

FORCED RECRUITMENT

93. On 28th January, 1955, the Commission received from the Royal Laotian Government two letters containing nominal rolls of men alleged to have been forcibly recruited by the Fighting Units of 'Patet Lao' after the Cease-Fire. The letters also contained allegations of such recruitment of Laotians by the army of the Democratic Republic of Vietnam from the disputed area of Ban Ken Dou on the Laos-Vietnam border.

94. On 30th March, 1955, the Commission instructed its Teams at Luang Prabang, Savannakhet and Pakse to interrogate a number of Fighting Units of 'Patet Lao' deserters who, according to the Royal Government, had been recruited by force. No witnesses were produced at Luang Prabang and Savannakhet, but the Royal Government informed the Commission that two witnesses were available for interrogation at Vientiane. However, no interrogation was possible at Vientiane for want of a competent 'Patet Lao' interpreter. On 29th June, the Fixed Team at Pakse reported that some alleged forced recruits were ready at Savanne for interrogation.

95. The allegation regarding forced recruitment in the area of Ban Ken Dou can be considered by the Commission only after a settlement has been reached by the two Governments concerned about the disputed border.