

Mr. CHURCHILL: Unless you can give us a clear indication of the foreign policy of this country, we cannot settle the other problem of national defence. That is what I was interested in.

Mr. MARTIN (*Essex East*): I am satisfied, with the mood that you are in these days, that no amount of serious discussion would be allowed to penetrate.

Mr. CHURCHILL: I have a supplementary question for the Minister. In answering Mr. Pelletier earlier, the Minister threw out the idea that if an invitation were received by the Canadian government from the government of North Vietnam for non-military aid, it would receive consideration.

Mr. MARTIN (*Essex East*): That is right.

Mr. CHURCHILL: This, in effect, is an invitation to North Vietnam to make representations to this government. Now, what position are we going to be put in?

Mr. MARTIN (*Essex East*): That may be your view. I would ask you to look at the full context of the situation.

We are on the International Commission. As a result we have had 13 years of experience in continuous contact with the government of the North and the South. We are engaged in an assignment that should be as impartial and as objective as we can make it. We are also engaged, as a result, in trying to bring about some settlement of the war. It seems to me that it is only logical in response to questions such as that put by Mr. Pelletier that I would say that we would give consideration to a request for medical assistance to the civilian population of that area.

Mr. CHURCHILL: I have finished my questions; I will let somebody else attempt to nail jelly to the wall, Mr. Chairman.

Mr. MARTIN (*Essex East*): Does that mean that you have not succeeded?

The CHAIRMAN: Mr. Harkness.

Mr. HARKNESS: This four point program which you have put before the Committee as your suggestion for settling the difficulties in Vietnam, I take it to be an indirect means of bringing this to the attention of the people involved, the members of the United Nations, and so on. I wondered why you did it in this indirect way rather than putting this proposition directly to the people involved.

Mr. MARTIN (*Essex East*): From time to time, Mr. Harkness, and over a considerable period now, the provisions of the Geneva Agreement have been discussed by members of the Commission, and they have been discussed with other governments. We had a special reason for doing it in this way at this time.

Mr. HARKNESS: What was this reason?

Mr. MARTIN (*Essex East*): I would be glad to discuss this, but I cannot in an open session.

Mr. HARKNESS: I would have thought that it was actually likely to be more effective if it were put forward directly to the people involved, and put forward directly in the United Nations, rather than by this indirect method.