

51. The above problems were not as easy to settle as the question of military withdrawals and transfers. Several problems arose as to the methods of handing over and the Commission assisted in working out the procedures. An example of the type of assistance the Commission was able to afford was the action taken in the case of a petition from the workers of the Hanoi Post Office to the effect that the Management was dismantling the equipment and it was likely that the workers would be thrown out of employment. The Commission invited the two parties for discussions and repeated that it was most essential that plans should be prepared for handing over the civil administration and the public essential services in the same manner as the plans for military withdrawals and transfers. After discussions, the two parties in the Joint Commission signed a protocol providing for the advance arrival in Hanoi of civil servants and police of the Democratic Republic. The officials arrived according to the following programme:

2nd October, 1954 ... 285 Democratic Republic civil servants

5th October, 1954 ... 150 Democratic Republic civil police

8th October, 1954 ... 214 Democratic Republic military police

9th October, 1954 ... The City would be evacuated by the French Union Forces.

52. With regard to the transfer of public offices and utilities, such as, the Posts and Telegraphs, complaints had been made by the representatives of the Democratic Republic as well as the workers that essential equipment was being removed to HAIPHONG by the French authorities. After discussion with the two parties, it was agreed that inventories should be prepared of the stocks and equipment in each establishment. These inventories were to be prepared by the two parties in the presence of the Commission's mobile teams. The adequacy of stocks left behind would thereafter be examined by the Democratic Republic authorities, and if they were found to be inadequate, the International Commission could be approached. A protocol embodying the above principles was signed by the two parties. The programme laid down above and the terms of the protocol were carried out by the two parties with the help of the Commission's mobile teams.

53. The position was more difficult in the case of essential services like water supply, electricity and transport. These services were operated by private concerns. Contracts had been given to these firms in the year 1928 which did not expire till 1957. The authorities of the Democratic