

NYTimes  
Citing the Record

FEB 3 1975

To the Editor:

While agreeing with the conclusions of the Jan. 18 letter by Frank E. Karelson, may I correct his reference to the "powers meeting in Geneva"? That meeting produced two documents: an "agreement" dated 20 July 1954 providing for the cessation of hostilities and the redeployment of forces, signed by the Generals representing the opposing military forces; and a "declaration" dated 21 July 1954 which provided, in its sixth paragraph that "the military demarcation line (17th parallel) is provisional and should not in any way be interpreted as constituting a political or territorial boundary" and in its seventh paragraph that "general elections shall be held in July 1956, under the supervision of an international commission."

There were no "signers" to the declaration, but the American representative, Gen. Walter Bedell Smith, Under-Secretary of State, noting the agreement and the declaration, and excluding only paragraph thirteen of the declaration which referred to continuing consultations, stated: "It (the Government of the United States) will refrain from the threat or the use of force to disturb them."

CHARLES COLVIN

Lebanon, N. J., Jan. 18, 1975