

decision the Commission should continue in existence and carry on its normal activities.

87. The Commission interpreted the Co-Chairmen's directive to mean that, pending a final solution of the problem, it should continue to deal with the French authorities in Saigon as hitherto and that the entire machinery for the proper implementation of the Cease-Fire Agreement would be maintained. As a result of the talks held with the French authorities regarding the interim arrangements, the Commission decided that the attention of the Co-Chairmen should be drawn to the nature of these arrangements and to the fact that after April 28, 1956, the Joint Commission machinery would not be functioning due to the withdrawal of the French High Command. Accordingly, a special message was sent to the Co-Chairmen on May 2, 1956, with a separate note by the Canadian Member, and instructions were sought as to the future working of the Commission. In this communication the Commission also informed the Co-Chairmen that it would remain in being and subject to the difficulties mentioned by it, maintain its machinery for supervision and control. It requested the Co-Chairmen to take steps to resolve the difficulties to enable the Commission to carry on normal activities.

88. The Co-Chairmen of the Geneva Conference discussed the matter during their talks in London and on May 8, 1956, issued messages to the International Commission, to the Government of the French Republic and a joint message to the Governments of the Democratic Republic of Viet-Nam and the Republic of