

Extract of letter No. 5882/Cab/CD dated
Saigon, June 2nd, 1955, from General Ely,
Le General d'Armee Commissaire General
de France et Commandant en Chef en
Indochine to His Excellency Mr. Ambassador
Desai, Chairman of the International
Commission for Supervision and Control,
Hanoi.

"Before I leave, I should like to express to you
my deep appreciation for the work you have done here.

"Indeed, it is thanks to the conciliatory work of
the International Commission which you have been leading with
such authority and tact that an important part of the decisions
of the Geneva Agreement, despite innumerable difficulties, has
been executed in a practical manner.

"For my part, I shall never forget that it is your
efforts which have allowed the clarification of the problem
of prisoners, have allowed a great many people to benefit from
the rights given by Article 14(d), and have, finally, allowed
the transfer of territories and the regroupment of forces in
favourable conditions.

"Above all, in the course of an experiment which I
am sure will constitute a remarkable precedent on the inter-
national plane, you have succeeded in creating, in particularly
difficult circumstances, a climate of detente".

CHAPTER IV.

PRISONERS OF WAR AND CIVILIAN INTERNEES.

7. As stated in paragraph 68 of the First Interim
Report, both parties to the Agreement claimed that they had
fulfilled their obligations under Article 21 and had no
prisoners of war or civilian internees in their custody.
Appendix III to the First Interim Report gives the figures of
prisoners of war and civilian internees released. Since then,
while several general and some specific complaints have been
made by the parties, there has been no substantial alteration
of the figures given in Appendix III of the First Interim
Report except in the categories of civilian internees and of
deserters, some of whom are classed by the P.A.V.N. High
Command as "rallie". Paragraphs 7 and 8 of the Third Interim
Report refer to repatriation of 222 "rallie" or deserters
through the French Union Forces High Command and of 369 "rallie"
who did not wish to be handed over to the French Union Forces
High Command through China, and the release of 93 civilian
internees to the P.A.V.N. High Command.

8. During the period under report 46 more "rallie"
or deserters were handed over to the French Union Forces High
Command and 25 more were repatriated through China. Both these
operations were observed by the Commission's teams to make sure
that none of these persons were prisoners of war nor were being
repatriated against their wishes though the Commission is not
concerned under the Agreement with the problem of deserters.

9. As regards civilian internees, the latest position is
as follows:-