

being given to increased military and material assistance to the GRVN, and of the imminence of final decisions in this connection.

2. Although the numbers of men and the scale of equipment to be provided has not repeat yet been settled, it seems certain that the levels contemplated under the Cease-Fire Agreement will be exceeded. It is our understanding that under present plans no repeat no USA combat forces are to be introduced into Vietnam, although this decision will be kept under review. No repeat no attempt will be made to disguise the extent and kind of the increase in USA assistance to South Vietnam.

3. USA programme is now likely to go forward quickly. There has already been a good deal of newspaper comment including references to the ICSC involvement. It is therefore important in my judgment that the USA should be fully informed of the Canadian attitude to these developments (which have now, as you know, been "in the works" for many weeks). It is particularly important that our position be made clear, since (as I reported by telegram to Under Secretary yesterday)† I have reason to believe that USA have the impression that both we and the Indians are disposed to be helpful in the new circumstances and that in the ICSC neither we nor the Indians would raise, but leave to others to do so, the question of the consistency or otherwise of the USA action with the 1954 Geneva settlements.

4. For these reasons I would strongly recommend that I be instructed to see the State Department as soon as possible to inform them of the position the government would expect Canadian representatives to take.

[A.D.P.] HEENEY

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*L'ambassadeur aux États-Unis
au secrétaire d'État aux Affaires extérieures*

*Ambassador in United States
to Secretary of State for External Affairs*

TELEGRAM 3528

Washington, November 17, 1961

SECRET. CANADIAN EYES ONLY. OPIMMEDIATE.

Reference: My Tel 3514 Nov 17.

Repeat for Information: London, NATO Paris, Paris, Laosdel Geneva (Priority), Delhi, Saigon (Priority) from Ottawa, CCOS Ottawa, CGS, DGPO, DND Ottawa from Ottawa.

By Bag Moscow, Phnom Penh, Vientiane, Warsaw, Hanoi from London.

SOUTH VIETNAM – USA MEASURES

The Assistant Secretary of State for Far East Affairs (McConaughy) asked me to come in at 3:45pm [today] to tell me of proposed USA action pursuant to the Taylor mission's report. He said that USA allies in SEATO were being so informed and that Canada not repeat not only as a member of the International Commission in Vietnam but also as a close ally and friend was being informed concurrently. His chief purpose was to let us know that, subject to a request from the GRVN and certain undertakings by them (both of which were expected to be forthcoming), it was USA intention to expand the scale of USA assistance. He was emphatic that what was now involved was a change in the scale of assistance not repeat not a change in its nature; there was no repeat no present intention of introducing USA combat troops into Vietnam. USA action was not repeat not intended to be provocative and it was hoped that there would be no repeat no outright retaliation on the part of the DRVN and its allies. The measures contemplated would however involve the presence of uniformed USA personnel in non combat