

(3) Petitions dealing with specific individual complaints referred to the parties for investigation. 2,201  
 (4) Pending cases 4,161

83. The Commission discussed with the two Liaison Missions the necessity of establishing a Committee of the Commission to deal with Articles 14(c) and (d) of the Agreement guaranteeing democratic liberties and freedom of movement from one zone to another. As a result of these discussions, the Commission passed a resolution on the 19th October, 1954, creating a Committee on Freedoms (Appendix V). The main functions of this Committee are to control and supervise the action taken by the two Parties under the provisions of Article 14(c) and (d), to maintain close liaison with the two Parties with a view to being informed at all times of the steps taken and plans developed by them for the implementation of these Articles and to recommend to the Commission principles, procedures and other arrangements which may provide acceptable solutions to problems arising in this connection. For this purpose, the Committee is authorised to take action through the Commission's inspection teams, if necessary.

84. The Commission also recommended to the Parties that a corresponding Committee composed of their representative should be created to consider initially all issues arising out of Articles 14(c) and (d) and to work out detailed arrangements for their solution.

85. The Parties have accepted the recommendation in principle and are discussing modalities of its implementation in the Joint Commission. The Commission has been utilising the members of its own Committee on Freedoms for consideration of questions arising under these Articles.

86. In view of the troubled condition of VIET-NAM after eight years of war and frequent changes of administration and power, the necessity of guaranteeing democratic liberties to individual citizens is paramount. In particular, it is quite necessary to assure the people of this Country that whatever may have been their political sympathies, the authorities will refrain from any reprisals or discrimination against them. With the regroupment of forces on either side of the demarcation line, political sympathisers and supporters of one side often find themselves in the zone controlled by the other side, and in normal circumstances, might have been liable to persecution for their past activities. In Chapter IV, a description has already been given of the implementation of Article 21 which provides for the release of civilian internees. The bulk of these civilian internees or political prisoners has been released and action is being taken to release those who may still remain in jails for political offences.

87. The Commission has recommended to both Parties the importance of observing the spirit of Article 14(c) by refraining from detention, arrest

IMPLEMENTATION OF ARTICLE 14(c), i.e. DEMOCRATIC FREEDOMS IN GENERAL AND FREEDOM FROM REPRISALS AND DISCRIMINATION.