

7. In view of the important role the Commission will undoubtedly have to play in any settlement generally acceptable to all the interested powers, it seems to us essential that the Commission should have under its own control the equipment and the operations and maintenance personnel necessary to enable it to discharge effectively its assigned duties. In addition it must be able to decide by simple majority what it should investigate and how investigations should be conducted. Far from interfering with the true independence of Laos, such impartial international control would make that independence possible.

8. I am anxious that you should have a full understanding of the position we have taken. While there have been from time to time differences of judgment on particular problems before one or other of the Commissions in Indo-China, our objectives and principles have been identical. There has been understanding and co-operation between the Indian and Canadian Commissioners in performing tasks which have not been easy. The Conference in Geneva now appears to have reached a critical point, and I know that you are as anxious as I am that a just and peaceful settlement be made. I hope that you may agree with the attempts we are making to make such a settlement possible.

With kind personal regards,

Yours very sincerely,

JOHN G. DIEFENBAKER

711.

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*Note du sous-secrétaire d'État aux Affaires extérieures
pour le secrétaire d'État aux Affaires extérieures*

*Memorandum from Under-Secretary of State for External Affairs
to Secretary of State for External Affairs*

CONFIDENTIAL

[Ottawa], July 10, 1961

FUTURE WORK OF THE CONFERENCE

As you know, the Conference has now reached a stalemate on how to proceed with the work before it, the Communists insisting that it must first discuss neutrality, while the Western powers hold that the question of supervision is the issue which must have priority. Pushkin has reacted strongly against the suggestion that these two aspects be discussed on alternate days. (LaosDel's telegrams 1098† and 1099† of July 8.)

2. Attached for your consideration and approval is a telegram to Ronning commenting on the procedural issue now confronting the Conference.²⁶

N.A. R[OBERTSON]

²⁶ Note marginale :/Marginal note:
Y-404 signed by SSEA 10/7. [Ross Campbell]