

3) Checking as above of Laotian National Army troops at Ou Tay.

This could not be carried out because of the absence of Laotian National Army troops at Ou Tay during Phong Saly Fixed Team's visit there between 12th and 18th November, 1954.

142. In spite of many difficulties, the International Commission was able to make systematic and effective investigations into the allegations, which not only helped to bring down the number of incidents but also contributed to ease the mounting tension. It should be noted here that after the cease-fire, when the advance party of the International Commission was installed in Vientiane, shooting had stopped; but years of conflict had left an atmosphere which was tense and bitter. Before the International Commission could organise the minimum requirements for its Secretariat and the Teams, and before it could establish contact effectively with the Parties and ensure transport facilities, the Parties started making complaints against each other. While conducting investigations into complaints, the International Commission felt that the Parties had not always made sufficient prior effort to discuss and settle these among themselves.

Conclusion

143. Perhaps it was due to the existing tension and suspicion between the Parties that they had, particularly in the initial stages, some difficulty in entering into discussion and settling the different complaints among themselves. Instead, they hastily transmitted the complaints to the International Commission. The records of the complaints would indicate that sometimes the Parties transmitted the complaints to the International Commission without first carefully checking the facts. Sometimes, they failed also to offer sufficient and accurate information. The International Commission did all that it could, under difficult circumstances, which were sometimes accentuated by paucity of transport facilities, lack of prompt and adequate liaison from the Parties and unpredictable climatic conditions.

144. A table of reported incidents and investigations carried out up to 31st December, 1954, is given as Appendices 'E' and 'F'.

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CHAPTER XI  
THE PROVINCES OF PHONG SALY AND SAM NEUA

145. The most difficult and delicate problem that the International Commission in Laos is facing today is that of the two Northern Provinces of Phong Saly and Sam Neua. The main Articles of the Geneva Agreement concerned with these regions are 12, 14 and 19.

Difficult and Delicate Problem