

of the Republic of France to the Co-Chairmen of the Geneva Conference. The Commission also received on the same date a letter No. 007152/SAG from the High Commissioner for the Republic of France in Viet-Nam in which was set out the proposed new arrangements for the continuance of the work of the Joint Commission. In this letter the High Commissioner stated that "the Co-Chairmen of the Geneva Conference had requested the French Government to offer their good offices with a view to continuing the labours of the Central Joint Commission. This position implies the recognition by the Co-Chairmen of the fact that our country does not assume any more responsibilities whether direct or special for the implementation of the Agreement on the Cessation of Hostilities and that henceforth the role it is requested to play is only that of a mission of goodwill". The arrangements proposed were: "the French Union Delegation to the Central Joint Commission which has been suppressed as a consequence of the dissolution of the High Command of the French Union on 28th April, 1956, has been replaced by a French Mission to the Central Joint Commission". The High Commissioner requested the Commission to bring the above to the knowledge of the High Command of the Peoples Army of Viet-Nam and "to inform the latter that the French Mission to the Central Joint Commission is ready to get into touch with the PAVN Delegation in order to resume the labours of this organ at the date most suited to the said High Command of the PAVN". A copy of this letter is attached to this message. (Appendix B).

6. On the 14th August, 1956, the Commission forwarded to the Commander-in-Chief of the Peoples Army in Viet-Nam a copy of the letter No. 007152/SAG of 11th August, 1956, from the High Commissioner for the Republic of France. The Commission has received in reply a letter No. 032/TTL dated 21st August, 1956, from the Commander-in-Chief of the Peoples Army in Viet-Nam. In this letter the Commander-in-Chief has stated that "the standpoint of the Government of the Republic of France and the Southern Administration as well as the arrangements entered into between them are not compatible with the Geneva Agreements and with the recommendations of the 8th May, 1956, made by the Co-Chairmen of the Geneva Conference". He further stated that "the French Government is a signatory party of the Geneva Agreements. So long as the responsibility for the implementation of the Agreements is not yet transferred to the Southern Administration in accordance with Article 27 of the Cease-Fire Agreement and in accordance with the recommendations of 8th May, 1956, from the Co-Chairmen of the Geneva Conference, the French Government must continue to assume its obligations under these Agreements 'to maintain the status quo' in order to guarantee the normal activities of the International Commission and their joint organs". With regard to the functioning of the Joint Commission the High Command of the PAVN considers it necessary "that the joint organs should resume their work within the framework defined by the provisions of the Geneva Agreements in order to assure the continued implementation of these Agreements". The Commander-in-Chief has requested the Commission to communicate the point of view of the Government of the Democratic Republic of Viet-Nam to the Chairman of the Geneva Conference and to the Government of the Republic of France. A copy of this letter is attached to this message. (Appendix C).

7. The International Commission for Supervision and Control in Viet-Nam wishes to bring the following points to the urgent notice of the Co-Chairmen of the Geneva Conference:-