

Mr. GREEN: The commission has little to do. Here is the official version of the Cambodian commission.

The Canadian delegation has been reduced in size and consideration is being given to possible further reductions. The present acting commissioner also serves as Canadian representative to the committee for the development of the Mekong river.

Mr. MARTIN (*Essex East*): Some day we will have to determine the course in these two countries in regard to these commissions; they are in existence longer than I think was originally intended. I take it there is no indication of any ending of the work of the commission in Vietnam.

Mr. GREEN: No, there is no intention of adjourning that work. By the way, India has not asked for the reactivating of the commission in Laos for many months.

Mr. REGIER: At the time of the difficulty in Laos is the minister able to account for an occurrence or a number of occurrences in which Canadian newspapers, on the whole, printed a great number of reports of active military support in the way of manpower by the North Vietnam regime, and stating that men were being poured into Laos from the communist dominated territory to the north. Yet the United Nations found that this was not in accordance with the facts. At almost the same time we had newspaper headlines also telling us of the very serious clashes on the Indochinese border. I was present when Mr. Menon expressed his surprise at the false propaganda that was being headlined in western newspapers. Is the minister able to explain how our newspapers could put out these alarmist reports, which later on turned out to be grossly exaggerated and, therefore, created a good deal of needless excitement in the world?

Mr. GREEN: Do you want me to explain how the press gallery does these things?

Mr. HERRIDGE: He is not a mind reader.

Mr. GREEN: If you remember my statement about Laos, I said this:

The report of the security council subcommittee, which was made public early in November, noted that it was not clearly established that regular North Vietnamese troops had actually crossed the border to assist the rebels but that the Pathet-Lao had received support from North Vietnam in the form of equipment, arms, ammunition, supplies and "the help of political cadres".

So, the newspapers were not so far off in that case.

Mr. McCLEAVE: As a former member of the press gallery, may I say that, while they do make mistakes in some matters, I do not think this is one of their mistakes.

Mr. REGIER: The honourable member is not attesting that the findings of the United Nations commission were wrong?

The CHAIRMAN: The minister's statement covered that quite fully.

Gentlemen, it is now 12 o'clock and, before we adjourn, is it the wish of the committee to meet tomorrow at 9.30 for an hour or so?

Mr. STINSON: I have a final question on Laos, a subject to which we may not return tomorrow. I am wondering whether or not the government has any ideas as to how the political stability in that country might be improved or enhanced by economic assistance from the west. I think many Canadians were greatly disturbed by the apparently well-founded reports about the misuse of economic and military equipment, especially from the United States of America and valued at several millions of dollars, which have gone into Laos over the past several years. In view of the apparent failure of that