

and hoping that they would take suitable action to punish those found guilty. A number of letters were exchanged between the Royal Government and the Commission in which the Royal Government expressed regret for the incident and stated that an enquiry would be held; however, no definite assurance guaranteeing the safety of the team was given. In this situation it was not possible for the member of the team who had left Houei Thao to return there until such time as the Royal Government categorically satisfied all the demands of the Commission in these matters.

18. Although the team at Houei Thao, in the absence of one member, could not be regarded as a team as defined in the Geneva Agreement, reports were received by the Commission from the remaining members that several incidents of firing continued between the Parties during the third week of April. It was also reported by these members of the team that the Pathet Lao had occupied a new position near Houei Thao village and that once, when they were collecting supplies paradropped for the Laotian National Army, they were fired upon from the direction of Pathet Lao positions. While the team was not officially complete, the Commission's flag was displayed. These reports could not be acted upon because of lack of official status of the team. It was evident that all steps should be taken to bring about necessary conditions for return of the member who had left. Therefore, on 17 April, 1956 the Commission urged both the Parties once again to respect the cease-fire and restore calm and on 21 April, 1956, the Commission met the representatives of the Royal Government and the Pathet Lao in Vientiane and a statement was handed out to them regarding the conditions at Houei Thao. It was stated that the Commission viewed with concern the grave situation at Houei Thao and the importance of enforcing a strict cease-fire immediately. After these measures had been taken, the member who had left Houei Thao felt sufficiently reassured to return there with his interpreter. They did so on 22 April, 1956.

19. Intermittent firing continued on 22 April, 1956 and some shots hit the team bunker. The Commission decided to ask the Chairman of the Military Committee to communicate with both sides; to express to the Pathet Lao its serious concern about the shooting at team members and the team bunker; and to emphasize to both sides its anxiety over the breach of cease-fire.

20. In May and June minor violations of the cease-fire agreement continued to be made by both the parties.

21. Investigation into the alleged construction of the new post was inconclusive as the team could not reach a unanimous conclusion. The investigation regarding water points was not completed.

22. On 8 May, 1956 the Canadian Delegation tabled a draft resolution on the situation at Houei Thao with a view to warning both the parties to observe cease-fire and in particular the Pathet Lao who were, in their view, responsible for hostile acts. The resolution was discussed at length in the Commission and was opposed by the Polish Delegation as in their opinion it was biased and one-sided. After considerable discussion, and on the suggestion of the Chairman, it was decided that the best course would be for both the Parties to meet at a conference with a view to solving various problems arising out of the situation at Houei Thao.