

Supply—External Affairs

an assurance with reference to any build-up of military forces or any continuation of support of the military forces which North Viet Nam has in the south.

Mr. Martin (Essex East): I do not think I can add to what I have said. I have chosen my words rather carefully. I hold the strong view that if we could have an indication that there would be meaningful talks and that the date would be indicated, this would enable us to help bring about the kind of negotiations for which we have been working for a long time.

• (8:40 p.m.)

[*Translation*]

Mr. Laprise: Mr. Chairman, I listened with great interest, even with admiration, to the statement made to-night by the hon. Secretary of State for External Affairs (Mr. Martin) on the problem of war in Viet Nam. It was clear to me that he was fervently hoping that this war would end, and I can assure him that my party and myself—and I am convinced it is also the wish of all the Canadian people—are hoping that this war will come to an end as soon as possible.

We perceive more and more that this is a useless war. It appears to us, in every sense, as a war based on pride between two very powerful blocs facing each other in a very weak country from industrial and agriculture points of view, in short, in an underdeveloped country.

I have often wondered why those two blocs which are now clashing in Viet Nam, which fought in Korea a few years ago and which will perhaps clash elsewhere later on, have never fought on their own territory.

Every day in Viet Nam, like Korea and elsewhere, innocent victims are being killed, wounded or disabled for life, even though, in that part of Asia, the life span is generally shorter than elsewhere. It is that situation which makes us shudder.

Mr. Chairman, I do not think that the Viet Nam war is so much more cruel than any other war. All wars are cruel and should all be outlawed by civilized peoples. It seems to me that in the twentieth century, all the nations of the world should be civilized enough to understand one another and to prevent such wars.

We have witnessed many demonstrations, especially in the last few months, in favour of the cessation of bombing and the withdrawal of the United States from Viet Nam. Judging

from these numerous demonstrations in Canada, in the United States, in England and in other European countries, one would think that the Americans are the only ones involved in this war. All the demonstrators want the Americans to go home, but there are very few appeals for the communists to withdraw as well.

We know that the United States have spent and are still spending hundreds of millions of dollars for all sorts of weapons and supplies for the war. They are also losing many young men. But against whom or what are they fighting? Can we believe that little North Viet Nam can alone face both the Americans and the South Vietnamese? Of course not. North Viet Nam is obviously helped by the other bloc, which is the communist bloc.

Like many Canadian citizens, Mr. Chairman, I would say that this war must stop as quickly as possible, the Americans must get out of Viet Nam, just like the other side.

The Secretary of State for External Affairs asked again tonight that negotiations continue or start, provided the bombing is stopped. The communist bloc would like the bombing to stop first and the Americans would like at least the assurance that the negotiations will start beforehand.

I agree with what many others have said in this house as well as elsewhere. It would be better to start with negotiations, because during negotiations less blood is shed. If negotiations were started in the right spirit, they could bring peace to Viet Nam and still the fears of those who now see a third world war coming.

On January 1, 1966, a group of Catholic Vietnamese priests presented a manifesto on the Vietnamese conflict and said among other thing;

Since, under present war conditions, the North and South, as well as the great powers which support them, have in fact proved that they cannot, on their own, put an end to the war because of the illusory hope of victory or the capitulation of the other side, it appears that the only means, or almost, that might lead to the cessation of hostilities, to negotiations and to peace (which, a least, spares he most bloodshed), is to recognize U.S. mediation and arbitration, to have recourse to it and to co-operate sincerely with that organization.

According to the statement of the hon. Secretary of State for External Affairs this evening. I understand that the International Control Commission seemed to be the only one to have the right to look in on the Vietnamese conflict. Now, I should like to ask