



CANADA

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## CANADA AND THE SPECIAL REPORT FROM VIETNAM

The following statement was made in the House of Commons on March 8 by the Secretary of State for External Affairs, Mr. Paul Martin, after he had tabled the text of a special message, dated February 13, 1965, from the International Commission for Supervision and Control in Vietnam "reporting on the recent air strikes against North Vietnam and on the directly related problem of North Vietnam's long-standing aggressive interference in South Vietnam, which gave rise to the air strikes in question":

...This message comprises a majority report by India and Poland, which deals only with the air strikes in early February, a minority statement by Canada, which outlines some essential background to these air strikes, and, finally, separate Indian and Polish statements commenting on the position taken by Canada.

### CANADA'S MINORITY REPORT

While not denying the facts on which the majority report is based, the Canadian Government believes it presents an oversimplified and misleading impression of the root causes of the dangerous instability in Vietnam. To correct such an impression, the Canadian delegation has appended a statement to the majority report in the hope that the special message as a whole might reflect more accurately the full scope of the problem in Vietnam. As both the Prime Minister and I have made clear on several occasions, the factor which underlies the grave situation in that country is the determined and long-standing attempt of the Hanoi regime to bring

South Vietnam under its control through the pursuit of aggressive policies.

This factor has, of course, been evident to the International Commission in Vietnam for some time. The Commission's special report of June 2, 1962, presented a balanced account of the situation by drawing attention to Northern violations of the Geneva agreement and also the military assistance the United States was giving South Vietnam at the latter's request to combat Northern interference....

### AN EARLIER COMMISSION REPORT

That report's conclusion that North Vietnam had violated the Geneva agreement by aggressive policies toward South Vietnam was based on the work of the Commission's legal committee, which had examined a vast amount of material relating to allegations of armed and unarmed intervention in South Vietnam over a number of years. In the special report, the Commission undertook to take action on the basis of a fuller report to be prepared by its legal committee. Faced since then with the unwillingness of our Commission colleagues to act on these promises, we have decided that it was necessary to go ahead on our own to fulfil these obligations.

The most significant conclusions of this legal study have, therefore, been quoted in Paragraph 3 of the Canadian statement of February 13. These indicate quite clearly that the so-called South Vietnam Liberation Front, of which the Viet Cong are, in effect, the armed forces, is a creature of the ruling party of North Vietnam, that it is their common aim to bring about the violent overthrow of the South

(Over)