

Reference: Chapter I, Paragraph 3.

MESSAGE DATED THE 14TH SEPTEMBER, 1956,
FROM THE INTERNATIONAL COMMISSION TO THE CO-CHAIRMEN

The International Commission for Supervision and Control in Viet-Nam has the honour to refer to its message dated 27th May, 1956, addressed to the Co-Chairmen of the Geneva Conference, in reply to the messages issued by the Co-Chairman on 8th May, 1956, to the International Commission, the Government of the Republic of France and to the Governments of the Republic of Viet-Nam and the Democratic Republic of Viet-Nam.

2. In accordance with paragraph 10 of its message of 27th May, 1956, the International Commission for Supervision and Control in Viet-Nam has persevered in its efforts to maintain and strengthen peace in Viet-Nam on the basis of the fulfilment of the Geneva Agreements and on the basis of the continuance of the status quo, requested by the Co-Chairmen. The representatives of the Government of the Republic of France have held discussions in Saigon with the representatives of the Government of the Republic of Viet-Nam "with a view to reaching an arrangement that will facilitate the work of the International Commission and of the Joint Commission in Viet-Nam". On 31st of July, 1956, the Commission received a note No. 3456/DAP from the Secretary of State for Foreign Affairs of the Government of the Republic of Viet-Nam, which stated that "the Government of the Republic of Viet-Nam intends to accredit to the International Commission an organisation called 'Mission Vietnamienne chargee des relations avec la CIC'" and that "this organisation will be confided with the mission of assuring the liaison between the Government of the Republic of Viet-Nam and the International Commission after the suppression by the French Government of the French Liaison Mission, which will cease to exist from the 15th of August, 1956". Certain other matters of logistic and financial nature were also mentioned in this note but no mention was made about the assumption of responsibility under the Geneva Agreements by the Government of the Republic of Viet-Nam. A copy of this note is attached to this message (Appendix A).

3. On 2nd August, 1956, the Commission received a note verbale No. 006769/SAG from the High Commissioner for the Republic of France in Viet-Nam. In this note the High Commissioner for France informed the Commission that the French Liaison Mission would be dissolved on the 15th August, 1956. No mention was made in this note of the question of continued responsibility for the execution of the Geneva Agreements.

4. In reply to the High Commissioner's note verbale, the Commission on 8th August, 1956, requested the High Commissioner to forward to it a copy of the letter which had been addressed by the Government of the Republic of France to the Co-Chairmen of the Geneva Conference and further requested the High Commissioner to give the Commission detailed information regarding the arrangements which would come into force after 15th August, 1956, which would facilitate the work of the International Commission and the Joint Commission in Viet-Nam.

5. On the 11th August, 1956, the Commission received from the High Commissioner for the Republic of France a copy of a message dated 25th July, 1956, addressed by the Government