

(b) at Ban Pha Nop, in the province of Thakhek, on 12th October, 1954, the Team of the International Commission carried out investigation in Ban Pha Nop and vicinity concerning the complaint of alleged forced recruitment. The Team made a sample interrogation and came to the conclusion that they saw no evidence of any Laotian nationals having been forcibly recruited within the two battalions they checked. Among the persons the Team interviewed, no one had stated that they had been recruited in 1954;

(c) between 17th and 29th October, 1954, in the area of Nam Lik and Nam Ngum in the province of Vientiane, the Mobile Team examined 21 witnesses. The evidence gathered by the Team "did not substantiate the allegations concerning forced recruitment by the Vietnamese People's Volunteers/"Pathet Lao" side nor the allegation of the Vietnamese People's Volunteers/"Pathet Lao" side that "statements on forced recruitment were taken by the Franco-Laotian forces by use of threat of force or actual force".

Further investigation in this area could not be conducted because the Vietnamese People's Volunteers/"Pathet Lao" members and interpreter of the Joint Group were recalled to Vientiane by the Vietnamese People's Volunteers/"Pathet Lao" Delegation in the Joint Commission on 29th October, 1954.

(d) At Khang Khay, at the seat of the Joint Commission, the Fixed Team of Xieng Khouang on 25th October, 1954 examined 4 out of the 13 young Laotians produced by the Franco-Laotian side as having been forcibly recruited. From the evidence produced by the Franco-Laotian side the Team did not find it "possible to judge with any degree of accuracy" whether forced recruitment had been carried out.

The Vietnamese People's Volunteers/"Pathet Lao" Delegation recorded its protest against the statements made by the 4 witnesses and declared that they were false.

(e) At Khang Khay, at the seat of the Joint Commission, on 1st November, 1954, the Fixed Team had to examine 3 alleged forced recruits. From the papers produced by the Franco-Laotian side, the 3 persons, in the opinion of the Team, appeared to have been "enrolled before 6th August, 1954, and therefore did not fall under the category of forcibly recruited personnel". Interrogation of these three persons could not take place owing to non-availability of interpreters of the Vietnamese People's Volunteers/"Pathet Lao" side;

(f) on 3rd November, 1954, in the course of withdrawals of Vietnamese People's Volunteers/"Pathet Lao" troops, the Fixed Team of