

expresses its conviction that the execution of the provisions set out in the present Declaration and in the Agreement on the cessation of hostilities creates the necessary basis for the achievement in the near future of a political settlement in Viet Nam.

7. The Conference declares that so far as Viet Nam is concerned the settlement of political problems effected on the basis of respect for the principles of independence, unity and territorial integrity shall permit the Viet Nameese people to enjoy the fundamental freedoms guaranteed by democratic institutions established as a result of free general elections by secret ballot.

In order to ensure that sufficient progress in the restoration of peace has been made and that all the necessary conditions obtain for free expression of the national will general elections shall be held in July 1956 under the supervision of an International Commission composed of representatives of the member states of the International Supervisory Commission referred to in the Agreement on the cessation of hostilities. Consultations will be held on this subject between the competent representative authorities of the two zones from 20th April 1955 onwards.

8. The provisions of the agreements on the cessation of hostilities intended to ensure the protection of individuals and of property must be most strictly applied and must in particular allow everyone in Viet Nam to decide freely in which zone he wishes to live.

9. The competent representative authorities of the Northern and Southern zones of Viet Nam as well as the authorities of Laos and Cambodia must not permit any individual or collective reprisals against persons who have collaborated in any way with one of the parties during the war or against members of such persons families.

10. The Conference takes note of the Declaration of the French Government to the effect that it is ready to withdraw its troops from the territory of Cambodia, Laos and Viet Nam at the request of the Governments concerned and within a period which shall be fixed by agreement between the parties except in the cases where by agreement between the two parties a certain number of French troops shall remain at specified points and for a specified time.

11. The Conference takes note of the Declaration of the French Government to the effect that for the settlement of all the problems connected with the re-establishment and consolidation of peace in Cambodia, Laos and Viet Nam the French Government will proceed from the principle of respect for the independence and sovereignty, unity and territorial integrity of Cambodia, Laos and Viet Nam.

12. In their relations with Cambodia, Laos and Viet Nam each member of the Geneva Conference undertakes to respect the sovereignty, the independence, the unity and the territorial integrity of the above mentioned States, and to refrain from any interference in their internal affairs.

13. The members of the Conference agree to consult one another on any question which may be referred to them by the International Supervisory Commission in order to study such measures as may prove necessary to ensure that the Agreements on the cessation of hostilities in Cambodia, Laos and Viet Nam are respected.