

it difficult to avoid the inference that the Neo Lao Haksat is unwilling to permit investigations because any such investigation might bring to light evidence that the Protocol has indeed been violated."

Shortly after the Commission was informed by the Laotian Government of the capture of the North Vietnamese prisoners, it received a letter from the Communist Neo Lao Haksat authorities alleging that United States aircraft based in South Vietnam had bombed and otherwise attacked Laotian territory and that, from time to time, these aircraft had parachuted South Vietnamese military personnel with arms and equipment into Laos. Although the Neo Lao Haksat authorities did not request an investigation, the Commission appointed a team to ascertain the facts, and the Laotian Government has agreed to cooperate. The Commission has indicated, in its message, its intention of proceeding with this investigation. Its ability to do so, however, will depend on the cooperation of the Neo Lao Haksat authorities who, in the past, have not permitted Commission teams to enter the territory under their control in pursuance of the Commission's responsibilities under the 1962 Protocol.

This is the first report of the Laos Commission which establishes conclusively major violations of the 1962 Geneva Agreements on Laos by the North Vietnamese authorities. Other North Vietnamese troops have been captured since, some in an attack on a military