

not been able to start investigations although the decisions to despatch them were taken by the Commission on September 20, August 25 and October 1, 1955, respectively.

41. The Commission sent mobile team 87 to the demilitarized zone to investigate alleged violations of Articles 7 and 14(c). There was considerable delay in the arrival of the French Liaison Officer and the French Interpreter; the P.A.V.N. authorities insisted that the team could not proceed to investigate the one incident in the north without the French Liaison staff and that it should investigate the four incidents in the south of the demarcation line before it investigated the incident in the north. Before the team could proceed any further the French High Command laid down amongst others a condition that the Liaison Officers of the two High Commands must wear civilian clothes when they cross the demarcation line and enter the demilitarized zone of the other High Command. As this question was expected to take some time before it could be settled the Commission decided to withdraw this team temporarily. The French High Command has informed the Commission that the Government of the Republic of Vietnam has reconsidered its position and has agreed that the liaison officers may wear military dress in the demilitarized zones. This condition having been withdrawn, the Commission has decided to send the team back into the field.

42. Mention was made in the last Report about Mobile Teams 24 and 61. These teams have not been able to resume their investigation so far. The Government of the Republic of Vietnam have laid down conditions for these teams among others that the liaison officers of the P.A.V.N. High Command must wear civilian clothes in their territory and the teams must give 48 hours notice before they go to any place. The Commission is trying to arrive at a satisfactory arrangement about the general question of dress worn by the liaison officers of one command in the territory of the other command outside the demilitarized zone, but the Commission is unable to accept the condition that its teams must give 48 hours notice before they can move out of their headquarters. The despatch of these teams is still pending.

43. Although some information was passed on to the Commission, because of lack of concurrence for new teams and unacceptable conditions for these two old teams the Commission has not been able to carry out any investigations through mobile teams about alleged violations of Article 14(c) in the South.

44. Mobile Team 47 of the Commission is encountering delays in investigating the cases of prisoners claimed by the P.A.V.N. High Command as civilian internees.

45. The Government of the Republic of Vietnam is also insisting on 48 hours or 24 hours notice for the movement of other teams, fixed and mobile, in the South generally on grounds of security instead of the two hours notice laid down by the Commission. This is seriously hampering the movement of the teams in the South. In one case things came to such a pass that within its own sphere of action Mobile Team 76 was arrested by a village Headman with the help of the local inhabitants. The Headman stated that he had received orders to arrest the team. It was only due to the calm and collected behaviour of the team that it did not get involved in a serious incident.