

Denial of Charge by Viet-
namese People's
Volun-
teers
"Pathet
Lao" Dele-
gation

107. By a letter of 8th September, 1954 the Viet-
namese People's Volunteers/"Pathet Lao" Delegation denied
the allegation of the other Party concerning forced
recruitment.

108. Between 27th August and the end (of September,
1954, the two Delegations exchanged a number of communi-
cations in the matter. Copies of these letters were also
endorsed to the International Commission which kept itself
acquainted with further developments. On 20th September,
1954, the International Commission requested the Viet-
namese People's Volunteers/"Pathet Lao" Delegation to
give a fuller statement on the allegations made. The
Vietnamese People's Volunteers/"Pathet Lao" Delegation,
in their reply, dated 25th September, 1954 again denied
having done any forced recruitment and stated that at
the moment they were only regrouping their forces in
accordance with the Geneva Agreement.

Control
of Viet-
namese
People's
Volun-
teers to
"Pathet
Lao" Bat-
talions
Marching
out of
Laos

109. While the question was under discussion in
the Commission, a communication was received on 27th
September from the French Liaison Mission requesting for
the despatch of a Mobile Team to Ban Pha Nop in order to
control 3 Vietnamese People's Volunteers/"Pathet Lao"
battalions which were made up of allegedly forces
recruits and which were expected to pass from that
place into Vietnam on 28th-29th September. The Commission
immediately decided to send a Team. Unfortunately, the
Team was delayed en route because of lack of adequate air
transport. The Team, however, from the information
received from the Vietnamese People's Volunteers/"Pathet
Lao" Delegation of the Joint Sub-Commission, Mahaxay,
reported that one battalion of the Vietnamese People's
Volunteers/"Pathet Lao" side had actually passed into
Northern Vietnam on 28th-29th September, but whether
there were amongst them any forced recruits, the Team
could not, naturally, say. Henceforth the two Parties
to the Geneva Agreement were asked to ensure that they
gave sufficient notice to the International Commission
before their troops marched out of the country. On 5th
October, 1954, at a meeting of the International
Commission with the Joint Commission at Vientiane, the
Franco-Laotian Delegation presented the allegation re-
garding forced recruitment by the Vietnamese People's
Volunteers/"Pathet Lao" side.

Contention
of
Franco-
Laotian
Dele-
gation

110. The contention of the Franco-Laotian
Delegation was:-

- (a) only a legally constituted Government had
the right to recruit;
- (b) the "Pathet Lao", not having been recognised
as a Government by the signatories of the
Geneva Agreement, had no such right to
recruit;
- (c) hence, all recruitment carried on by the
"Pathet Lao", especially after 6th August,
1954, was, legally speaking, "forced
recruitment";
- (d) all such recruits were being withdrawn into
the provinces of Phong Saly and Sam Neua