

Vietnamese Military Units on the Joint Commission, to the Chairman of the International Commission at the conclusion of the former's stay in Cambodia.

10. In a series of informal meetings of the three Commissioners in late November, a survey of the work of the Commission was made and future policy discussed. A short report on the agreed conclusions reached at these discussions was recorded at the meeting of the Commission held on 27th November, 1954. A copy of the statement is attached as Appendix "D" to this report. This should be considered as a working paper.

11. It will be seen from the above that whereas the active phase of the implementation of the Geneva Agreement has been largely accomplished, some work still remains to be done before all the loose ends can be considered to have been fully secured. In addition, of course, there are the elections which are important from the point of view of political stability.

12. As already stated in paragraph 2 of this report, the Commission has had only one body to deal with since the end of October, namely the Royal Government. Here its work has been retarded by the slowness with which things get done in this country and the apparent inability of officials to take responsibility for decisions. The Prime Minister's prolonged illness was a further impediment to progress since he is one of the few men in the Kingdom who will take decisions. After many efforts the Commission finally arranged, on the 23rd December, a meeting with him and the Foreign Minister. It is hoped that this will be the first of a series. Considerable progress was made towards clearing up outstanding problems, in particular those concerning reintegration, the Government's October 1954 amnesty, and political propaganda before and during the election campaign.

13. As the New Year opens the Commission can report the satisfactory solution of the tasks connected with the cease-fire, the release of prisoners of war and civilian internees and the evacuation of Vietnamese Military Units. Some progress has been made towards the clearing up of remaining problems, although it must be admitted that during November and December the Commission experienced much frustration in this phase of its activities. Now that the Commissioners have established frank and friendly contact with the Government it is possible to look forward to a more fruitful period of work in 1955.