

17. The Commission has, on receiving complaints from the P.A.V.N. High Command regarding Article 23 and Protocol 24, informed the High Command that the question of war graves in Viet-Nam should be taken up in the Joint Commission and, in view of the important humanitarian aspect of the question, expressed the desire that the parties should explore possibilities of an expeditious solution of the problem.

CHAPTER III

DEMOCRATIC FREEDOMS UNDER ARTICLE 14(c) AND 14(d)

18. The Commission continued its efforts to supervise implementation by the parties of Article 14(c) which has been one of the major problems confronting the Commission. Complaints from the parties and petitions from individuals alleging reprisals under Article 14(c) received by the Commission were, as a rule, forwarded to the party concerned for comments and/or such action as was decided by the Commission.

19. The Commission is seized with 3 complaints from the Republic of Viet-Nam and 32 petitions including the one mentioned in paragraph 30 from individuals involving 35 incidents alleging murder, arrest and confiscation of property in violation of Article 14(c) by the P.A.V.N. High Command.

The Commission is seized with 194 complaints from the P.A.V.N. High Command and 202 petitions from individuals involving 1047 incidents alleging murder, detention, arrest, confiscation of property etc., in violation of Article 14(c) by the authorities of the Republic of Viet-Nam, involving a large number of persons. Included in the above complaints of the P.A.V.N. High Command are those mentioned in paragraphs 24, 25 and 26. The majority of these cases are pending for over a year and the Commission is not able to settle them and to determine whether the complaints are true or not. The difficulties with regard to supervision and control of the execution of Article 14(c) in the Republic of Viet-Nam, mentioned in the Sixth Interim Report, have persisted and increased. The stand taken by the Government of the Republic of Viet-Nam on Article 14(c), the Commission's unanimous decision not to accept the stand and views of the Government of the Republic of Viet-Nam have already been referred to the Co-Chairmen in the Commission's letter No. IC/ADM/VI-D-1/57 dated the 11th April, 1957. (Appendix G).

20. During the period under review the Commission decided to undertake four mobile team investigations into complaints of alleged violations of Article 14(c) in South Viet-Nam and asked for concurrence of the Government of the Republic of Viet-Nam for deployment of three mobile teams. The present position with regard to these teams and the other mobile teams mentioned in paragraphs 17, 18 and 19 of the Sixth Interim Report is shown in Appendix D. These mobile teams could not be deployed because of the refusal of the Government of the Republic of Viet-Nam to give their concurrence, as mentioned in the Commission's letter to the Co-Chairmen referred to in paragraph 19 above.

21. Paragraphs 17 and 18 of the Sixth Interim Report referred to Mobile Team 103. This was the only Mobile Team to conduct investigations under Article 14(c) in South Viet-Nam in the period under review. This team started its investigation in South Viet-Nam in September, 1956. It encountered numerous difficulties.