

for External Affairs expressed the hope that the effects of a cessation of hostilities in Viet-Nam would extend to Laos and Cambodia, even though the Agreement contained no precise arrangements for this, and he expressed disappointment that Asian involvement in the arrangements as a whole was so slight.

Recognizing that the Agreement was the result of an extremely difficult negotiation—"It is a wonder there was any agreement at all"—the Secretary of State for External Affairs said that his purpose was not to suggest that circumstances could have permitted a better arrangement. Rather, it was in an attempt to explain why Canada could not undertake an open-ended commitment that the magnitude of the task given Canada as a member of the ICCS and the sorts of problems that could be foreseen were being laid before the House of Commons and the Canadian people.

On February 7, the Secretary of State for External Affairs announced that Canada had recognized the Government of the Democratic Republic of Viet-Nam, a development which meant that Canada now accorded equal status to the governments of the two Viet-Nams which would facilitate the work of the Canadian Delegation to the ICCS.

INTERNATIONAL CONFERENCE

The International Conference on Viet-Nam met in Paris on February 26, and the Secretary of State for External Affairs led Canada's delegation. His main purpose was to obtain through the Conference some arrangement for a continuing political authority. Ideally, Canada wanted the Security Council of the United Nations to be responsible for receiving reports from the Commission or its members, and for determining what, if any, action should be taken. However, the preliminary soundings made by the Secretary of State for External Affairs indicated that there was no consensus at the Conference to support such a role for the Security Council. Moreover, a factor inhibiting what the Conference could accomplish was that it had been convened not to negotiate an Agreement but rather to acknowledge one already negotiated.

In his address to the opening session of the Conference the Secretary of State for External Affairs recognized that Canada's proposed solution to the reporting problem lacked general support. Since a substitute had to be found acceptable to the International Conference, however, he tabled a draft resolution calling upon the Secretary-General of the United Nations to receive and circulate reports from the ICCS to the participants in the International Conference and to circulate any comments made by them on such reports. The Canadian proposal also provided for the Conference to be