

44. The situation in the Demilitarized Zone has shown no improvement since the Eighth Interim Report; if anything, the difficulties have further increased. Both Parties have continued to approach the Commission with complaints alleging acts of provocation and violation of the status of the Demilitarized Zone by the other. Although there was no major incident in the Demilitarized Zone and there was no outbreak of hostilities from either side, without any arrangements for the discharge of the functions of the Joint Commission to solve disputes in the Demilitarized Zone and settle complaints by prompt joint action by the Parties, effective preservation of the demilitarized character of the Demilitarized Zone created with the express intention of acting as a buffer zone and avoiding any incidents which might result in the resumption of hostilities may be jeopardized. The Commission hopes that the Parties will scrupulously maintain the status of the Demilitarized Zone and will avoid doing anything that may endanger peace in Viet-Nam. The Commission, directed by the Co-Chairmen, has persevered, and will continue to persevere in its efforts to maintain and strengthen peace in Viet-Nam in accordance with the provisions of the Geneva Agreement and is continuing to seek the co-operation of both Parties in this regard.

45. There has been no progress in the field of political settlement as envisaged in the Final Declaration of the Geneva Conference. There has been no consultation between the two Parties with