

Declaration of Dr. Tran Van Do,  
Chief of the Vietnamese Delegation in Geneva 1954  
Protesting Against the Geneva Agreements

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"The delegation of the State of Viet Nam has put forward its proposals aimed at obtaining an armistice without partition, even temporary, of Viet Nam, by means of the disarmament of all the belligerent forces after their withdrawal into assembly area as restricted as possible, and by the establishment of temporary control by the United Nations Organization over the whole of the territory until such time as the restoration of order and peace permits the Vietnamese people to decide its future by free election.

"The Vietnamese delegation protests against the rejection without examination of this proposal, which alone respects the aspirations of the Vietnamese people. It insists that the demilitarization and neutralization of the bishoprics of the Delta in North Viet Nam should at least be accepted by the Conference. It protests solemnly against the hasty conclusion of the armistice agreement by the French and Viet Minh High Commands alone, in view of the fact that the French High Command <sup>only</sup> commands Vietnamese troops by delegation of the powers of the Chief of State of Viet Nam, and above all in view of the fact that several clauses of this agreement are of a nature to compromise gravely the political future of the Vietnamese people.

"The delegation protests solemnly that this armistice agreement abandons lands to the Viet Minh some of which are still occupied by Vietnamese troops yet which are essential to the defence of Viet Nam against further Communist expansion, which practically amounts to taking away from the State of Viet Nam its inalienable right to organize its own defence in some way other than by maintaining a foreign army on its soil.

"The delegation makes solemn protest against the fact that the French High Command has arrogated to itself the right, without prior agreement from the delegation of the State of Viet Nam, to fix the date of the future elections despite the clearly political character of such a provision.

Consequently, the Government of the State of Viet Nam demands that it should be put on record that it protests solemnly against the way in which the armistice was concluded and against the conditions of this armistice, which takes no account of the profound aspirations