

either along routes not approved by the two parties or along approved routes at a date earlier than that fixed by the two parties; this was done in order to avoid checking;

(e) article 14 of the Geneva Agreement allowed for the entry into Phong Saly and Sam Neua units of combatants and not of recruits;

(f) such recruitment was against Article 4 and 15 of the Geneva Agreement which guaranteed the democratic rights of people;

(g) recruitment amounted to a reinforcement, which was prohibited under Chapter 3, Paragraph 5 of the Khang Khay agreement of August 29;

(h) recruitment meant a compulsory transfer of population, which was prohibited under Chapter 4, Paragraph 3 of the Khang Khay agreement of 29th August.

111. The contention of the Vietnamese People's Volunteers/"Pathet Lao" Delegation was:-

(a) never during the 9 year warfare had the Vietnamese People's Volunteers/"Pathet Lao" side carried out forced recruitment, their whole organization being based exclusively on voluntary participation of conscious (conscient) combatants;

(b) after 6th August, they did not have recourse to either forced or voluntary recruitment;

(c) what the Franco-Laotian side would like to represent as forced recruitment was exclusively regroupment of their combatants who, owing to the conditions of guerilla warfare, were dispersed over the country;

(d) such women and youngsters as were regrouped with the "Pathet Lao" combatants were all either nurses, cooks, liaison personnel and so on who entered the ranks of the "Pathet Lao" long before 6th August, 1954, or families of combatants who had followed them on a voluntary basis;

(e) notwithstanding the arguments quoted above, the Geneva Agreement nowhere mentioned the question of forced or voluntary recruitment;

(f) forced recruitment would, however, be against the spirit of the Geneva Agreement;

(g) to show that the allegations of the Franco-Laotian Delegation were baseless, the Vietnamese People's Volunteers/"Pathet Lao" Delegation requested the International Commission to investigate into this matter.

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Vertical text on the left margin, including "the Viet-people's Volunteers/"Pathet Lao" Delegation" and "the Franco-Laotian Delegation".