

from the Vietnamese People's Volunteers/"Pathet Lao" side that their representatives were not informed of the schedule of moves of the French Union Forces leaving Seno. Similarly, complaints were made by the Franco-Laotian representatives that the Vietnamese People's Volunteers/"Pathet Lao" forces had deviated from their authorized route and had also changed the schedule at the last minute. The withdrawals carried out in the area under the control of the Mahaxay Sub-Commission, however, seemed to have been quite satisfactory. Each time when the failure to follow a withdrawal by either of the parties was reported of the International Teams, they went out to check the column personally in addition to the normal plans that they had made for carrying out their own checks.

Withdrawal
of
French
Union
Forces
and
the
Vietnamese
People's
Volunteers

67. Owing to last minute non-availability of helicopters, the withdrawals of the Vietnamese People's Volunteer troops in the province of Phong Saly and Sam Neua and of the "Pathet Lao" troops in the province of Luang Prabang could not be satisfactorily checked by the International Teams.

Transport
Difficulties

68. It is to be noted that during the period from August until the first week of October, when the Delegations to the Joint Commission were not giving each other precise information regarding the movements of troops of either Party, certain number of troops of both the Parties withdrew, particularly during September, without the knowledge of either the Joint Commission or the International Commission. This concerns particularly the French Union troops which moved out of the Assembly Areas of Luang Prabang and Plaine-des-Jarres and Vientiane in small detachments or even at times in ones and twos. Owing to the fact that personnel for all our Teams had not arrived during September and no Fixed Teams could be located at either Luang Prabang or Plaine-des-Jarres, the Commission could not have checked them. In the case of Vietnamese People's Volunteers/"Pathet Lao" forces, there were reports of their units moving in September without giving prior information. As a result of one such complaint, a Mobile Team was rushed out at short notice to verify this information, but owing to transport difficulties this Team could not actually reach the required place. But the Vietnamese People's Volunteers/"Pathet Lao" Delegation on the Joint Sub-Commission at Mahaxay confirmed that one Vietnamese People's Volunteers unit had moved on 28th September, and that owing to various problems, such as floods etc., sufficient notice could not be given to the other party.

Withdrawals
During August
& September

Identifi-
cation of
Units

Co-operation
between
the
two
Parties
in
Joint
Groups

69. In conclusion it may be said that owing to difficult terrain and monsoon weather, particularly till the end of September, and mutual distrust between the two Parties, and the fact that the Commission staff and its Teams did not get fully set up till early October, the withdrawals were not checked in toto by either the Joint Groups or the International Teams. While it is true that some movements and withdrawals were carried out during the month of September, the Commission is satisfied that the bulk of the withdrawals were carried out during October and November and that those were checked to a considerable extent. It is reiterated that there were

Conclusion