

replacement had been found for Canada, we would consider sympathetically a request to return temporarily to the ICCS for this purpose, in the light of the circumstances then prevailing and our assessment of the chances for effective supervision.

The Peace Agreement itself anticipates the replacement of the named members of the ICCS - Canada, Hungary, Indonesia and Poland - or any of them. I have also said that we would be prepared to remain on the Commission until June 30 so that a replacement could be found. We have since learned that the discussions which took place recently between Dr. Kissinger and Mr. Le Duc Tho will be resumed in June. We want to give those discussions every chance of success and we would certainly wish to do nothing that would complicate them by introducing what might seem to be too short a deadline for agreeing on a replacement for Canada on the Commission.

In recognition of that possible difficulty, we are prepared if the Parties to the Agreement so wish, to stay for a period beyond June 30 but not later than July 31. Canada's decision to withdraw is firm and definite, but the additional flexibility should give the Parties adequate time to find a replacement for the Canadian Delegation. Should a successor be named and be ready to take its place before July 31, we would of course be prepared to hand over our responsibilities at any mutually convenient earlier time. We shall, of course, continue to function as we have been doing during the remaining period of our stay on the Commission.

In conclusion, I should like to pay tribute to Ambassador Gauvin, Major-General MacAlpine and all the members of the Canadian Delegation now in Viet-Nam and to their predecessors going back to 1954. Notwithstanding great frustration and serious risks they have carried high the flag of Canada; for some it has cost them their life. Those who now will be returning to Canada can have the satisfaction of knowing that they did all in their power to help in bringing peace to the war-weary people of Viet-Nam. It was our Delegation that carried the main burden of organizing the work of the Commission and whatever success the Commission has had can, in a large measure, be attributed to their professional competence, dedication and energy.