

729.

DEA/50052-A-13-40

*Le commissaire de la Commission internationale de surveillance
et de contrôle pour le Vietnam
au secrétaire d'État aux Affaires extérieures*

*Commissioner, International Commission for Supervision
and Control for Vietnam,
to Secretary of State for External Affairs*

TELEGRAM 123

Saigon, May 25, 1961

SECRET. OPIMMEDIATE.

Delhi: OPIMMEDIATE from Ottawa.

Reference: Your Tel 120 May 20.

Repeat for Information: DM/DND, CCOS, CGS, Washington, London, Laosdel Geneva (OpImmediate) from Ottawa.

PROPOSED MAAG INCREASE

During his formal call on me May 24 newly arrived USA Ambassador Frederick Nolting Jr indicated he wants soon to discuss with Candel strengthening of MAAG and South Vietnam's military position generally in line with Lyndon Johnson proposals.³² If you have no repeat no objections we would like to present Canadian view as outlined in reference telegram.

[C. J.] WOODSWORTH

730.

DEA/50052-A-13-40

*Note de l'adjoint spécial, Bureau du secrétaire d'État aux Affaires extérieures,
pour la Direction de l'Extrême-Orient*

*Memorandum from Special Assistant, Office of Secretary of State for External Affairs,
to Far Eastern Division*

SECRET. CANADIAN EYES ONLY.

[Ottawa], May 27, 1961

Reference: External telegram Y-277 of May 17, 1961, addressed to Laosdel Geneva.

UNITED STATES ASSISTANCE TO VIETNAM

The Minister today reviewed the proposed Canadian line to be taken in Geneva, Saigon and Washington on the above-mentioned matter and decided that it would be inappropriate for Canada to attempt to influence the Americans at this stage. While he agreed that the proposed increase in United States MAAG by 100 personnel might seriously complicate the task of the ICSC in Vietnam and have an unfavourable impact on the 14-Nation Conference, he believed that, particularly after President Kennedy had spoken frankly to the Prime Minister about United States intentions, any Canadian resistance to the proposals would be misunderstood and undermine United States confidence in the Canadian role on the International Commissions.

³² Voir/See *Foreign Relations of the United States, 1961-1963*, Vol. I (Washington: United States Government Printing Bureau, 1988), document 60.