



# STATEMENTS AND SPEECHES

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INFORMATION DIVISION  
DEPARTMENT OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS  
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## CAMBODIA

Statements by the Honourable Mitchell Sharp,  
Secretary of State for External Affairs, in  
the House of Commons on May 1, 1970.

(1) A.M.

...I thought that the House might expect me to make a short comment on the situation in Cambodia. I am sure we all listened to President Nixon's speech with deep anxiety. There can be no doubt that the decisions he announced were hard and momentous at what is bound to be a difficult time for our sorely-tried neighbour and a dangerous period for the world.

During the period before the International Control Commission was asked to leave Cambodia, we were aware, as a member of the Commission, of abuses of Cambodian territory by North Vietnam and we deplored the inability of the International Control Commission to do anything about it, despite our best efforts over a period of years....

Ever since the conflict began in South Vietnam, one of our objectives as a member of the Commission was to try to insulate Cambodia from the effects of the Vietnam war. To achieve this we tried to have the International Control Commission consider a Cambodian Government request in 1966 to have the Control Commission supervise Cambodian ports and borders.

In 1967 we tried to have the Commission strengthened by having it accept a United States offer of helicopters which Prince Sihanouk suggested the United States should provide for the International Control Commission. We tried in 1966 to have the Commission undertake investigations into the presence of North Vietnamese and Viet Cong forces in the very area of Parrot's Beak now the subject of military operations, on the basis of *prima facie* evidence provided by the Cambodian Government and Prince Sihanouk himself.

Had we been successful in persuading our Commission colleagues to take these measures, the International Control Commission might at least have been able to provide some warning of the magnitude of the Vietnamese Communist intervention in Cambodia which has elicited the present United States and South Vietnamese response and might even have helped avoid the situation developing to the present stage.