two northern provinces;

c) Integration of the Pathet Lao forces;

d) Democratic freedoms.

4. With regard to the electoral problems the Pathet Lao, basing themselves on Article 3 of the Final Declaration and Article 15 of the Geneva Agreement and on the basic principles of the Royal Constitution, proposed amendments