

international struggle involving not only the nations of that peninsula but countries far removed from it. From the point of view of my Government, the object of the Paris agreement is not to perpetuate an international presence in Vietnam but to eliminate it, and on conditions that will ensure again a fresh internationalization. This conference should be able to provide for some of those conditions.

Canada has had the educational experience of having served 19 years on the international commissions in Indochina, and from that experience we have come to a number of conclusions. If these conclusions seem to imply criticism of the existing agreement on Vietnam, I hasten to assure you that this is not my intention. My primary purpose is to prevent my country from being once more involved in an intractable situation and an open-ended commitment. At the same time, we are deeply conscious that Canada has a history of concern for and participation in international peacekeeping and is very jealous of its reputation in this area.

Canada sees itself, in its membership in the International Commission of Control and Supervision, not as the spokesman of any one point of view, and certainly not as serving any direct national policy of its own, but as a representative of the international community and invited by all the parties concerned to act as such. We therefore feel that we have an obligation not only to the parties to the agreement, and, indeed, to this conference if it should decide to maintain an active interest in this agreement, but to the international community as a whole.

We would obviously prefer to see all peace-supervisory operations conducted under the auspices of the United Nations in accordance with the Charter. The fact that this has not been possible in the case of Indochina reinforces, in our view, the obligation of the International Commission of Control and Supervision to act as if it were representing the world community. If this were not so, it would be merely a quadripartite group with no claim to the description "international" in its title. Canada would have preferred greater Asian participation not only in the International Commission but also in this international conference, which is to discuss matters of vital concern to the future peace and stability of the Asian region. It is in the attempt to engage the international community to the greatest extent possible that we have adopted the policy of giving full information on our International Commission of Control and Supervision participation. Apart from details of negotiations while they are still under way, we feel that the international community has a right to know what is being done in its name in Vietnam. For our part, we propose to report regularly and publicly on this at least until other more satisfactory means are found for transmitting information and points of view to all concerned in the international community.

As I have already mentioned, our primary concern is to do what we can to make Canadian participation in the International Commission of Control and Supervision effective. We wish to continue to serve and we ask this conference to make it possible for us to do so. In this connection, we have come here to seek your support in establishing an independent mechanism more representative of the international community than the existing mechanism,