



CANADA

## STATEMENTS AND SPEECHES

INFORMATION DIVISION

DEPARTMENT OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS

OTTAWA - CANADA

No. 65/8 Statement by the Secretary of State for External Affairs, the Honourable Paul Martin, on Tabling in the House of Commons on March 8, 1965, the Special Message of February 13, 1965, of the International Commission for Supervision and Control in Vietnam.

...I should like to table the text of the special message of February 13 from the International Commission for Supervision and Control in Vietnam reporting on the recent air strikes against North Vietnam and on the directly related problem of North Vietnam's long-standing and continuing aggressive interference in South Vietnam, which gave rise to the air strikes in question. This report was released this morning in London by one of the co-chairmen of the Geneva accord powers, the Secretary of State for Foreign Affairs in the United Kingdom.

This message comprises a majority report by India and Poland, which deals only with the air strikes in early February, a minority statement by Canada, which outlines some essential background to these air strikes, and, finally, separate Indian and Polish statements commenting on the position taken by Canada.

While not denying the facts on which the majority report is based, the Canadian Government believes it presents an oversimplified and misleading impression of the root causes of the dangerous instability in Vietnam. To correct such an impression, the Canadian delegation has appended a statement to the majority report in the hope that the special message as a whole might reflect more accurately the full scope of the problem in Vietnam. As both the Prime Minister and I have made clear on several occasions, the factor which underlies the grave situation in that country is the determined and long-standing attempt of the Hanoi regime to bring South Vietnam under its control through the pursuit of aggressive policies.

This factor has, of course, been evident to the International Commission in Vietnam for some time. The Commission's special report of June 2, 1962, presented a balanced account of the situation by drawing attention to northern violations of the Geneva agreement and also the military assistance the United States was giving South Vietnam at the latter's request to combat Northern interference....

That report's conclusion that North Vietnam had violated the Geneva agreement by aggressive policies toward South Vietnam was based on the work of the Commission's legal committee, which had examined a vast amount of material