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present troops with their families are demobilized they would be settled in the high plateau and the Plaine des Jones area. This would be beneficial both from economic and strategic reasons.

At this point Secretary Quarles noted that the President was due at the Press Club shortly and requested time for a few U.S. questions. His first was whether the Geneva Accords inhibited (US) training personnel. President Diem replied that there had been no protests -- there had been embarrassing questions, but the Geneva Accords only prohibited troop reinforcements.

Mr. Quarles asked a general question on the status of training and equipment of the Viet-Nam air force. General Don replied that the planes turned over by the French had been retained for training until no longer usable and then returned. President Ngo said that in general vehicles and communications equipment were in bad shape. These can be replaced with the same type used by the French without violating the Geneva Accords. He continued to say that the French training of the air force and navy in his opinion was very poor because the French were dragging their feet. For the Viet-Nam Air Force actually they were providing only 6 months training for mechanics which U.S. military personnel considered inadequate. When the French questioned him about the renewal of their training contract the conversation resulted in an agreement to withdraw the French Air Force training mission with the exception of special French personnel who would remain until the end of the year for technical training. All other requirements would be met by the U.S. He had therefore requested the MAAG provide these training personnel and several instructors for the military academy (Armed Forces Academy).

After brief closing remark by Secretary Quarles the session ended.

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