

Savannakhet interrogated at Ban Pha Nop 3 girls, mentioned by the Franco-Laotian side. All three declared they were not forcibly recruited;

(g) on 4th November, 1954, the Fixed Team of Xieng Khouang while checking withdrawal of troops in the area of Muong Ngam, interrogated two witnesses, presented by each party. All four witnesses stated that no forced recruitment had been carried out in the area of Muong Ngam;

(h) at Muong Cham, in the province of Vientiane, on 5th November, 1954, the Mobile Team, while checking the withdrawal of the "Pathet Lao", made investigation with regard to the allegation of forced recruitment. The Team came to the conclusion that "no instances of forced recruitment were discovered or reported to the Team";

(i) at Khang Khay, at the seat of the Joint Commission, the Fixed Team, on 19th November, 1954, examined 6 out of 15 persons produced by the Franco-Laotian side and came to the conclusion that they had been recruited before 6th August, 1954. From among the rest, the four who were chosen for interrogation, stated that they had deserted while serving in Sam Neua. The Team, therefore, concluded that it was "not possible to state that forced recruitment was carried out";

(j) at Khang Khay, at the seat of the Joint Commission, the Fixed Team, on 1st December, 1954, interviewed three out of 9 alleged forced recruits. The Team stated that "from the testimony of these witnesses alone, without supporting evidence which will require detailed investigation on the ground, it was not possible to state categorically whether forced recruitment was carried out or not";

(k) at Luang Prabang, the Mobile Team on 4th December, 1954 interrogated three "Pathet Lao" soldiers brought by the National Laotian Army from Outay. The three "Pathet Lao" soldiers stated during their interrogation that they joined the army, "since one man from each house was detailed by the village head to join the forces", and that they had joined the "Pathet Lao" forces approximately two months earlier. At Outay, they stated, they fell ill and were left behind by the "Pathet Lao" column; they wanted to go with the column but could not, because of illness.