

112. The International Commission gave serious consideration to the matter and agreed to make the necessary investigation and asked:-

(a) the Franco-Laotian and Vietnamese People's Volunteers/"Pathet Lao" side to inform the International Commission at least 4 days in advance of the plans of evacuation from the Provisional Assembly Areas, since the question of forced recruitment was linked with evacuation plans;

(b) the Franco-Laotian and Vietnamese People's Volunteers/"Pathet Lao" Delegations to facilitate the work of the investigating Teams by furnishing them with the necessary documents, witnesses, etc.;

(c) the Franco-Laotian side to supply it with the necessary light aircraft and other means of communication to carry out the investigation;

(d) the International Commission for Vietnam to check the presence of alleged forced recruits among the Vietnamese People's Volunteers/"Pathet Lao" troops which withdrew from Ban Pha Nop through the Muggia Pass into Vietnam on 29th September.

113. The International Commission decided that more importance should be laid on the actual checking of the presence of the alleged forced recruits among troops rather than evaluation of paper evidence. For the purpose of investigation on the spot, the International Commission directed the Teams, among other methods, to make random selection of witnesses while checking transfer of troops, or holding investigations, and follow this up with individual interrogation.

114. On 12th October, 1954 the Vietnamese People's Volunteers/"Pathet Lao" Delegation lodged a complaint with the International Commission against the Franco-Laotian side that the latter was procuring evidence with regard to alleged forced recruitment from the people through threat of violence and/or actual violence.

115. Accordingly, the following investigations into the alleged forced recruitment as well as allegation of intimidation for procuring evidence regarding forced recruitment, were conducted by the various Teams of the International Commission, for which purpose a set of questions were made available to the Teams by the International Commission (copy attached as Appendix 'D'):-

(a) in Lao Ngam, in the province of Pakse, the Fixed Team examined witnesses between 4th and 6th October, 1954, and came to the conclusion that enquiries "did not reveal the presence of any forced recruits among the Vietnamese People's Volunteers/"Pathet Lao" troops;

International Commission Undertakes Investigation

Method of checking

Alleged intimidation by Franco-Laotian side

Investigation by Teams of International Commission and Results of investigation