

Any objective evaluation of the work of the International Commissions in the three countries would show that, within the limits imposed upon them by the terms of the 1954 settlement, the Commissions accomplished a number of useful results, despite the obstructive efforts of the Government of North Vietnam.

The Vietnam Commission, of course, has had the most difficult time. There is, after all, something incongruous about a peace-keeping agency working in the midst of large-scale hostilities. We must remember, however, that the Commission was designed primarily to supervise the 1954 cease-fire agreement between the French Forces and the so-called People's Army of Vietnam. On the whole, it performed effectively most of its functions relating to the military clauses of this agreement. It was, however, not able to prevent the military build-up of North Vietnam, nor was it able to ensure that the inhabitants of the two zones were guaranteed democratic freedoms.

When a savage war broke out between the two Vietnams, the whole problem entered an even more difficult stage. What had been a Vietnamese war against a colonial power became a Communist attack against a Vietnamese state.

In this tragic conflict, the U.S. intervened to help South Vietnam defend itself against aggression and at the request of the government of the country that was under attack.

Its motives were honourable; neither mean nor imperialistic. Its sacrifices have been great and they were not made to advance any selfish American interest.

The Government and the great majority of the people of Canada have supported whole-heartedly U.S. peace keeping and peace making policies in Vietnam. We wish to be able to continue that support.

The International Commission had not been created to deal with the war situation that developed. It was in Vietnam to supervise a cease-fire which the two parties involved were charged to observe; not to maintain a peace, where one party - the Communist North Vietnamese regime - had no intention of living peacefully with its neighbour.

A handful of unarmed personnel belong to a Commission which was often paralyzed by the differences arising from its membership structure, obviously