

CHAPTER VII

CONCLUSIONS

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43. In their message dated 8th May, 1956 to the Government of the Republic of France, the Co-Chairmen invited the French authorities to discuss with the authorities of South Viet-Nam with a view to reaching an arrangement to facilitate the work of the International Commission and the Joint Commission in Viet-Nam and requested the French Government to preserve the status quo until these new arrangements were "put into effect". In its message dated 14th September, 1956 the Commission informed the Co-Chairmen of the situation which arose as a consequence of the withdrawal of the French High Command from Viet-Nam and which placed the Commission in a difficult position.

In view of the situation revealed in paragraph 7 the joint Commission cannot now be revived to resume its activities as long as the Government of the Republic of Viet-Nam maintains its attitude. An important machinery which was set up under Articles 30 and 32 of the Geneva Agreement for the execution of the provisions of the Cease-Fire Agreement requiring joint action by the two Parties and specifically charged under Article 33 to ensure observance of the Demarcation Line between the regrouping zones and of the demilitarized sectors, ceased to exist. The Commission is faced with this major difficulty which it cannot resolve on the spot and requests the Co-Chairmen to give it their urgent consideration for such action as they may consider necessary.