

MILITARY COMMITTEE'S VISIT TO SENO AND SAVANNAKHET

1. The Military Committee visited Seno and Savannakhet on 14 February 1958. The Committee was met on arrival at Seno airfield by Colonel Singh, Commander of the 3rd Military Region, the officer-in-Charge of the ex-Pathet Lao reception centre, Colonel Baylong, Commander of the French base at Seno, and the International Commission Team from Savannakhet.
2. Prior to a tour of inspection of the centre, the Military Committee was offered an opportunity to ask questions and a meeting was arranged in the Commander's office. It was found that there were 750 persons in the centre at the moment and that approximately 1200 had already been sent to their villages. There had been no incidents since the beginning of the operation and no complaints except for a few concerning food. On inquiring into this, the Committee found that the rations provided consisted of meat, poultry, fish when available, rice and vegetables. The Commander of the Centre stated that in fact the rations supplied were equivalent to those provided to the National Army. While at the centre, all transients were issued with clothing. Movement of the 750 persons in the Centre was to begin on 15 Feb. and it was expected that all would have been cleared by the end of the month. Repatriation to villages is carried out by trucks.
3. On touring around the Centre, the Committee found that personnel were accommodated in aircraft hangers except for the sick who were cared for in huts. In general, conditions were found to be good and the accommodation clean. Morale seemed good and of the ones questioned, all replied that they were happy to return to their villages.
4. After the tour of the reception Centre, the group proceeded to Savannakhet where a reception was given by Colonel Singh, the Commander of the 3rd Military region, followed by a luncheon offered by the Chaokhoueng at his residence. During the lunch period informally impression was obtained that everything was going on smoothly from the Civil administration point of view.