

all kinds which find themselves in these two provinces so that those units refrain from all activities which could lead to incidents involving the units of the other Party.

177. The Commission considers its duty to record that, if the political settlement is delayed, the situation in the north may deteriorate, and clashes between the two forces may become more frequent and more serious.

Possible Repercussions if settlement be delayed

CHAPTER: XII

GRAVES OF MILITARY PERSONNEL AND PRISONERS OF WAR

178. Article 18 of the Geneva Agreement stipulates that the Joint Commission shall fix the procedure and the time limit by and within which the personnel of the Graves Service are to remove the bodies of deceased military personnel of their Party including the bodies of the deceased prisoners of war. It adds that the Commander of the forces of each Party shall communicate to the other all information in his possession as to the places of burial of all military personnel of the other Party.

Relevant Article of Geneva Agreement

179. A project by the Vietnamese People's Volunteers/"Pathet Lao" Party giving the principles on which an agreement might be drawn up between the two Parties was forwarded early in August, but no progress was made. The International Commission at its various meetings with the Joint Commission has reminded both Parties of the necessity of implementing this clause and reporting progress. At its meeting with the Joint Commission on 30th October, 1954, the Commission particularly emphasised the humanitarian aspect of this subject and asked the Parties to give this subject importance and priority, and to exchange the lists of deceased personnel, giving places of burial. A date by which these lists might be exchanged was also suggested. Both agreed at that time to give this problem their earnest attention.

Humanitarian Aspect of the Problem

180. The Commission regrets to report that so far the Joint Commission has not been able to come to an agreement on this very important subject. The Franco-Laotian Delegation claim that they gave a list to the Vietnamese People's Volunteers/"Pathet Lao" Delegation, but that because the Vietnamese People's Volunteers/"Pathet Lao" Delegation failed to reciprocate, the list was withdrawn. They further state that a list of 10 names handed in at a later date by the Vietnamese People's Volunteers/"Pathet Lao" Party was incomplete and unworkable in that the places of burial were not mentioned.

Lack of Agreement within Joint Commission

181. The Vietnamese People's Volunteers/"Pathet Lao" Delegation have recently addressed a memorandum to the International Commission giving the differences of opinion between the two Parties with regard to the procedure for implementing this clause. The main differences according to the Vietnamese People's Volunteers/"Pathet Lao" Delegation are:-

Points of Difference