

CHAPTER III.
REGROUPMENT PLAN.

RELEVANT PROVISIONS.

43. Paragraph 6 of the Final Declaration of the Geneva Powers dated 21st July, 1954, makes it clear that the essential purpose of the Agreement relating to Viet-Nam is to settle military questions, with a view to ending hostilities and that the military demarcation line is provisional and should not in any way be interpreted as constituting a political or territorial boundary. Chapter II inter alia provides for a regroupment of the Forces of the French Union south of the provisional demarcation line and those of the People's Army of Viet-Nam north of the provisional demarcation line. Article 15f(1) provides for the creation of provisional assembly areas, both in the North and in the South, for the concentration of Forces on either side, whilst the regrouping process is going on. The provisional assembly areas may be seen on the map (APPENDIX II). The provisional assembly areas in the North consist of the perimeters of HANOI, HAIUDONG and HAIPHONG. In the South, there are 4 provisional assembly areas, viz: (i) The area consisting of QUANG NAI and BINH DINH provinces in Central Viet-Nam; (ii) The area of POINT CAMAU; (iii) The area of PLAINE DES JONCS; and (iv) the area of XUYEN MOC. (See areas (i), (ii), (iii) and (iv) on the map).

IMPLEMENTATION OF ART.15(f)1.

44. The Commission is satisfied that the provisions of Article 15(f)1 have been complied with, and that within 15 days after the cease-fire, the Forces of both sides had effectively withdrawn to these provisional assembly areas. A case was reported to the Commission by the French Liaison Mission about the existence of three or four thousand partisans in the area of Pakha, who, during the hostilities, were actively supporting the French Union Forces. These partisans had, after the cease-fire, neither laid down their arms nor moved into the French provisional assembly area in the North. The matter was brought to the attention of the Commission in the beginning of October although the situation described was stated to have been existing at the end of August. The facts of the case are being investigated by the Commission through the two parties.

45. The next phase in the process of regroupment is the progressive withdrawals and transfer of military forces from the provisional assembly areas, described above, to the regroupment area assigned to the particular party. The programme for withdrawals and transfers, both for military forces and for the civil administration, has been laid down in Article 15f(2). The principles governing the withdrawals have been stated in Article 15(a), (b), (c), (d) and (e) and also in Articles 12(b) and 14(a) and (b).

46. One of the specific duties entrusted to the Commission under Article 36(a) is control of the movement of Armed Forces of the two parties evacuated within the framework of the regroupment plan. The Commission has, since its inception, been