

having definite terms of reference, without too clear an idea of what it might do. This has been embarrassing not only to the members of the supervisory commission but frustrating to all concerned. So on this occasion when we did get a little bit of notice that our name was being used, we decided to make clear what experience had taught us, not only in our own interest, so that we did not get involved in an operation that would be futile, but also for the guidance of other countries that might be thinking of participating or might be asked to participate. At least that is an advance. We have yet to see whether the conditions are such that we can participate or that it is a useful exercise for anyone to participate. After all we don't have to be members of this, we're not seeking to be members of the commission in Vietnam but we recognize that we have responsibilities and as such we decided to say these are the conditions that must be met, otherwise the operation will be useless.

Q. With the possibility of peace in Vietnam, is Canada offering any offer of rehabilitation for those countries?

A. Yes, some time ago we made it quite clear that we wanted to play a full part in special programmes in special rehabilitation. In Foreign Policy for Canadians which was put out a couple of years ago we announced our intention to do so and that remains valid. A cease fire would permit perspective donors to evaluate the needs for reconstruction assistance as well as the appropriate channels for making such assistance available. It is very difficult for the time being to prepare more than contingency plans although we've had some preliminary discussions with other governments and agencies interested in relief and reconstruction in the post-war situation.

Q. What about other Pacific relations?...with Japan and Pacific countries of the Commonwealth...how have they developed?

A. Well, of course, there has been an enormous development in our relations with Japan. Trade just grows from year to year and Japan is now our fourth trading partner. We continue to devote a great deal of effort to the promotion of our trade with Japan. We're also having, of course, contacts in other directions too, politically we have more to talk about than we did. Japan followed our lead in recognizing Peking as the government of China. That was--I remember, when I talked with the Japanese delegation that was in Canada a couple of years ago--that was something that they were not at that time contemplating. But within a very few months they changed their minds and negotiated, and after the change of government in Japan, and have now followed our lead. So, we have many reasons to want to keep closely in touch with them. They are going to be an extremely influential country in the whole of the Pacific region. Indeed, probably occupying a pivotal role in relations with the Soviet Union, with China, with the United States and with us. There has also been some development, of course, in our relations with other countries, we've been having more to do with Indonesia which, with a population of a hundred millions or so, is bound to play