

**The Final Declaration of the Geneva
Conference on Indo-China**

**Foreign Minister Chou En-lai's
Statement at the Final Session
Of the Geneva Conference**

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After seventy-five days of work, the representatives of Cambodia, the Democratic Republic of Viet-Nam, France, Laos, the People's Republic of China, the State of Viet-Nam, the Union of Soviet Socialist Republics, the United Kingdom, and the United States of America, at the Geneva Conference overcame all remaining obstacles and reached agreement on the question of restoring peace in Indo-China. The agreements on the cessation of hostilities in Viet-Nam, Laos and Cambodia were signed in Geneva on July 21, 1954.

Later the same day the final plenary session of the Geneva Conference was convened and heard the announcement of the signing of the three agreements for cessation of hostilities in the three countries of Indo-China and stipulations on the international supervision of the cease-fire. A Final Declaration was then adopted.

These agreements ending the eight-year war in Indo-China have resulted in a further relaxation of tension in Asia and throughout the world. The Geneva Conference, in which the five Big Powers participated for the first time, has become another historic landmark in the peaceful settlement of international disputes and the easing of world tension through negotiations.

In the following pages we publish the full text of the Final Declaration of the Geneva Conference and Foreign Minister Chou En-lai's statement at its last session.

—Editor

THE FINAL DECLARATION OF THE GENEVA CONFERENCE ON INDO-CHINA

Final declaration, dated the 21st July, 1954, of the Geneva Conference on the problem of restoring peace in Indo-China, in which the representatives of Cambodia, the Democratic Republic of Viet-Nam, France, Laos, the People's Republic of China, the State of Viet-Nam, the Union of Soviet Socialist Republics, the United Kingdom, and the United States of America took part.

1. The Conference takes note of the agreements ending hostilities in Cambodia, Laos and Viet-Nam and organizing international control and supervision of the execution of the provisions of these agreements.

2. The Conference expresses satisfaction at the ending of hostilities in Cambodia, Laos and Viet-Nam; the Conference expresses its conviction that the execution of the provisions set out in the present declaration and in the agreements on the cessation of hostilities will permit Cambodia, Laos and Viet-Nam henceforth to play their part, in full independence and sovereignty, in the peaceful community of nations.

3. The Conference takes note of the declarations made by the governments of Cambodia and of Laos of their intention to adopt measures permitting all citizens to take their place in the national community, in particular by participating in the next general elections, which, in conformity with the constitution of each of these countries, shall take place in the course of the year 1955, by secret ballot and in conditions of respect for fundamental freedoms.

4. The Conference takes note of the clauses in the agreement on the cessation of hostilities in Viet-Nam prohibiting the introduction into Viet-Nam of foreign troops and military personnel as well as of all kinds of arms and munitions. The Conference also takes note of the declarations made by the governments of Cambodia and Laos of their resolution not to request foreign aid, whether in war material, in personnel or in instructors, except for the purpose of the effective defence of their territory

and, in the case of Laos, to the extent defined by the agreement on the cessation of hostilities in Laos.

5. The Conference takes note of the clauses in the agreement on the cessation of hostilities in Viet-Nam to the effect that no military base at the disposition of a foreign state may be established in the regrouping zones of the two parties, the latter having the obligation to see that the zones allotted to them shall not constitute part of any military alliance and shall not be utilized for the resumption of hostilities or in the service of an aggressive policy. The Conference also takes note of the declarations of the governments of Cambodia and Laos to the effect that they will not join in any agreement with other states if this agreement includes the obligation to participate in a military alliance not in conformity with the principles of the Charter of the United Nations or, in the case of Laos, with the principles of the agreement on the cessation of hostilities in Laos or, so long as their security is not threatened, the obligation to establish bases on Cambodian or Laotian territory for the military forces of foreign powers.

6. The Conference recognizes that the essential purpose of the agreement relating to Viet-Nam is to settle military questions with a view to ending hostilities and that the military demarcation line should not in any way be interpreted as constituting a political or territorial boundary. The Conference expresses its conviction that the execution of the provisions set out in the present declaration and in the agreement on the cessation of hostilities creates the necessary basis for the achievement in the near future of a political settlement in Viet-Nam.

7. The Conference declares that, so far as Viet-Nam is concerned, the settlement of political problems, effected on the basis of respect for the principles of independence, unity and territorial integrity, shall permit the Viet-Nameese people to enjoy the fundamental freedoms guaranteed by democratic institutions established as a result of free general elections by secret ballot.

In order to ensure that sufficient progress in the restoration of peace has been made, and that all the necessary conditions obtain for free expression of the national will, general elections shall be held in July 1956, under the supervision of an international commission composed of representatives of the member states of the international supervisory commission, referred to in the agreement on the cessation of hostilities. Consultations will be held on this subject between the competent representative authorities of the two zones from 20th July, 1955 onwards.

8. The provisions of the agreements on the cessation of hostilities intended to ensure the protection of individuals and of property must be most strictly applied and must, in particular, allow everyone in Viet-Nam to decide freely in which zone he wishes to live.

9. The competent representative authorities of the northern and southern zones of Viet-Nam, as well as the authorities of Laos and Cambodia, must not permit any individual or collective reprisals against persons who have collaborated in any way with one of the parties during the war, or against members of such persons' families.

10. The Conference takes note of the declaration of the French Government to the effect that it is ready to withdraw its troops from the territory

of Cambodia, Laos and Viet-Nam at the request of the governments concerned and within a period which shall be fixed by agreement between the parties except in the cases, where by agreement between the two parties, a certain number of French troops shall remain at specified points and for a specified time.

11. The Conference takes note of the declaration of the French Government to the effect that for the settlement of all the problems connected with the re-establishment and consolidation of peace in Cambodia, Laos and Viet-Nam, the French Government will proceed from the principle of respect for the independence and sovereignty, unity and territorial integrity of Cambodia, Laos and Viet-Nam.

12. In their relations with Cambodia, Laos and Viet-Nam, each member of the Geneva Conference undertakes to respect the sovereignty, the independence, the unity and the territorial integrity of the above-mentioned states, and to refrain from any interference in their internal affairs.

13. The members of the Conference agree to consult one another on any question which may be referred to them by the International Supervisory Commission, in order to study such measures as may prove necessary to ensure that the agreements on the cessation of hostilities in Cambodia, Laos and Viet-Nam are respected.

LAOTIAN DECLARATION ON RIGHTS OF CITIZENS

The Royal Government of Laos, in the desire to ensure harmony and agreement among the peoples of the Kingdom, declares itself resolved to take the necessary measures to integrate all citizens, without discrimination, into the national community and to guarantee them the enjoyment of the rights and freedoms for which the constitution of the Kingdom provides; affirms that all Laotian citizens may freely participate as electors and candidates in

general elections by secret ballot; announces, furthermore, that it will promulgate measures to provide for special representation in the royal administration of the provinces of Phang Saly and Sam Nua during the interval between the cessation of hostilities and general elections of the interests of Laotian nationals who did not support the royal forces during hostilities.

CAMBODIAN DECLARATION ON RIGHTS OF CITIZENS

The Royal Government of Cambodia, in the desire to ensure harmony and agreement among the peoples of the Kingdom, declares itself resolved to take the necessary measures to integrate all citizens, without discrimination, into the national community

and to guarantee them the enjoyment of the rights and freedoms for which the constitution of the Kingdom provides; affirms that all Cambodian citizens may freely participate as electors or candidates in general elections by secret ballot.

LAOTIAN DECLARATION ON NON-PARTICIPATION IN AGGRESSION

The Royal Government of Laos is resolved never to pursue a policy of aggression and will never permit the territory of Laos to be used in furtherance of such a policy.

The Royal Government of Laos will never join in any agreement with other states if this agreement includes the obligation for the Royal Government of Laos to participate in a military alliance not in conformity with the principles of the Charter of the United Nations or with the principles of the agreement on the cessation of hostilities or, unless its security is threatened, the obligation to establish bases on Laotian territory for military forces of foreign powers.

The Royal Government of Laos is resolved to settle its international disputes by peaceful means so that international peace and security and justice are not endangered.

During the period between the cessation of hostilities in Viet-Nam and the final settlement of that country's political problems, the Royal Government of Laos will not request foreign aid, whether in war material, in personnel or in instructors, except for the purpose of its effective territorial defence and to the extent defined by the agreement on the cessation of hostilities.

CAMBODIAN DECLARATION ON NON-PARTICIPATION IN AGGRESSION

The Royal Government of Cambodia is resolved never to take part in an aggressive policy and never to permit the territory of Cambodia to be utilized in the service of such a policy.

The Royal Government of Cambodia will not join in any agreement with other states if this agreement carries for Cambodia the obligation to enter into a military alliance not in conformity with the principles of the Charter of the United Nations or with the principles of the agreements on the cessation of hostilities, or, as long as its security is not threatened, the obligation to establish bases

on Cambodian territory for the military forces of foreign powers.

The Royal Government of Cambodia is resolved to settle its international disputes by peaceful means, in such a manner as not to endanger peace, international security and justice.

During the period which will elapse between the date of the cessation of hostilities in Viet-Nam and that of the final settlement of political problems in this country, the Royal Government of Cambodia will not solicit foreign aid in war material, personnel or instructors except for the purpose of the effective defence of the territory.

FRENCH DECLARATION ON WITHDRAWAL OF TROOPS

The Government of the French Republic declares that it is ready to withdraw its troops from the territory of Cambodia, Laos and Viet-Nam at the request of the governments concerned and within a period which shall be fixed by agreement between

the parties, except in the cases where, by agreement between the two parties, a certain number of French troops shall remain at specified points and for a specified time.

FRENCH DECLARATION ON STATES OF INDO-CHINA

For the settlement of all the problems connected with the re-establishment and consolidation of peace in Cambodia, Laos and Viet-Nam, the French Gov-

ernment will proceed from the principle of respect for the independence and sovereignty, the unity and territorial integrity of Cambodia, Laos and Viet-Nam.

CHOU EN-LAI'S STATEMENT AT THE FINAL SESSION OF GENEVA CONFERENCE

Mr. Chairman and Fellow Delegates:

After 75 days of work, the nine delegations to the Geneva Conference have finally overcome the last obstacles and reached agreement on the question of restoring peace in Indo-China. It is my firm belief that the agreements we have reached will not only end the eight-year Indo-China war and bring peace to the peoples of Indo-China and France, but also result in further relaxation in the tensions in Asia and all over the world. Undoubtedly, the success of our conference is tremendous.

In order to enable the peace in Indo-China to become firm and lasting, this conference has made repeated efforts so that both the armistice question and the political question of Indo-China may be settled. The agreements that we have achieved carry concrete provisions for ending the Indo-China war and lay down the principles for the settlement of the political questions of Indo-China. In accordance with these principles, the Republic of France undertakes to respect the independence, sovereignty, unity and territorial integrity of the three states of Indo-China, and the three states of Indo-China will hold nation-wide free elections within specified periods of time to achieve democracy and unity in their respective countries. We note that after the armistice the three states of Indo-China will refrain from joining any military alliance, and that the establishment of military bases on their respective territories by any foreign country will not be permitted. These agreements will enable the peoples of the three states of Indo-China to engage in the construction of their respective countries in a peaceful environment. On the basis of mutual respect for territorial integrity and sovereignty, these three states will develop friendly relations between themselves and promote their friendly relations with France. These agreements will also lead to the establishment of friendly relations between these three states and all neighbouring countries. The Delegation of the People's Republic of China fully endorses and supports these agreements and declares its willingness to join with the nations concerned

in ensuring the thorough implementation of these agreements.

The restoration of peace in Indo-China and the independence and unity of the three states of Indo-China are not only the profound desire of the peoples of Indo-China and France, but also the common demand of the peace-loving peoples of Asia and of the whole world. We firmly believe that the agreements that have been reached at the Geneva Conference will receive the support of all the nations of the world, particularly the Colombo powers which have shown deep concern about the armistice in Indo-China.

The armistice in Indo-China is yet another proof that the forces for peace are irresistible. More and more nations of the world are coming out for peaceful coexistence. No policy of strength aimed at creating splits and forming opposing military groups can have the support of the people. What the peoples of Asia desire is, unquestionably, not splits or antagonism, but peace and cooperation.

In the interests of safeguarding the collective peace of Asia, it is our opinion that the nations of Asia should consult among themselves and cooperate with each other on the basis of the principles of mutual respect for territorial integrity and sovereignty, non-aggression, non-interference in each other's internal affairs, equality and mutual benefit, and peaceful coexistence. Moreover, we are ready to work together with other nations outside of Asia who cherish the same object as we do to safeguard the peace and security of Asia and of the world. The recent Sino-Indian and Sino-Burmese joint statements, the statement by President Ho Chi Minh of the Democratic Republic of Viet-Nam in support of these joint statements, as well as the support of public opinion in Asia and all over the world for these joint statements, fully demonstrate the bright prospects for consolidation of peace in Asia.

The Geneva Conference has discussed two major problems: the peaceful settlement of the Korean

question and the restoration of peace in Indo-China. Although no agreement has been reached on the peaceful settlement of the Korean question, yet it has not been struck off the agenda. Now that this conference, by way of restoring peace in Indo-China, has not only reached agreement on the cessation of hostilities, but also reached agreement in principle on settlement of political issues, there emerge fresh hopes for the peaceful settlement of the Korean question.

Finally, I should like to point out that all international disputes can be settled through negotiation provided the countries concerned are sincerely anxious for peace. In this conference, both Mr. Pham Van Dong, head of the Delegation of the Democratic

Republic of Viet-Nam, and Mr. Pierre Mendes-France, head of the Delegation of France, have displayed a fine conciliatory spirit. The efforts made by the two chairmen of our conference, Mr. V. M. Molotov, head of the Soviet Delegation, and Mr. Anthony Eden, head of the British Delegation, in helping the two sides and this conference go forward towards agreement are praiseworthy.

Mr. Chairman, cessation of hostilities in Indo-China is about to come into effect. Peace in Indo-China, so eagerly awaited all over the world, is going to be restored. Peace, once again, has triumphed over war, just as it did in Korea. Let us take heart and continue to strive for the safeguarding and consolidation of world peace.

