

satisfactorily carried out, and I think the presence in that country at this time of an international commission has done a great deal to prevent a recurrence of open and possibly serious hostilities.

The third country in which we are involved is Cambodia. Perhaps the most important problem there is reintegrating into the national community the indigenous resistance forces, which again have received communist support. It is our hope that Canada, as a member of that commission, will be able to help pave the way to a prosperous and peaceful future in that country. It was reported a few days ago in the press that the king of Cambodia abdicated because of the unjustified interference of the commission in domestic concerns of that country, more particularly in his desire to have the people vote on a new constitution. There is no ground for that charge nor has there been any unwarranted interference of any kind by the commission in the domestic affairs of that country. Some intervention has been necessary under the terms of the armistice. The commission has not gone beyond those terms.

Before going on to other matters I should like to pay tribute and I know the House will agree with me in this, to the very fine and unselfish work which is being done by our people in Indochina, not only by the chief commissioner, a very distinguished Canadian who has served his country well both in peace and war, Mr. Sherwood Lett, and the other Canadian commissioners who are members of the External Affairs Department, but by all the members of our armed services and our foreign service, numbering now something over 160, who are in these three countries. Many of them have to work and live under conditions of discomfort, hardship and even danger. They are, however, carrying out their difficult assignments with resourcefulness, with devotion, with patience and skill. Theirs is an important contribution to the maintenance of peace in Indochina, and they are making a fine impression wherever they work as representatives of Canada.

I should like particularly to pay my deep respect to the memory of Mr. Jack Thurrott, one of our department's foreign service officers, who had his promising career cut short in Indochina when he met with a tragic accident while serving as political adviser to the Canadian commissioner in Laos.

To the question as to how long Canadians are committed to serve with these commissions in these far-off countries, the very names of which were unfamiliar to most of our people only a short time ago, there is no simple answer. The agreements themselves are not specific on the point. We intend to keep our representatives there as long, but only as long, as they can make a useful contribution to the implementation of the armistice agreement reached at Geneva, and therefore to peace in that part of the world.

The second sector of the three I have mentioned is Korea. The last time I reported to the House on Korea was on June 11 last. I said then, referring to the Geneva Conference which was then meeting, that if some satisfactory answers were not soon forthcoming from the communist side of that conference on the matter of free