

point of view and certainly not as serving any direct national policy of its own, but as a representative of the International Community and invited by all the parties concerned to act as such. We therefore feel that we have an obligation not only to the parties to the agreement and indeed to this conference if it should decide to maintain an active interest in this agreement, but to the International Community as a whole.

We would obviously prefer to see all peace supervisory operations conducted under the auspices of the United Nations in accordance with the charter. The fact that this has not been possible in the case of Indo-China reinforces, in our view, the obligation of the International Commission of Control and Supervision to act as if it were representing the world community. If this were not so it would be merely a quadripartite group with no claim to the description "international" in its title. Canada would have preferred greater Asian participation not only in the International Commission but also in this International Conference which is to discuss matters of vital concern to the future peace and stability of the Asian region. It is in the attempt to engage the International Community to the greatest extent possible that we have adopted the policy of giving full information on our International Commission of Control and Supervision participation. Apart from details of negotiations while they are still under way, we feel that the International Community has a right to know what is being done in its name in Viet-Nam. For our part we propose to report regularly and publicly on this at least until other more satisfactory means are found for transmitting information and points of view to all concerned in the International Community.

As I have already mentioned, our primary concern is to do what we can to make Canadian participation in the International Commission of Control and Supervision effective. We wish to continue to serve and we ask this conference to make it possible for us to do so. In this connection we have come here to seek your support in establishing an independent mechanism more representative of the International Community than the existing mechanism, through which the International Commission of Control and Supervision or any of its members could report and which would provide for some possibility of appropriate reaction to such reports.

But we also have another concern. I have no authority to speak for other member countries of the International Commission of Control and Supervision but my government, as the government of a responsible country, could not accept the onus of passing to the former belligerents in Indo-China reports that could conceivably result in a re-escalation of the war in Indo-China. At the same time, we are not prepared to suppress information once we are satisfied that it is soundly based. For this reason Canada has consistently stated a fundamental condition to its participation: that it would serve on the International Commission in Viet-Nam only if among other things this conference produced some more broadly-based international authority which would accept the responsibility for evaluating and, if necessary, acting upon reports from the International Commission, or its members, dealing with the manner in which the agreement was being carried out. Ideally, as I have said