

I have not yet had an adequate opportunity to study the text of the Belgrade appeal in as much detail as I would like, but on the basis of a first reading I think there is much in it that we can support. In expressing grave concern over the aggravation of existing tensions, in reaffirming a belief in the inviolability of and respect for the sovereignty and territorial integrity of states, and in advocating a peaceful solution through negotiations, the appeal seems firmly rooted in principles which are cornerstones of Canadian foreign policy.

Moreover, I believe the appeal has been formulated in such a way as to avoid dangerous oversimplifications of the complex factors contributing to the tension in Vietnam. It would appear to me that ideas such as the unacceptability of the use of force and the dangers of outside intervention, including military intervention, are intended to have a general applicability to all those directly involved in this conflict. Only if there is widespread recognition of the fact that these ideas in particular, and the appeal in general, are directed with equal persuasive intent to all parties to this dispute can there be any prospect of this initiative bearing the fruits of success which we hope it may have.

#### Seventeen-Nation Appeal

On April 1, the Secretary of State for External Affairs received the text of an appeal signed by the heads of state or government of 17 nations. Representatives of a group of these nations had met shortly before in Belgrade to consider the situation in Vietnam and had there adopted the appeal, which was also presented to the U.S.A., the U.S.S.R., Britain, France, Communist China, North Vietnam, South Vietnam, Poland, the Vietnam Liberation Front (Viet Cong), and the Secretary-General of the United Nations.

The appeal, which was presented to Mr. Martin by the Yugoslav Ambassador and the Chargé d'Affaires a.i. of the United Arab Republic, reads as follows:

Pursuant to the final declaration of the Conference of Heads of State or Government of non-aligned countries held in Cairo in October 1964.

We the undersigned heads of state or government, have noted with great concern the aggravation of existing tensions and conflicts in Southeast Asia and in certain regions of Africa, the Middle East and Latin America, arising from oppression and foreign intervention, and regret the present deadlock in the United Nations which prevents it from exercising fully its responsibility in maintaining and safeguarding peace.

We solemnly reaffirm the right of peoples to self-determination and the principle that all states shall refrain in their international relations from the threat or use of force.