

B. Cases Pending at the Close of 1957.

(i) A petition of August 11, 1955 alleged that 11 persons were being harassed by the authorities of Svey Rieng province. The Commission brought the matter to the attention of the Royal Government which in February 1956, informed the Commission that ten of the eleven were either unknown or were not being prosecuted, but the eleventh, PEAK CHHON, was to be tried at the next criminal session for murder. The Commission was later informed that he had been sentenced to eighteen years hard labour for a murder which he admitted committing in June 1955. As the man was alleged to have been a former member of the KRF, the Chairman requested the Minister of Justice in April 1957 to supply further information. The Commission is awaiting a reply.

(ii) In August 1955, the Commission, following consideration of a petition from KHIEU CHY, requested that the Royal Government supply additional information on his case. The Commission was informed that the petitioner had been sentenced by default for qualified theft, arson and wilful homicide which were infringements of the common law and that the amnesty provided for in the Geneva Agreement was not applicable to him. As the crimes were committed during the period of hostilities and the accused was alleged to have been a member of the KRF, the Chairman requested the Minister of Justice in April 1957 to furnish additional information on the circumstances of the crime. The Commission as yet has received no reply.

III. NEW CASES REPORTED DURING 1957

A. DISMISSED

A petition was received in October 1957 from 48 inhabitants of Khum Beng Sra Nge, Srok Chhuk, Kampot, who claim to have been members of the Khmer Resistance Forces, stating that in September 1957, the local authorities accused them of "having spread troubles" in the years 1951, 1952 and 1953. The petitioners stated that the accusation was baseless but requested the Commission to take the steps necessary to halt such accusations. The Commission decided that it could not take action on apprehended reprisals but could only act when reprisals had been taken against persons for resistance activities prior to the Cease-Fire Agreement.

B. CLOSED

(i) In a petition dated March 20, 1957 Mr. EK-KHAI of PHUM RUSSEY DON, KHUM PRAPHNOM, srok BANTEAI MEAS, KHET KAMPOT stated that on March 19, 1957 his children and grandchildren Messrs AK-MUTH, NAO-NEL, NAO-BOM and LAY-NANN, had each been sentenced to one year's imprisonment each on a charge of having committed piracy. The petitioner stated that his children and grand-children had been falsely accused through a personal grudge. The Commission forwarded the petition to the Royal Government with a request for certain additional information in order to satisfy itself that the case was not one of reprisals against ex-KRF members. In May 1957 the Royal Government informed the Commission that each of the persons in question had been sentenced to three-years' imprisonment each for qualified theft, committed after the date of the Geneva Agreement, which was a breach of the common law. In the light of this information the Commission decided to take no action on the petition.