

CHAPTER II

PROVISIONAL MILITARY DEMARCATION LINE

AND

DEMILITARIZED ZONE

11. In paragraphs 4, 5 and 8 of the Sixth Interim Report mention was made of the Commission's recommendations and final suggestions of February, 1956, for the improvement of the administration of the demilitarized zones. The present position with regard to their implementation by the parties and the Commission's remarks thereon are shown in Appendix B. The recommendations which were made by the Commission have been accepted by both parties. Recommendation No. 3 in Appendix B has, however, not been implemented owing to the non-functioning of the Joint Commission. It will be seen from this Appendix that the P.A.V.N. High Command has implemented these final suggestions. The Government of the Republic of Viet-Nam had accepted them previously but has not implemented them.

12. Reference was made in paragraphs 7 and 8 of the Sixth Interim Report to the restrictions imposed by the French High Command on the freedom of movement of permit-holders across the Demarcation Line and to the Commission's suggestions to the French High Command in this regard. During the period under report the Commission received a few complaints from the P.A.V.N. High Command that a number of permits for crossing the Demarcation Line sent by them to the French Union Delegation and the Southern Administration for extension of their validity were not renewed. The Commission considered one of these complaints dated the 25th August, 1956, and expressed its concern that permits which were due for renewal on the 30th of June, 1956, had not been renewed, and asked the Government of the Republic of Viet-Nam to clarify why action had not been taken in this regard and what steps were being taken to ensure freedom of movement to permit-holders in terms of the Geneva Agreement and Decisions 6 and 11 of the Joint Commission. The Government of the Republic of Viet-Nam replied that it did not see any objection to the renewal of the permits if certain stipulations were enforced. These stipulations and some other suggestions made by the Government of the Republic of Viet-Nam, which are not provided for in the Statute of the Demilitarized Zone, and the Commission's remarks on them are mentioned in Appendix B. The Commission informed the Government of the Republic of Viet-Nam that the latter might take up these suggestions in the Joint Commission, if it so wished, before taking any action on them and, in case of disagreement, refer the matter to the Commission. Both parties have agreed to discuss these suggestions in the Joint Commission; no discussion has taken place yet. As far as the Commission is aware, there has been no movement across the Demarcation Line of persons who would have been specifically authorized to cross the Demarcation Line under Article 9 of the Geneva Agreement and Decision No. 11 had the question of issue and extension of permits been resolved.

13. The Government of the Republic of Viet-Nam has replied to some of the complaints mentioned in paragraph 9 of the Sixth Interim Report, denying the allegations. During the period under review, the Commission received 43 complaints from the P.A.V.N. High Command alleging in a number of instances violation of the Demilitarized Zone by the Government of the Republic of Viet-Nam and 16 complaints from the Government of the Republic of Viet-Nam alleging violation of the Demilitarized Zone by the P.A.V.N. High Command. These are under investigation.