

4. I also feel it my duty to remind you on behalf of the Commission that Article 35 of the Geneva Agreement on the Cessation of Hostilities in Vietnam established the location of the Fixed Teams and that any alteration requires the agreement of the ICSC and the command of the party concerned; and furthermore that the agreement nowhere envisages a withdrawal of teams solely on the request of either Party.

5. The Commission has noted the total cessation of controls by its Fixed Teams in the DRVN in the past week including the movement of the couriers from Hanoi to these teams and the reasons given by the DRVN authorities for this. The Commission feels therefore that as long as these conditions for whatever reasons continue, the operation of the Teams under the Geneva Agreement will be impossible.

6. If, nevertheless, you feel obliged to maintain your decision about the necessity of withdrawal of the teams, the Commission has no alternative but to order with great reluctance the withdrawal of its Fixed Teams in the DRVN territory.

7. It is the understanding of the Commission that such a withdrawal would be temporary; that mobile teams as stipulated under Article 35 would be allowed controls with short notice; and that the entire question of the return of the Fixed Teams should be reconsidered at the end of a month by which time the Commission sincerely hope the situation will have changed favourably.

8. While awaiting an urgent reply, I take this opportunity to convey on behalf of the ICSC in Vietnam the assurances of our highest consideration.

(Sgd.) M.A. RAHMAN