

solution. This has also been Canada's conviction. We must strive to bring into play whatever channels and whatever forms of peace-seeking machinery may be available to the international community. Our goal must be the restoration of peace, and making it secure. That surely was the overriding concern which gave birth to this Organization.

As members of the United Nations, partaking as we do of common objectives and obligations, I think we must register our concern in terms clear enough and unequivocal enough for all those directly involved in this conflict to hear and understand. And at the same time we must work with all the resources of ingenuity, imagination, flexibility, and above all with a sense of justice, towards devising whatever means may be mutually acceptable for bringing the conflict in Vietnam to the conference table. Whether the path we select as the most direct route to that conference table bears a name derived from the Charter, or from the Geneva Conference machinery, matters less to my mind than our assessment of its likelihood of leading to an end to the war. For its part, the Canadian Government, which has a special interest and responsibility because of Canada's membership in the International Control Commission, will, as in the past, continue to explore all possibilities of making use of that Commission membership or acting in conjunction with its Commission partners to try to lead the parties to the conflict towards negotiation.

There is not the slightest doubt in my mind that the first step in that direction will involve the question of the bombing of North Vietnam. It seems clear that all attempts to bring about talks between the two sides are doomed to failure unless the bombing is stopped. This is a matter of first priority if we are to start the process of de-escalation and to open the door to the conference room as several representatives who have preceded me at this rostrum have pointed out.

But let us not for a moment pretend that a halt in the bombing would, in itself, bring the war to an end. There are no magic formulas; there are no simple prescriptions for the settlement of problems as complex as the issues behind the hostilities in Vietnam. In a speech in Ottawa on April 11 of this year, I made certain suggestions as to how a start might be made on the road away from war by a progressive return to the cease-fire arrangement worked out at Geneva in 1954. I proposed that the following steps might be taken:

- (1) As a first step towards disengagement, the bombing of the North might be terminated and the demilitarized zone restored to its intended status subject to effective international supervision;