

and to express the them the concern that many Canadians have conveyed to me.

More recently the picture has changed and I am pleased to be able to report that the release of a number of civilian prisoners has begun.

...Looking back I can confirm without hesitation that our initial decision to participate was the right decision. Our reasoning then, for joining the Commission as well as our reservations, have been largely indicated. In Paris the negotiators envisaged that the ICCS, with its four members, would form part of an integrated package designed to accomplish a series of objectives. While the central objective of peace has not been attained, the Paris machinery, including the ICCS, has provided a working framework for a number of solid achievements. Although the fighting is continuing, the level of violence has subsided when compared with the period preceding the Paris Agreement. The United States has been able to disengage and withdraw its ground forces from Viet-Nam. There has been the long awaited exchange of military prisoners. These are not inconsiderable achievements and there should be satisfaction that we were able to contribute, even modestly, to their achievement.