

seized of this question and has participated actively with the parties in the implementation and supervision of these Articles of the Agreement.

47. Realising that the intention of the above-mentioned Articles is that the regroupment plan should take place in such a manner that there is no break in the transfer or responsibilities and that all the operations and movements involved proceed in a safe and orderly fashion, the Commission recommended to the two parties that they should, in the Joint Commission, prepare plans for orderly withdrawals and transfers, both of military forces and of civil administration. The Commission offered the assistance of its own mobile teams to guide and supervise these operations.

48. Under the provisions of Article 15f(1), the French Union Forces had concentrated in the provisional assembly areas of HANOI, HAIDUONG and HAIPHONG, and, in accordance with Article 15f(2), they are required to withdraw from the HANOI perimeter at the end of 80 days, from the HAIDUONG perimeter at the end of 100 days and from the HAIPHONG perimeter at the end of 300 days.

49. The International Commission held a series of Conferences with the two Liaison Missions, well before the transfer was effected and emphasised time and again the necessity of an orderly transfer of power. It advised the two parties to get together and prepare a plan of withdrawal and transfer. On the advice of the International Commission, the two parties in the Joint Commission appointed a number of sub-committees for dealing with this question and a protocol was signed between the two parties for the transfer of HANOI perimeter sector by sector. The Commission took notice of this plan and placed at the disposal of the two parties 5 mobile teams for supervising the transfer. The military transfer of the HANOI perimeter was effected in 5 days, i.e., from 6th to 10th October, 1954. The town and its suburbs were transferred sector by sector under the supervision of the Commission's mobile teams and not a single incident occurred during this operation. Members of the Commission witnessed the handing-over operation at various points in the city on 9th October, 1954.

50. Besides the military operation described above, two other problems arose during the transfer of responsibilities. These problems were visualised by the Geneva Powers and provision was made for them under Article 14(b), viz:

- (a) The orderly transfer of the civil and administrative services, including
- (b) civil police, administrative offices,
- (c) posts and telegraphs, etc;
- (d) AND
- (e) The orderly transfer of the essential and public services, including water supply, electricity, transport etc.