



# STATEMENTS AND SPEECHES

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## CANADA AND VIETNAM

Address by the Honourable Paul Martin,  
Secretary of State for External Affairs,  
to the Editors of the Foreign Language  
Press, Toronto, March 26, 1965.

I welcome the opportunity of speaking to you this evening. I say this because I am aware of the very important part you are playing in the public life of our country. The press has, of course, a vital responsibility to discharge in any free society. And that is to focus public attention on the issues of the day and to generate informed public discussion of those issues. But it seems to me that, as editors of the foreign-language press, you have an area of responsibility which extends beyond that. For you are serving a readership which is concerned, at one and the same time, to preserve its distinctive cultural heritage and to give expression to its identity as part of the broader Canadian scene. In a country which has built and which is building its national life on the conception of unity in diversity, there is an obvious need to meet this dual concern. I know that you are aware of that need and are meeting it conscientiously and with the full measure of your responsibility in mind.

We are engaged in Canada at the present time in a reassessment of the realities of our national life and a determination of how we can best build for the future. In this process we are pledged to take account of the contribution made by the various ethnic groups which you represent and to give thought to the measures that should be taken to safeguard that contribution. We owe what we are as a country to the hard work, and co-operation and the vision of Canadians of many different origins. All our citizens have an equal stake in the country they have helped to build, and all have an equal claim to share in Canada's future opportunities.

I want to speak to you tonight about the situation in Vietnam, which, I need hardly say, has been in the forefront of our preoccupation in recent weeks.

Canada has watched this situation evolve over the past ten years. As members of the International Commission in that country, we have been charged -- along with India and Poland -- with the supervision of the arrangements that were concluded at