

Statement released to the Press on 2nd September, 1954

COMMITTEE ON FREEDOM OF MOVEMENT

There are important provisions in the Geneva Agreement about political and administrative questions. In order that these provisions may be successfully carried out it is essential that the people of Viet Nam know about them: The International Commission; which is responsible for supervising the carrying out of the whole Agreement, considers it important that the widest publicity should be given to two points:

Firstly: According to the Agreement each party undertakes to refrain from any reprisals or discrimination against persons or organisations on account of their activities during the hostilities and to guarantee their democratic liberties. In other words, whatever you may have done during the hostilities will not be used by either side as a basis for reprisals or discrimination: A fresh page has been opened. Your democratic liberties have been guaranteed by both sides:

Secondly: From the date of entry into force of Agreement until the movement of troops is completed any civilians residing in a district controlled by one party who wish to go and live in the zone assigned to the other party shall be permitted and helped to do so by the authorities in that district. This means that a period has been fixed during which you are free to move from the Northern Zone to the South and from the Southern Zone to the North. It began on July 22 when the Agreement came into force and it ends three hundred days later, in May 1955 when the movement of troops is to be completed. Until then you can freely leave one zone and go and live in the other. The authorities in the zone you are living in not only must permit you to leave but have undertaken to assist you. Moreover, no one has any authority to compel you to leave one zone to live in the other. You have complete freedom of choice.

It will be the duty of the International Commission to investigate any complaints that these or any other provisions of the Agreement are not being faithfully carried out.

(d) to request the Committee on Freedom of Movement to submit to the Commission monthly reports on the progress achieved by both Parties in the implementation of Article I, sections (c) and (d) of the Agreement, and by itself in the carrying out of its responsibilities;

(e) to authorize the Committee on Freedom of Movement whenever it may deem it advisable, on the basis of the information submitted by the two Parties, to make to the International Commission recommendations or suggestions on principles, procedures and other arrangements which may provide acceptable solutions to any problem which may have arisen in the fields covered by Article I, sections (c) and (d).