

GEORGES PINAULT

*(Captain in the Marine Troops, Decorated
in the Legion of Honor)*

To the Attorney

I was told that you are acting on behalf of Mr. Sauvage, a compatriot of mine whom I know also by his Breton name Savage. I do not know him very well, having met him only eight or nine times, perhaps, but I know that he is a highly esteemed Breton patriot and I understand his reluctance to be extradited to France.

As a commissioned officer, I went to war in Vietnam in 1952-54 and was parachuted — voluntarily, but entirely untrained — upon Dien Bien Phu. Afterwards, I was rewarded with the "Legion of Honor."

But I am a Breton patriot too and then I had to stay nearly one year in French gaols where I was maintained until a few months after my trial even though I was not sentenced to confinement. All that happened because I was a Breton patriot (and in no way a terrorist). When I was detained in the camps of the Vietnamese People's Army, after the fall of Dien Bien Phu, I must say that my life was not a very pleasant one, but I have to acknowledge that the red Viet Minh guards never beat me. The French gaolers did, twice or thrice a week, upon the gaoler's bon plaisir.

I sincerely hope that Mr. Sauvage will not have to endure the French "Liberty, Equality, Fraternity," for this generous motto is engraved upon every prison door in France, like "Arbeit macht frei" on the entrance of former nazi Konzentrationlager...