

13. During the period under review, the Commission sent out two Mobile Teams to investigate complaints made by the French High Command that Article 14(d) was not being properly implemented in the monastery of Chau Son and in the seminaries of Xa Doai.

14. The Commission considered the report of Mobile Team 82 which carried out the investigations in the cases of 14 Trappist monks in the Chau Son monastery and agreed with the findings of the team that the allegations made, namely, that the Trappist monks were not being permitted to move to the South, were not correct and in fact the monks declared that they had never applied for permits to go. However, the case of one monk who has been charged with a common law offence is being studied by the Legal Committee.

15. In the month of July, the Commission had sent Mobile Team F-42 to the seminaries of Xa Doai to investigate a complaint made by the French High Command that the seminarists were not being permitted to move South. Mobile Team F-42 was unable at that time to interview all the seminarists as some of them were on vacation but reported that those who had been interviewed, namely 8, stated that they had withdrawn their applications of their own free will. To complete the task of Mobile Team F-42, the Commission sent another Mobile Team F-44 to the seminaries.

16. The team proceeded for the investigation in the month of October and had to be withdrawn five weeks later without it having carried out its investigation. The reasons for its withdrawal and the present position about this investigation are given in paragraph 39.

The inability of the Commission to send mobile teams to investigate alleged violations of Article 14(c) is causing serious concern to the Commission. This failure was due to (a) the inability of the French High Command to carry out by itself its obligations under article 25 to protect fully and to assist and co-operate with the Commission and its teams in the tasks allotted to them, and (b) the lack of agreement on the part of the Republic of Vietnam to facilitate investigations in conformity with its informal offers of practical cooperation.

In the Fourth Interim Report, the Commission presented to the Co-Chairmen a general review of the implementation of article 14(d) during the 300 day period and the extension period. The Commission reported in paragraph 33 of that report that it was following up certain categories of residual cases which had still not been settled by the SOF of July. A provisional list of these categories was also mentioned. Since then the Commission has considered the question of follow-up action on these residual cases and has made detailed suggestions in this connection to the High Commands on 22nd October, 1953. The Commission felt that this was necessary as further implementation of Article 14(d) could be carried out only with the cooperation of the two High Commands. Replies have been received from the two High Commands. The P.A.V.N. High Command in its reply expressed the wish to discuss the whole problem in the General Joint Commission in order to reach an agreement on the basis of the Commission's recommendations. The Commission is pursuing this matter and has invited both parties for a discussion with the Freedom Committee of the Commission.