



CANADA

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CANADIANS WORK FOR PEACE AND PROGRESS

In an address in Montreal on April 8 to the Corporation of Professional Engineers of Quebec, Prime Minister Diefenbaker said that all Canadians were conscious of "the international dramas" unfolding about them. Few, he added, would contend that events in the Congo and in Laos were "not the business of Canada". Of the Congo crisis, the Prime Minister asked:

"...How was that conflict forestalled? It is my belief that had it not been for the United Nations, the explosive forces within the Congo might well have run unchecked. The problem of restoring public order and stability to the Congo is still trying the courage and the patience of all those associated in the United Nations operation. Fundamentally the servants of the United Nations, whether they are military troops or civilian technicians, are there to help the Congolese people to solve their problems themselves. This is a continuing task and for a considerable time to come there will be a need for United Nations assistance."

Mr. Diefenbaker reminded his audience that Canada had contributed emergency food supplies and medical aid, and had provided civilian technicians to the Congo. In addition, he said, there were in the Congo 300 non-combatant military personnel. All these Canadians, he went on, were exposed to "hardship and personal danger". Recent ugly incidents involving the maltreatment of Canadians serving under the United Nations command were "an inevitable part of the sacrifice which contributing nations

must make in the pursuit of peace." To those who argued that such risks should not be undertaken, Mr. Diefenbaker replied that "the dangers of these essential international endeavours are in no way comparable with those which would arise if a situation leading to war were allowed to develop".

The speaker continued as follows in part:

CANADA IN INDOCHINA

"...In 1954 Canada accepted responsibilities on three international commissions in Indochina and the task has been difficult, frustrating - even disheartening. We have persevered because of our conviction that security and stability in any part of the world serves the cause of peace everywhere.

"Today Laos, a small nation of two million people desiring only to live in peace and to develop its standard of living, is at the centre of a crisis with worldwide ramifications. That country has fallen prey to civilian dispute and military conflict. It is more than a tug of war between local contending factions. The situation is more dangerous because the support of outside powers has become engaged in a trial of strength and wisdom which is of concern to all of us.

"When agreement is arrived at on a renewed cease-fire and a fresh attempt to negotiate a permanent settlement, an essential part of that agreement may be the resumption of activity by the International Commission for Laos. If that should be the case, Canada will

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