

COMPLAINTS AND INVESTIGATIONS

81. The majority of the investigations ordered by the Commission during the period under review were carried out by the Fixed and Mobile Teams in Phong Saly, Sam Neua and Xieng Khouang (see Appendices 'E' & 'F' ).

SAM NEUA

82. The Fixed Team, Sam Neua, conducted the following investigations:

i. Presence of 10 Vietnamese People's Volunteers Officers in Sam Neua

The Franco-Laotian Delegation complained that 10 Vietnamese People's Volunteers Officers were stationed in Sam Neua even after the withdrawal of foreign forces and that two among them were holding official posts in the province.

The result of the investigation neither proved nor disproved the allegation.

ii. Ban Saleui

The Franco-Laotian Delegation complained that the Royal Laotian National Guards stationed at Ban Saleui were overwhelmed and taken prisoners by the 'Pathet Lao'.

The Team found evidence that the troops of both sides were moving in the area, but it was not clear who entered first the village of Ban Saleui. The Team also found that the 'Pathet Lao' had encircled the village and taken some prisoners without any bloodshed. The Commission concluded that there were frequent movements of troops of both Parties in the area and took note of the findings and also of the recommendation of the Political Committee that in order to stop incidents, Articles 12 and 14 should be clarified.

iii. Houei Thao

Due to the close proximity of the forces of both Parties at Houei Thao, the Commission received numerous complaints of incidents around the post.

Several of these were investigated into by the Teams which came to the conclusion that there had been some movement of 'Pathet Lao' forces in the area and that incidents were likely to continue unless separation of the opposing forces could be achieved.