

in Indochina. Indochina is no longer a fact although at one time it did represent a geographical entity. Now there is no Indochina but North and South Vietnam, a nation in its undivided quality representing 20 millions of people; Cambodia, representing 3 million people; and Laos, a small nation representing 1½ million people. In each of these there is now a rivalry of varying dimensions for supremacy between competing interests.

The House will recall that the International Supervisory Commissions came into being not as a result of the action of the United Nations but of the accord arrived at in Geneva in 1954 by the great powers. Canada is represented on the three International Supervisory Commissions that exist in these countries. The chairman is a national of India and the third member is from Poland. If one wanted an example of the effectiveness of a United Nations paramilitary force in action to meet a specific ad hoc purpose one finds it in the three International Supervisory Commissions. Those three commissions have kept the peace in an area of the world that threatened us all, the House will recall, some two and one-half years ago. When those commissions will be able to finish their work I cannot say. Many Canadians are serving on these three commissions. I would like to pay a tribute, on the occasion of my return to the House, to the work of our fellow citizens who during the past two years, under the most trying of circumstances have upheld the dignity and the honour of this nation.

It is difficult, I know, to translate one's feelings about a matter such as this, and I am not doing it to the extent that I possibly could if I were less fatigued and better prepared; but I would like the House to appreciate for one moment the significance of an international supervisory body that has its scene of operations away up in the mountains of Laos, in a primitive part of the country, where the march of civilization seemingly has made but little impress, and where the troops of the Royal Government occupy strategic hills in their several thousands, and not far away are the forces of the Pathet Lao group, forces that have received assistance from the so-called Chinese People's Republic and from the Soviet Union, both holding fixed positions, positions that represent the situation on the date of cease-fire but who, thanks to the stabilizing influence of the International Supervisory Commission, are not at war but at peace with one another.

We shall hear more of these three countries in the course of the ensuing period. They may not be the most powerful countries in the world but they do occupy geographic areas of strategic interest, not only geographically but in terms of the acceptance or the rejection of political forces that are basic, Mr. Speaker, in the troubled world which confronts all of us. No one man represents Asia. When he was in Washington Mr. Nehru is reported to have said that he did not seek to be the single spokesman for Asia. I can well understand now what he meant and why he made that statement; but he hoped to provide a bridge between one important section of the Western world and Asia. I believe that Mr. Nehru is the bridge between that section of the world and those sections of the West who respect his judgment and who understand the basic purposes of his policies. It would be easy and popular to join in decrying some of his actions but I shall not do that because I believe more strongly than ever before that in the interests of world peace if we are going to have a proper acceptance on the part of Asia of our good intentions we for our part must recognize the dominating motives of the present great Prime Minister of India.