

from time to time for ending the war were not the most realistic way of moving toward a settlement, quite apart from the view one might hold as to the merits of the case. I refer, of course, to the proposal for a unilateral decision to stop the bombing of North Vietnam unconditionally and for good, without any indication as to what the other side might do in return, to start toward de-escalation of the conflict or toward negotiations.

"It was suggested that Canada might exert its influence, raise its voice, in order to bring about an end to the bombing. I pointed out that there was an obligation not only on Canada but on all countries to do all they could with those countries with which they have special relations, in an attempt to bring about at least a preliminary basis for negotiation.

"I put forward in considerable detail to the Polish and Soviet leaders Canadian views on the possible future role of the Vietnam Commission, and certain suggestions as to steps which might be taken to lead us away from a military and toward a political settlement.

"Our views were listened to most carefully. I am sure that they will be studied attentively in Warsaw and Moscow, just as we will seriously study the positions they took, and I hope that this in itself will be a modest contribution towards a solution. I cannot say that I detected the prospect of any immediate change in the views of these two Communist powers whose interests are so deeply engaged in the Vietnam question, but I am convinced that they are desirous of reaching a peaceful settlement, amongst other reasons for the beneficial effect this will have on East-West relations in general. Thus, despite very substantial differences between us, there seems to be some identity of view as to the desire to see the conflict brought to an end.

"Our discussions were more detailed in respect of Vietnam than any other subject. I outlined the Canadian Government's objectives for the Commission and our other efforts to secure peace. I listened to the reactions, particularly of the Government of Poland, to the Canadian views regarding the role of this Commission.

"This was my first visit to Poland and to the Soviet Union. Even after this brief visit, I think the forces which help to shape the policies of their Governments are more clearly discernible. I saw the reconstruction of the historic city of Warsaw, so hideously scarred by war. I saw ancient Krakow and the horror that was Auschwitz, now silent witness to the massacre of how many millions of Jewish people.

"I saw Moscow, the vibrant capital of one of the most powerful countries on earth. I saw Leningrad, that creation of Peter the Great, which lost almost a million of its inhabitants in 900 days of wartime siege. And had it not been for bad weather I would have seen Kiev, the historic capital of the Ukraine.

"As I visited all these places and talked with their people, I further confirmed my assessment of what is taking place in Eastern Europe — and there is certainly change afoot. My thoughts also turned instinctively to the