

or prosecution of persons on the sole grounds of their holding particular political opinions. One important complaint of the alleged violation of this principle involving the arrest of 24 persons in the South, made by the Democratic Republic of Viet-Nam authorities, is under consideration.

88. While ordering investigation through its mobile teams into incidents (Vide Chapter VII) the Commission has borne in mind the provisions of Article 14 and the teams have been briefed accordingly (Appendix VI).

89. In the month of September and in the first week of October, 1954, sporadic complaints and petitions were received about obstacles to free movement from North VIET-NAM to South VIET-NAM and about forced evacuation to the South. The Commission 14(d), addressed the two parties and emphasised their i.e. responsibilities under Article 14(d), viz., that they should not merely permit civilians to move from one zone to the other according to their choice, but should actively assist them to do so, as provided in the said Article. Early in October, the French Liaison Mission endorsed a complaint made by the South VIET-NAM Government alleging that obstacles were being placed by the Democratic Republic Government on the free movement of evacuees in the areas of NAM DINH, PHAT DIEM, BUI CHU, THAN BINH, NINH GIANG and PHU LY. To investigate these complaints, the Commission sent out mobile teams to NAM DINH and to PHAT DIEM. At NAM DINH, the mobile team found no evidence of any person wishing to go to South being obstructed or hindered in the exercise of their right under Article 14(d), but received petitions alleging that the French authorities and the church authorities had exercised pressure on certain persons to move to the South. The Democratic Republic authorities have endorsed these petitions and have asked the Commission to investigate this part of the problem in addition to the investigation of the question of freedom of movement. The Commission is investigating these complaints under its normal procedure.

90. At Phat Diem, the mobile team found about 10,000 refugees congregated in the area and unable to move. The team also found that the machinery for giving permits and providing necessary transport facilities was not adequate to deal with this situation. The refugees had congregated particularly in the compounds of the seminary, the cathedral and the convent. The Commission sent its Committee on Freedoms to the spot, and after discussion with the Democratic Republic Liaison Mission, suggested a special procedure for dealing with the abnormal situation at Phat Diem. These arrangements consisted of special permit offices in the places where the evacuees had congregated and delegation of powers to the local authorities to grant such permits. On the suggestion of the International Commission, the authorities of the Democratic Republic also made arrangements for giving food and medical aid to the refugees and necessary arrangements for transporting them from Phat Diem to the French zone in the Haiphong perimeter. There were 8268 refugees transported by motor boats