

The total number of mobile team investigations in respect of the implementation of Article 14(d) during the whole period of the Commission's activities was 34 out of a total of 119 mobile team investigations undertaken by the Commission in pursuance of its task of supervision and control of the execution of various Articles of the Agreement.

25. Appendix IV gives the figures showing the number of persons who moved to the zone of their choice during the period between the cessation of hostilities and the expiry of the extension period on 20th July 1955. A few movements have taken place since in a few residual cases followed up by the Commission.

26. Throughout its activities in connection with the supervision of execution of Article 14(d), the Commission has acted on the principle that the choice has to be exercised by the individual of his own free will and vague allegations by third parties that certain people were forced either by religious or political organisations or by the civil authorities to change their zone of residence or prevented from changing the zone of residence, do not by themselves constitute any evidence one way or the other. In all its investigations, the Commission concentrated on contacting through its teams the individuals to whom freedom of choice regarding the zone of residence was alleged to have been denied and to take necessary action to secure to them freedom of movement to the zone of their choice.

27. The P.A.V.N. authorities sent in about 320,000 petitions from friends and relations of those who had gone south making allegations about forced evacuation by the F.U.F. High Command and asking the Commission's assistance to get them back. Allegations were also made in thousands of petitions of third parties and in complaints sent in by the French High Command regarding obstructions put in the way of persons who wanted to go and live in the other zone by the local authorities of the High Command of the P.A.V.N.

28. In the investigation of complaints regarding forced evacuation by two mobile teams in the refugee camps in the State of Vietnam, the Commission teams had to face hostile demonstrations but they persisted in their task, contacted about 25,000 people in the refugee camps out of a total of 121,000 and, on the basis of the enquiry, reported that there was no foundation for the allegation that thousands of persons were victims of a systematic propaganda and many of them wished to go back to the P.A.V.N. zone and that none of the persons contacted by the teams complained of forced evacuation or expressed a desire to return to the P.A.V.N. zone. The other mobile team investigations of the Commission arose out of complaints against the P.A.V.N. authorities. In each case the Commission made necessary recommendations to remove the obstructions when noticed and also to take action against obstructive or narrow attitude of local authorities and sent its teams to revisit the areas as in the cases at BA LANG and LUU MY to see that its recommendations were carried out and the persons concerned were given permits and facilities to move to the zone of their choice.

29. A review of the mobile team investigations undertaken by the Commission in connection with the implementation of this Article shows that: