

## LEGAL STATUS OF SOUTH VIET-NAM

As a result of the 1954 Geneva Accords, South Viet-Nam as well as North Viet-Nam is an international entity with independent international status. Under those Accords, Viet-Nam was temporarily divided into two separate zones each to be administered by the authorities in North and South Viet-Nam respectively until the unification of the country. The Accords, then, endowed both North and South Viet-Nam with separate and distinct status. For example, diplomatic or consular relations have been established with Saigon or Hanoi or both. \*

At the same time, the provisional military demarcation line established by the Geneva Accords, although not a "political or territorial boundary," is still an international frontier that must be respected under international law. In this respect the division of Viet-Nam is similar to the division of Germany or Korea. It is obvious that if a state is divided by an internationally recognized demarcation line, each part of that state must refrain from the use of force or hostile acts against the other. Thus, an attack by North Korea on South Korea or East Germany on West Germany would be illegal. Such attacks are no less "aggression" or "armed attack" than an attack by one state against another.

*+ 2 w/* 200  
200  
+ 3 Consul's Rels  
(Peru & Uruguay)  
+ 3 Consulates

*See Little de Personnalité, 1963, p. 299*

\* The Republic of Viet-Nam has de jure diplomatic relations with 52 nations including France, United Kingdom, West Germany, Brazil, Mexico, Switzerland and Ethiopia. North Viet-Nam has full diplomatic relations with 24 countries, 12 of whom belong to the Communist bloc. This recognition ratio is comparable to South Korea which has full relations with 64 nations while North Korea is recognized by 25. West Germany has de jure recognition from nearly 100 nations while East Germany has full diplomatic relations with only 12.

As far back as 1955, South Viet-Nam was recognized, de jure, by 36 nations, and North Viet-Nam had full relations with 12 countries.

Office of Public Services  
Bureau of Public Affairs  
Department of State  
Washington, D. C. 20520