

the communique published after the visit of the U.S.A. Vice-President Johnson to Saigon in May 1961.

7. While the Commission continued to function in this difficult atmosphere, a communication was received on September 9, 1961, from the liaison mission of the Republic of Vietnam, alleging that PAVN forces had launched another action in the Kontum region on September 1, 1961. A letter containing these allegations was forwarded to the liaison mission of the PAVN High Command for its comments. In its reply under its letter No. 492/CT/I/B dated December 11, 1961, the mission stated that "the PAVN High Command will resolutely reject all decisions taken by the International Commission relating to so-called 'subversive activities' in South Vietnam, a question which has no relevance to the Geneva Agreement." It further informed the Commission that "henceforth the mission would find itself constrained to resolutely reject all possible requests for comments of this kind."

8. In the meanwhile, in early October 1961, the Secretariat of State for Foreign Affairs of the Republic of Vietnam alleged that Colonel Hoang Thuy Nam, chief of the Vietnamese mission in charge of relations with the International Commission, had been kidnapped. Later, the Secretary of State for Foreign Affairs informed the Commission of the murder of Colonel Nam. Complicity of the authorities in the North in the kidnapping and murder of Colonel Nam was alleged. Reference is invited to the Commission's message No. IC/ADM/V-5/61/4097, dated November 9, 1961, in this regard. Since the allegations were of a serious nature, the Commission requested the South Vietnamese mission to furnish prima facie evidence to support their charge of the complicity of the Northern party in this incident. The Commission received detailed communications from the mission on October 24, 1961 and November 16, 1961, with a large number of documents and photographs in support of their contention. The mission also stated that "the Government of the Republic of Vietnam is confident that the case of Colonel Hoang Thuy Nam should be taken not as an isolated case but as part of an extensive plan of subversion and terrorism deliberately decided on by the Hanoi authorities - a plan which with this assassination enters a new phase of execution and is