

CHAPTER IV

ALLEGED VIOLATION OF CAMBODIAN TERRITORY

VOEUNSAI INCIDENTS - AUGUST 1955

41. On 20th August, 1955, the Royal Government of Cambodia advised the International Commission that harassment and attacks by Viet Minh elements had taken place in the region of Voeunsai in Stung Treng province on 5, 14, and 16 August 1955.

42. The following is the text of the Royal Government's letter to the Chairman of the International Commission:-

"I have the honour to inform you that in the province of Stung Treng the Viet Minhs have resumed their activities against the legal forces.

It is thus that on the night of 5/6th instant about ten Viet Minhs harassed the Salasrok of Voeunsai but withdrew before the counter-attack of the Provincial Guards. Two other attacks were launched on the night of 14/15th instant by the band of Syda composed of 200 to 300 Viet Minhs against the same post.

Finally, on the night of 16/17 August 1955, these elements once again harassed the Salasrok and the military post of Voeunsai.

After the failure of this attack which lasted from 22.30 O'clock to 05.10 O'clock, the Viet Minh, of whom five regular battalions are said to have been seen at Siempoy (Laos) situated near the Cambodian frontier, are said to be planning to recommence their aggression on 20th August. In bringing, what is said above to your knowledge, the Royal Government wishes to draw the attention of the International Commission for Control to the gravity of the situation so created and to protest against this violation of the Geneva Agreement."

43. The Commission held an extraordinary meeting on Sunday, 21 August, 1955, and an inquiry was ordered. A Special Investigation Team was detailed and briefed to inquire into the Voeunsai incidents, with particular reference to the following:

(a) On what date or dates and on which localities did the alleged attacks take place?

(b) What damage and casualties, if any, were suffered by the Royal Government Forces, the Provincial Guards and the civilian population of Voeunsai?

(c) What was the estimated size of the attacking bands and what was the method of their attacks?

(d) Identification of the attackers, uniform worn and arms carried. Any other evidence such as documents captured, fired cases picked up, etc.