

accordance with the concrete suggestions the Commission had made to the parties regarding the principles and modalities to be observed in effecting such withdrawals. Complaints and counter-complaints are being dealt with by the Commission and its agencies in accordance with these suggestions accepted by both parties.

At the instance of the French Union High Command, the Commission has taken similar action to control evacuation of equipment and material from the provisional assembly area in Central Viet-Nam to secure orderly transfer of public property and public services.

CHAPTER IV

PRISONERS OF WAR AND
CIVILIAN INTERNEES

ARTICLE 21. 6. Both parties state categorically that they have carried out their obligations under Article 21 and released all prisoners of war and civilian internees. Each party has, however, made claims against the other. Some progress has been made during the period under report in the clearing of claims and counter-claims made by the parties. The Commission has had detailed discussions with the two parties on this question and has impressed upon them the necessity for settling these claims and counter-claims as expeditiously as possible. The two parties have agreed to settle all the pending claims and counter-claims expeditiously and by the 10th June, 1955 at the latest.

PROBLEM OF
'RALLIES'
AND
DESERTERS.

7. The problem of 'rallies' and deserters has been discussed with the two parties and a satisfactory practical solution has been worked out. The D.R.V.N. authorities have agreed to hand over to the French Union Forces such persons who express a desire to be so handed over provided no disciplinary action is taken against them. The French High Command has, however, reserved its position to take such action against non-Vietnamese deserters, as distinguished from prisoners of war, as may be required under military law. The Vietnamese deserters are, however, protected by Article 14(c). During the period under review, 222 persons falling under this category have been handed over by the P.A.V.N. to the French authorities. 369 'Rallies' who did not wish to be handed over to the French authorities were repatriated through China. The Commission observes these releases through its teams to see that there is no forced repatriation.

8. All the 70 civilian internees accepted as such by both parties in the investigation referred to in paragraph 8 of the 2nd Interim Report and 23 of the balance of 61 disputed