

as envisaged in the Geneva Agreement, had been reached. They added that "there was absolutely no necessity for the provinces to be the subject of any other settlement if the political settlement had not yet been reached". They made it clear that they would refuse to admit the presence of any Laotian National Army Units in the two provinces and to accept Royal Administrative Control over any part of the two provinces until a political settlement had been finally arrived at.

"Pathet Lao" Declaration

167. At a meeting between the International Commission and the Joint Commission on 4th November, 1954, the "Pathet Lao" Delegate read out a declaration (Appendix 'I') that the "Pathet Lao" forces recognise the Royal Government and that in principle the administration of "Pathet Lao" in the two provinces of Phong Saly and Sam Neua "is classified under the supreme authority of the Royal Government".

Existence of Two Forces side by side

168. The main problem of the two Provinces, after 19th November, 1954, has been two-fold:-

(1) Existence of two forces side by side:

There are two forces present in the two Provinces - the Royal Laotian Units and "Pathet Lao" Units. In order to prevent incidents, disengagement of these troops is absolutely essential. The International Commission, with a view to determining the areas under the control of the Royal Laotian troops and the "Pathet Lao" Units, respectively, had ordered enquiry as to the position, strength and location as on 6th August, 1954, etc., of the former on the basis of the claim made by them.

Political Settlement in Laos

(2) Political settlement in Laos: The "Pathet Lao" fighting units having recognised the sovereignty of the Royal Government in principle, insist on a political settlement as envisaged in Article 14, before the Royal Administration can be re-established in the areas under their occupation in the two Provinces. However, they, as well as the Royal Government, have expressed eagerness to settle through negotiations their differences in a spirit of harmony and compromise.

International Commission's Recommendation

169. The International Commission, in order to press for an early and amicable settlement passed the following resolution on 3rd December 1954:-

"The International Commission for Supervision and Control in Laos:

(a) in view of the fact that the Joint Commission have been unable to reach Agreement on the interpretation of Article 14 of the Geneva Agreement;

(b) bearing in mind the spirit of the said Geneva Agreement;