

been determined by such factors as the limited functioning of the regional JMCs and the insecurity prevailing in the countryside. ICCS helicopters were grounded on Feb28 after three helicopters had been fired upon in separate incidents. Flts are now made only on the authority of the commander. The PRG has asked that the ICCS provide advance notice of 48 to 72 hrs of all flts overflying areas under its control. This would severely restrict the ability of the ICCS to react quickly on, for example, requests for investigations. (Another ICCS helicopter was fired at on Thurs, Mar15, 20 kms west of My Tho. No/no ICCS pers were on board at the time, as the helicopter was returning from a deployment run. The American pilot reported seeing four Viet Cong soldiers in a paddy-field firing AK-47 rifles at the helicopter.)

12. Facilities and logistics support (Art13 of Protocol).

The support the ICCS has received in its first weeks of operation has not/not satisfied all dels, but we believe we could not/not have expected much more in the circumstances. That is not/not to say that an improvement is not/not necessary, and we are taking steps to ensure that in the shortest possible time facilities will be upgraded to a standard that will permit the Commission to function smoothly in the long run. A contract has been negotiated with Air America to provide air transportation within South Vietnam and contracts are being negotiated on such matters as messing. Every effort is being made to complete contracts with support contractors before departure of the Americans, who have offered invaluable assistance in this regard. The facilities offered by the RVN to DRVN and PRGdels in Saign and in the field have become the subj of a controversy that has afforded excuses for the DRVN and PRGdels to withdraw their pers from certain regions and to delay the proper functioning of the Joint Military Commissions in other regions. We have taken the position that the dispute over facilities and living conditions is a matter that the four Parties should try to resolve themselves and we have urged them to do so on several occasions. The Commission also conducted an inquiry into the alleged mob attack on the DRVNdel in Hue, an incident which the DRVN exaggerated and used as an excuse for the withdrawal of their pers. The Commission, at our initiative, sent a let to the FPJMC noting that the withdrawal of the DRVNdel would inhibit the functioning of the ICCS in the area.

13. Financial support (Art14 of Protocol).

The United States and the Republic of Vietnam have made their initial deposit of dls900,000 to the common fund. The deadline of Feb27 for the deposit of contributions has passed, but the DRVN and the PRG have yet to make their initial contributions. The DRVN has made enquiries concerning the modalities for making a deposit, indicating that their contribution may be forthcoming. (After this note was prepared, we received info that the DRVN deposited its contribution in mid-March. Nothing has yet been heard of the PRG's contribution.)