

the difference between the 1954 agreement and the 1973 agreement is that in '54 you sort of divided Vietnam in half, and there were the Communists and south were the others, although, of course, there were the National Liberation Front in the South also. But, in this case, in the 1973 agreement, it was a cease-fire in place, so that the struggle that is going on now is for small areas, for villages. And, as you go through Vietnam, you can see the flags on the houses indicating the allegiance of the inhabitants of that area. Well, you can imagine what it's like with the Liberation Front and the Government areas sitting side by side. We learned that, since the cease-fire came into effect in January, some 7,000 incidents had been reported throughout South Vietnam. Some of these involved large-scale operations, possibly up to divisional strength. But from all of these incidents came only 31 requests for investigation by the International Control Commission -- and from these requests only two reports have emerged. The Commission's frustrations, as you will see, are very real indeed.

There is one famous case, which has been well documented -- the investigation of some missiles that were said to have been located up at Khe Sanh in the northern part of South Vietnam, and the difficulties that emerged for our Chairman, Michel Gauvin, in trying to get an investigation under way, is simply too incredible to be recounted. First of all, it was said that the photographs that had been submitted by way of evidence must be forgeries. And then it was suggested, if they were not forgeries, they were taken before the truce came into effect, and so on, and so on, and so on. And, in the end, no investigation took place. The Commission divided two in favour of investigation, two against and, as you know, the argument of a straightforward Canadian like Michel Gauvin was: "Well, you know, they may be forgeries, let's go and find out whether they're forgeries. If they were taken before the truce, let's find out whether they were there before the truce." You know, that's what it's all about. But, in fact, nothing happened.

In Vientiane, which is the centre of government in Laos, I had a long conversation with the Prime Minister, Prince Souvanna Phouma. While recognizing a direct relationship between the war in Vietnam and the use of Laotian territory for military purposes, he was particularly anxious to ensure some measure of international involvement in the future of Laos through the reactivation of the old International Control Commission. We have now two people in Laos -- that's the skeleton that remains. A cease-fire has been achieved. However, the two sides in Laos have not been able to find common ground for a military agreement on the modalities of disengagement and supervision. Until this takes place, it will not be possible for us to determine our response to the request for Canadian participation in a reactivated Laos Commission.

I also had discussions in Vientiane with representatives of the Pathet Lao. Now, the Pathet Lao are the political grouping in Laos that is opposed to the right-wing element, I suppose you would say, in the Royal Laotian Government. But it is unlike the Viet Cong, because the Viet Cong pretends to be the Government of South Vietnam, whereas the Pathet Lao is simply a political force working in Laos, and it is possible there to incorporate them into the Government and this is now being done. I raised with them the case of Lloyd Opper, the