

village in Kompong Speu province and the kidnapping of villagers and suggested that the band of SEAP was working for the Democratic party, but an investigation by our Team showed that this was a case of banditry in which the motive was loot and ransom. On the other hand, the Commission Team investigating an incident in Voensai srok (which is referred to in Chapter IV) found evidence of the presence in the inaccessible areas of the Stung Treng province of armed bands engaged in anti-Government propaganda. Another investigation regarding a charge by the Government that some former KRF persons had crossed into Cambodia from South Vietnam for the purpose of engaging in anti-Government propaganda during the elections, failed to provide evidence to sustain the charge.

35. The Commission was concerned lest fears of insecurity in certain parts of the Kingdom might lead to postponement of the elections or postponement of polling in certain areas. Indeed at one time the Prime Minister informed us that the Government might possibly have to alter the location of polling stations in a few constituencies. Later the Prime Minister said that the Government considered that opposition elements were creating conditions of insecurity with a view to preventing the holding of the elections. The Government charges and proclamations alleging renewal of Viet Minh invasion had played its part in creating an element of uncertainty during the electoral period and reacted against the Opposition parties. However, fears regarding postponement were belied and elections were held as scheduled on September 11.

36. Throughout the campaign period, as indeed since the inception of the Commission, we and our Teams have moved at will and without notice throughout the country observing freely. For polling day, we had made special arrangements for our Teams to go round on a general tour of observation, but we had cautioned them not to be obtrusive. Fourteen Teams covered the fourteen provinces and reported on the general atmosphere in the polling stations and their environs and also gave a brief description of the voting procedure as they observed it. The arrangements made for polling were good. Polling stations were either inside buildings or, as in most cases, open structures with thatched roofs were specially constructed for the purpose. Polling was orderly and peaceful throughout the country. No incidents either during the polling or during the counting were reported. From the Team reports and our own observations in the capital and the surrounding area, it is established that the voting procedure laid down in the Electoral Laws was correctly followed. Secrecy of ballot was ensured in each polling station by the provision of a partitioned booth where the voter could make his choice. Elaborate precautions had been taken by the police to preserve order. Groups of soldiers were seen in certain areas, but, except in a few places, no soldiers were seen near the polling stations. Most polling stations carried a picture of Prince Sihanouk. Reports by three of our Teams giving their observations on polling day is attached as Appendix "E". Section 71 of the Cambodian Electoral Regulations provides a period of fifteen days after polling for appeals against electoral operations and according to our information no appeals have been filed.