

CHAPTER II

REINTEGRATION OF THE FORMER MEMBERS OF THE K.R.F.

3. The difficulties and problems of reintegration with which the Commission was concerned under Article 6 of the Geneva Agreement have been dealt with fully in the Commission's first and second Progress Reports, to the Co-Chairmen of the Geneva Conference. In earlier stages, complaints about arrests of former members of the KRF (Khmer Resistance Forces) when they presented themselves for obtaining their identity cards were fairly common, but after the Government had explained its policy to its village officials, such complaints ceased to be in evidence.

4. A few isolated complaints about the detention of ex-KRF persons on trumped-up charges and their release only on payment of bribes by relatives, indicated instances of corruption on the part of certain village officials rather than concerted action against the ex-KRF. Provincial and district officials, it must be said to their credit, took action whenever our Teams drew their attention to these cases.

5. Complaints about the police shadowing former members of KRF and about petty harassment, showed that these complaints arose out of over-zealous village officers' attempts at being "on the alert". No serious harm came to complainants. Similar complaints about "fear of arrest" were received quite often; but the International Commission did not entertain such nebulous complaints, always advising the complainants to return to their villages and promising help, should any harm come to them.

6. Three complaints from the Province of Kompong Cham and one from Kampot concerned "indiscriminate shooting by village officials and the police, to terrorise the villagers". In one case in Kompong Cham, the man was seriously wounded by bullets. Two things may be mentioned in this connection: the authorities resorted to shooting because they were expecting to find arms caches and, therefore, possible armed resistance to search; however, in these cases no arms were in fact found. Apart from these four cases, no such cases were reported.

7. The difficult cases have been those where the Government have arrested some of the ex-KRF on charges of criminal activities which the petitioners claim were part of "activity during the period of hostilities". The Government undertook to pardon all activity of the latter type. However, the Government stated to us that these were "mixed cases", involving both criminal and political activity. There are hardly a dozen such cases, but three of them concern the serious charge of murder.

8. Some cases have been found to be based on legal misinterpretation of the Geneva Agreement by the local or provincial authorities. For example, in one case, in the Province of Kampot, where an ex-KRF had been placed under arrest and the Commission had sought information, the provincial authorities had informed the Commission that the person concerned had "not been arrested for misdeeds