

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, through which the International Commission of Control and Supervision or any of its members could report and which would provide for some possibility of appropriate reaction to such reports.

But we also have another concern. I have no authority to speak for other member countries of the International Commission of Control and Supervision but my government, as the government of a responsible country, could not accept the onus of passing to the former belligerents in Indo-China reports that could conceivably result in a re-escalation of the war in Indo-China. At the same time, we are not prepared to suppress information once we are satisfied that it is soundly based. For this reason Canada has consistently stated a fundamental condition to its participation: that it would serve on the International Commission in Viet Nam only if among other things this conference produced some more broadly-based international authority which would accept the responsibility for evaluating and, if necessary, acting upon reports from the International Commission, or its members, dealing with the manner in which the agreement was being carried out. Ideally, as I have said before, the Security Council of the United Nations should be the body responsible for receiving reports from the International Commission of Control and Supervision or its members and determining what, if any, action is required. Reluctantly, we are prepared to acknowledge that this solution is not practicable in the present situation but we must have some acceptable substitute. In any event, Canada considers that the Secretary General of the United Nations who has been invited to this conference by the United States and the Democratic Republic of Viet Nam on behalf of the parties to the agreement would provide the most appropriate and effective channel for receiving and transmitting the views of the International Commission. He is present here not only as the principal public servant of the world, but as representative of the world's concern at the decades of warfare in Viet Nam. His obviously disinterested position fits him uniquely for this task. I should make it clear that I do not propose that the Secretary-General assume any responsibility either in this capacity or on behalf of the United Nations for action consequent upon his transmission of information received from the International Commission during the interim period of its involvement in Viet Nam. If however it is agreed that the membership of this conference constitutes the continuing political authority to which the International Commission of Control and Supervision should report, the Secretary-General should in our view also be vested with the task of reconvening the conference when requested to do so on whatever basis we may here decide. I would like to circulate and table a

resolution which could cover the kind of arrangement I have in mind.

My government is well aware of the problems that a vacancy in the International Commission of Control and Supervision could create and would, in practice, do whatever it could to avoid that situation arising. But we should not be asked to watch in silence a resumption of hostilities nor to accept direct responsibility for all the consequences that could ensue if we felt duty-bound to report to the world that the agreement has been seriously breached.

We will work to find a solution that would meet our reasonable requirements. We are willing to examine any proposal that offers any chance of meeting our point. This is one of the reasons why, at the very beginning of the conference, I am putting forward a resolution that would best meet our requirements and we hope it will be given the most serious consideration. Although this is only one of a number of factors in our decision-making, we shall examine the results of this conference with the greatest care and in the light of the information we have received from our delegation in Viet Nam. Should we decide as a result of our study of the outcome of this conference and of our experience up to now, that we must terminate our membership on the International Commission of Control and Supervision, we would so inform all the interested parties that at the end of the 60 days for which we undertook to serve, that is, on March 30, Canada would cease to be a member of the International Commission of Control and Supervision. At the same time, however, we would declare our willingness, if all the parties signatory to the agreement so desired, to remain in place and act as a member until April 30, 1973, or such earlier date as a new member could be agreed upon by the signatories and take our place.

Such a decision would be a very sad one for my government to have to make. All Canadians have taken justifiable pride in the manner in which the armed forces of Canada in particular have contributed to peacekeeping operations through out the world. It would be a bitter disappointment to them and to us to have to terminate our participation unilaterally. But I am satisfied that no Canadian would wish to see our representatives placed in the position of having to choose between suppressing relevant information or accepting full and direct national responsibility for the possible consequences of transmitting it under the existing arrangements. Even less would the Canadian people wish to see our delegation stand idly by, as Canadian delegations in Indo-China have had to do in the past, while agreements they are supposed to supervise are disregarded.

I am hopeful that the new agreement will succeed if there is a desire on the part of those present to help make it succeed and to involve themselves in the process. If I am wrong we shall have to arrange for the orderly transfer of our International Commission of Control and Supervision responsibilities to some other government. In doing so we would not be suggesting that our partners in the International Commission or a potential successor would be less sensitive or less alert to the problems that could arise than we were. We reached our own conclusions on peace-keeping in Viet Nam some years ago and