

13 of the Seventh Interim Report and forwarded letters to both Parties advising them of the importance and the need for respecting the status of the Demilitarized Zone and the necessity for the Parties and individuals to refrain from committing any act in the Demilitarized Zone which may endanger peace in Viet-Nam. The Parties, in reply to the Commission's letter, assured the Commission that they would scrupulously maintain the status of the Demilitarized Zone.

10. In paragraph 15 of the Seventh Interim Report, the Commission had referred to the exchange of correspondence between the Commander-in-Chief of the P.A.V.N. High Command and the Embassy of the Republic of France in Saigon through the Commission. There was a further exchange of correspondence during the period under review. This has, however, not resulted in the resumption of the activities of the Joint Commission.

On March 7, 1958, the Commission was informed by the Embassy of the Republic of France in Saigon that with effect from April 15, 1958, it would be withdrawing the French Mission to the Joint Commission, thus terminating the arrangement worked out by it in consultation with the Government of the Republic of Viet-Nam for the purpose of resumption of activities of the Joint Commission. As it would be of assistance to its tasks, the Commission requested the Embassy to maintain the status quo, and to continue the arrangements made by the Government of the Republic of France in July, 1956 till alternative arrangements are made. Their reply is awaited.

11. With a view to solving some of the important problems in the Demilitarized Zone, the Commission, in April, 1958, requested the Government of the Republic of Viet-Nam and the High Command of the P.A.V.N. to nominate representatives for a meeting, under the aegis of the Commission, to discuss questions relating to permits, navigation on the Bon Hai river,