

CONFIDENTIAL

SPECIAL HANDLING REQUIRED
NOT RELEASABLE TO FOREIGN
NATIONALS EXCEPT
BY AUTHORITY OF

TRANSLATION

Haiphong, 27 January 1955 *21/Jan/55*

Dear Sir:

When, after the signing of the Geneva Agreement, all the population of the provinces of Nghean and Tinh were left in ignorance because the authorities of Vietnam never gave any information either through administrative channels or through the newspapers.

The newspapers *Quen-quooc* No. 3617 and *Nhandan* No. 223 carrying the communique dated 31-8-1954 of the CIC concerning Article 11c and 11d were withdrawn as soon as they were published.

But, fortunately, through secret communications the population was kept informed concerning the articles above-mentioned. The emigres are seething with unrest:

70% of the Christian people have addressed their petitions to the VM authorities trying to obtain authorization to immigrate to South Vietnam. Unfortunately all their petitions have been rejected - some of them irregular, others unjustified, such were the reasons given by the VM in trying to justify this unfair and illegal refusal. At the time the VM is sending regular soldiers, militia and security agents among these poor inhabitants for purposes of intimidation and terrorism.

The VM authorities have also arrested those among the inhabitants who are fairly well educated or who enjoy confidence and influence.

At the present time, in time of peace, the emigre prisoners exceed by a great deal those of war time.

Here are some obvious proofs: On 12 December ult, the population of Luyen de Quipch-lun concentrated at Thuan Nghia for 4 days, to the number of 20,000 men, awaiting the intervention of the CIC, and was dispersed by official orders by force. After a hard battle between the regular VM soldiers and the emigres about 3,000 persons were able to escape and reach Haiphong by way of the sea on board the *Escoeur Gdt Duboc*, F. 873 and *S/S Jules Verne*, after having left 2 dead, 4 wounded fatally and more than 100 arrested.

On 12-1-1955 another battle of the same kind occurred at Lun - My (Luyen-anhson Nghe an). Fourteen were killed, about 200 wounded and more than 200 put in prison without any trial. Only 3 Sisters of Charity were able to escape this massacre.

According to a source worthy of credence, other massacres will take place very soon in the regions of Nghean and Ha-tinh, where the population is fighting hard to be able to move to South Vietnam.

In view of the incidents enumerated above, the CIC shows itself to be incapable or indifferent on the one hand and the VM are seriously violating the Geneva Agreement on the other hand.

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In the face of the difficulties of the present time we urgently beg you to intervene in time and very effectively in order that full justice may be done given(sic) to our poor emigres, whose lamentable situation is worthy of your pity.

Respectfully,

(Signature illegible)

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