

The Commission's Mobile Team in the demilitarized zones has reported to the Commission that on the 11th of April, 1957, the Vice-President of the Republic of Viet-Nam visited the southern demilitarized zone and went up to the HIEN LUONG bridge on the Demarcation Line. About 200 civilians, including a few Europeans/Americans, went in the demilitarized zone area up to the HIEN LUONG bridge. It is reported that many photographs of the bridge and the northern demilitarized zone were taken. The matter is under consideration.

The Commission received a few complaints from the P.A.V.N. High Command alleging violation of its air space and territory by the planes of the Government of the Republic of Viet-Nam. The Commission noted the reply of the Government of the Republic of Viet-Nam admitting in one instance that due to a mistake in piloting a reconnaissance plane flew towards the Demilitarized Zone but did not cross the Ben Hai river; the other complaints were denied.

14. In paragraph 10 of the Sixth Interim Report the Commission had referred to the question of deployment of Mobile Team 87 and to the difficulties faced by the Commission. As no concurrence for the deployment of this team was received from the Government of the Republic of Viet-Nam, the Commission converted its request for concurrence into a recommendation in October, 1956, and requested its implementation. This recommendation has not so far been implemented by the Government of the Republic of Viet-Nam.

15. In paragraph 6 of the Commission's message dated the 14th September, 1956, to the Co-Chairmen the Commission referred to the letter from the Commander-in-Chief of the P.A.V.N. High Command regarding the arrangements worked out by the Governments of France and of the Republic of Viet-Nam for the continuance of the work of the Joint Commission. During the period under review there has been a further exchange of communications between the French Embassy in SAIGON and the P.A.V.N. High Command, through the Commission. This exchange of correspondence has not resulted in any change in the situation reported to the Co-Chairmen by the Commission on the 14th September, 1956. The Joint Commission which is an important part of the machinery for the implementation of the Geneva Agreement has not resumed its functions so far.

16. Thus the situation in the Demilitarized Zone has not shown any improvement since the Sixth Interim Report; if anything, certain difficulties further increased during the period under review. The Joint Commission did not resume its functions and the relevant provisions of the Agreement and the Protocols were not executed. The parties repeatedly approached the Commission with issues which should have been settled by the Joint Commission in discharge of its responsibilities of execution under the Agreement. The Commission is of the view that unless the Joint Commission and its agencies start functioning again, the execution of such provisions of the Agreement on the cessation of hostilities and the Protocols as relate to the Joint Commission, in particular those concerning the administration of the Demarcation Line and the Demilitarized Zone, will continue to be in jeopardy. The Commission does not feel justified in taking over the functions which are the exclusive responsibility of the Joint Commission. The Commission notes that there was no outbreak of hostilities from either side in the Demilitarized Zone during the period under report. The Commission is transmitting correspondence between the parties regarding the resumption of the activities of the Joint Commission which has an important task to perform, particularly in the Demilitarized Zone.