

"When we have time and again renounced the production of atomic, bacteriological and chemical weapons, when we have integrated every last soldier in NATO, and when we in no way desire to have nuclear weapons under our national control, then surely it is abundantly clear that we harbour no aggressive intentions whatsoever."

The Canadian delegation also regrets that the Soviet Union and its allies have interjected into our proceedings, charges against the actions of the United States in Southeast Asia. It is our view, of course, that our discussions here should be confined to questions of disarmament and, as I have said, we do not wish to engage in controversy on other matters. Nevertheless, I consider that I must make some comment on the position of the Canadian Government as to the present situation in Vietnam. In a statement on 26 March of this year, the Secretary of State for External Affairs, Mr. Martin, pointed out that Canada has closely observed the situation in Vietnam as it has evolved over the past 11 years and that, as a member of the International Control Commission, along with India and Poland, Canada has been charged with observing arrangements that were concluded in Geneva in 1954. During the past 11 years, Canada has had a total of more than 700 observers in Vietnam, who have seen the situation develop since the conclusion of the Cease-Fire Agreement in 1954. The Canadian Secretary of State said:

"I think it is fair to say that we have tried to take a balanced view of that situation. We have tried to draw the attention of all concerned to the dangers inherent in that situation. We have reported and will continue to report breaches of the Geneva Agreement on both sides. And we never, of course, in any way whatsoever condoned the use of force -- and again we must remember that force is being used in Vietnam on both sides. Events and the sequence of events in that country should be set in their proper perspective. Almost from the beginning of that period, the authorities in North Vietnam have engaged in inciting, encouraging and supporting hostile activities in South Vietnam. That support has taken the form of armed and unarmed personnel, of arms and munitions, of direction and guidance. And it has been aimed at nothing less than the ultimate overthrow of the South Vietnamese administration. This is a judgment fully supported by evidence, including evidence presented by the Commission. And it must certainly form part of any balanced assessment of the situation in Vietnam. I am concerned that there should be no misunderstanding of the nature of the conflict that is being conducted in that country today. Above all, let us not be deluded into thinking that what is happening in Vietnam is a basically domestic matter, a matter of spontaneous insurgence which the Vietnamese should be left to settle in their own way... What we are facing in Vietnam is a process of subversion by the authorities of North Vietnam against South Vietnam and it is aimed in the final analysis at establishing in South Vietnam a form and pattern of government which the South Vietnamese rejected decisively ten years ago...."