

In its special report of June 2, 1962, the International Commission drew attention to violations of the Agreement by North Vietnam in supporting, organizing and carrying out hostile activities against the armed forces and administration of South Vietnam and in allowing its territory to be used for inciting, encouraging and supporting hostile activities in South Vietnam aimed at the overthrow of the South Vietnamese administration. This same report also drew attention to the fact that South Vietnam had requested and been given military aid by the United States in quantities which were greater than those permitted by the Geneva Agreement and that a de facto but not a formal military alliance had been concluded by the two countries. In this latter connection, the report noted the South Vietnamese Government's explanation that these measures of military assistance were necessitated by the aggressive policies being conducted by North Vietnam, that they were undertaken in the exercise of the right of self-defence reserved to all states and, finally, that they could end as soon as the North Vietnamese authorities had ceased their acts of aggression against South Vietnam.

Again, in February of 1965, the International Commission presented another special report to which the Canadian delegation appended by way of supplement a minority statement which it considered essential to convey a balanced account of the situation in Vietnam. The Canadian statement, when read in the context of the February report as a whole, indicated that the situation in Vietnam, as the evidence before the International Commission shows, continues to be marked, on an increasing scale, by hostile Northern intervention in South Vietnam, in response to which South Vietnam and its allies have felt compelled to take retaliatory action.

These basic elements in the situation must be taken into account and brought into sharp focus if the problem of indirect aggression as manifested in South Vietnam under the guise of support for a so-called "war of liberation" is to be clearly understood and dealt with.

The Canadian Government believes that aggression, direct or indirect, cannot be tolerated. It must not only be outlawed by the international community but checked and shown to be unprofitable. At the same time, the Canadian Government recognizes that the continuation of hostilities involves a risk of further escalation and wider involvement.

For this reason, the Canadian Government has repeatedly appealed for the exercise of restraint in the present circumstances of mounting tension and danger. These appeals have been directed to all concerned, and the Canadian Government hopes that all other powers with a special interest in the situation and with special relations with any of the parties directly involved in the conflict will attempt to exert such influence as they may be able to exert 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