

Guaranteeing Democratic Freedoms

Royal Government Declaration

Complaints

Publicising Relevant Clauses

Method of Supervision

Relevant Articles of Geneva Agreement

123. Again, Article 15 of the Agreement stipulates that "each Party undertakes to refrain from any reprisals or discrimination against persons or organisations for their activities during the hostilities and also undertakes to guarantee their democratic freedoms".

124. The unilateral declaration of the Royal Government, made at Geneva with reference to Article 3 of the Final Declaration of the Geneva Powers, states that in its "desire to ensure harmony and agreements among the peoples of the Kingdom", the Royal Government was resolved "to take the necessary measures to integrate all citizens, without discrimination, into the national community and to guarantee them the enjoyment of the rights and freedoms for which the Constitution of the Kingdom provides."

125. Several complaints have been received from both sides of attacks on life and property and violations of civil liberties and democratic freedoms. These range from ordinary manhandling to murder, from forcible requisition of live-stock to plunder, from obstruction of civilian traffic to forced recruitment, and from acts of terrorism to intimidation. The International Commission launched many enquiries through its Teams, which have been dealt with elsewhere in this Report.

126. The question of giving wide publicity to the Clauses relating to democratic freedoms has engaged the attention of the International Commission.

127. Accordingly, at its meeting held on 17th November, 1954, the International Commission decided to address a letter to the Joint Commission and to the Parties drawing their attention to the relevant clauses mentioned above; and also to Article 17 under which "the Commanders of the forces of the two Parties shall ensure that persons under their respective commands who violate any of the provisions of the present Agreement are suitably punished". The Parties were requested to take effective steps to disseminate and publicise these provisions of the Agreement by all possible means. In addition, the International Commission has undertaken to publicise provisions relating to democratic freedoms through its own Teams.

C H A P T E R: IX
PROHIBITION OF THE INTRODUCTION OF FRESH TROOPS, MILITARY PERSONNEL, ARMAMENTS AND MUNITIONS

128. The International Commission is responsible for supervising the implementation of the Clauses regulating the introduction into Laos of military personnel and war material and also of those relating to rotation of personnel and to supplies for French Union Security Forces maintained in Laos as provided for in Article 6, 7, 8, 9 and 10 of the Geneva Agreement.