

be deplored as well. Moreover, the Government had not lost sight of North Viet-Nam's continued military intervention in the affairs of South Viet-Nam, and in particular the almost routine attacks against civilians.

Turning to the question of Canadian membership in a new international supervisory body, the Secretary of State for External Affairs noted indications that Canada was acceptable to all Parties. He spelled out in more detail than ever before the conditions under which Canada would consider sympathetically an invitation to participate in a commission through which it could effectively contribute to a cessation of hostilities and help the United States end its involvement in Viet-Nam. Indeed, if all these conditions were met, except the one relating to the establishment of a continuing political authority which would be responsible for the settlement as a whole and accessible to the commission or any of its members, Canada would be prepared to consider serving on the commission for a minimum of 60 days. (Although the Government preferred that the agreement itself should provide for such an authority, it considered the international conference, expected to convene 30 days after the cease-fire, could do so.) During the first 60 days the results of the international conference would be known. If no continuing political authority was created, Canada would reserve the right to withdraw at any time.

The Secretary of State for External Affairs also pointed out, in the light of Canadian experience, the dangers of Canada's being frustrated as a member of the new international commission through the possible application of the rule of unanimity. This risk could be minimized by regarding the commission as an international forum with proceedings normally open to the public. Consequently, barring a unanimous decision of all members to the contrary in a particular instance, the Government would consider the Canadian delegation free to publicize proceedings as it saw fit.

## PARIS AGREEMENT

On January 23, the President of the USA announced the conclusion of an Agreement on a cease-fire in Viet-Nam. In welcoming this development the next day, the Secretary of State for External Affairs informed the House of Commons that the Government had not yet had time to study the complicated documents embodying the Agreement between the United States and the Democratic Republic of Viet-Nam. However, a preliminary study suggested that the conditions and considerations he had outlined to the House of Commons on November 2 and which Canada had conveyed to the Parties had contributed in some degree to the terms of reference agreed upon for a new supervisory commission. All four Parties—the United States, the Republic of Viet-Nam (RVN), the Democratic Republic of Viet-Nam (DRVN), and the "Provisional Revolutionary Government (PRG) of the Republic of South Viet-Nam" were to sign the Agreement on January 27,