

involved in the conflict will attempt to exert such influence as they may be able to exercise to this same end.

The Canadian Government believes that an exclusively military solution to the problem of Vietnam is not possible. The circumstances now existing indicate that a truly satisfactory solution can be found only by negotiations leading to a fair, just and workable settlement. This settlement must not sacrifice essential principles such as the right of all peoples to choose their own path of political and economic development free from outside interference or the fear of aggression, direct or indirect.

The immediate problem in the view of the Canadian Government is how to bring about negotiations which look to an early and peaceful settlement.

The Canadian Government's initial and favourable reaction to the broad outlines and purposes of the appeal of the seventeen-nation group, which called for negotiations as soon as possible without preconditions, was announced in the House of Commons on April 1 by the Secretary of State for External Affairs. In this connection, the Canadian Government welcomed the subsequent offer by the President of the United States to enter into unconditional discussions with other interested governments. It must be a source of deep anxiety to all that initial reactions in Hanoi appear to have been negative. The Canadian Government hopes that this negative response is of a preliminary nature only, and that on further reflection a more favourable decision will be reached; to this end the Canadian Government has expressed