

June 18, 1954

Telegram from Zhou Enlai to Mao Zedong and Liu Shaoqi and the Central Committee on His Conversation with Georges Bidault

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Summary:

Zhou reports on his meeting with Bidault. Bidault expresses his desire to see the conference continue, and says there is still a week until Eden and Smith leave to reach some agreement. Zhou also speaks of the Cambodia and Laos issues.

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Translation - English

周恩来关于与皮杜尔谈话情况
致毛泽东、刘少奇并报中央的电报
(1954年6月18日)

案卷编号：206 - Y0050

主席、少奇同志并报中央：

十七日午我去皮杜尔处，皮先表示他这次回日内瓦就是要求大家不要过早地散伙，他说：会议既因莫洛托夫和我的建设性的建议而有进展，就应研究会议如何获得具体结果的可能性，不应在此时使会议结束。我说：我同意法国使会议继续的意见，因为我们一向的立场就是使会议有成果，现在是英美外长计划要离去，我们希望在外长离会前能达成若干具体的，即使不是最后的协议。皮说：艾登和史密斯愿在下周以前不离开日内瓦，他并表示外长离去后至少须有大使一级的代表来继续工作，不宜只是专家。他还表示任何一方在军事代表交换地图的工作中不要提出不合理的或过分的的问题。我接着就把对艾登说的关于老、柬问题的一段话说给皮杜尔听，还补充了专说给法国听的几点：

越南民主共和国所提建议是合理的，是寻求达成双方的光荣的和平。要满足老、柬的合理要求就必须满足越南民主共和国的合理要求。只要法国和越南民主共和国即交战双方的主要部分同意了便好解决了。我们愿意看到老、柬成为东南亚型的国家，同时又成为法兰西联邦成员国，在柬埔寨应就地停战双方协商政治解决。在老挝因力量较大应承认用集结区的办法来解决，这种地区正是邻近越南民主共和国和中国的边境。最后皮杜尔还说不要让任何人来对会议加以破坏，要使军事会议能获得好的结果。

周恩来

一九五四年六月十八日

Chairman [Mao Zedong], Comrade [Liu] Shaoqi, and the Central Committee:

At noon on the 17th, I visited Bidault. He emphasized the purpose of his return to Geneva was to ask everyone not to adjourn the conference too early. He said that since the conference has made some progress because of the constructive suggestions by Molotov and me, it should discuss the possibility of how to achieve some specific results. The conference should not be ended at this moment. I said that I agree with the French opinion to continue the conference because our stance is always to work with the conference to achieve a settlement. Since the British and American foreign ministers are now planning to leave the conference, we hope that the conference may reach certain, if not final, agreements before the foreign ministers' departures. Bidault said that Eden and Smith are willing not to leave Geneva until next week. He also believed that during their absence their representatives should be at least at the ambassadorial level, not only the experts, in order to continue their work. He hoped that the military representatives from each side should not ask unreasonable or unanswerable questions during their work of exchanging maps. Then I repeated to Bidault what I had told Eden about the Laos and Cambodia issue. I also added a few points especially for France:

The suggestions made by the Democratic Republic of Vietnam are reasonable and proposed for reaching a glorious peace for both sides. To fulfill the reasonable requests by Laos and Cambodia the reasonable suggestions by the Democratic Republic of Vietnam need to be met. The problem could be solved much easier as long as France and the Democratic Republic of Vietnam, the two major belligerent countries, agree on the issue. We are willing to see Laos and Cambodia become two of the Southeast Asian type countries while they become member countries of the French Union. The cease-fire should take place on site in Cambodia, and both sides should reach a political solution through their negotiations there. In Laos, however, since the forces were relatively large, it may be acceptable to use regrouping areas to solve the problems. These areas are along the borders of the Democratic Republic of Vietnam and China. At the end, Bidault said that he won't allow anyone to disrupt the meetings in order to have the military negotiations to obtain a fruitful result.

Zhou Enlai
18 June 1954