

these questions with the North Vietnamese authorities and our Ambassador in Washington has been in close touch with the United States authorities. On November 20 I discussed these matters with Secretary of State Rogers in New York who explained that many of the questions on which I sought clarification could not be answered since the negotiations were still in progress. I am satisfied that the United States fully understands our position.

The cease-fire negotiations have not been concluded and therefore it still is not possible to know what terms of reference, operating conditions, size, responsibilities, financing and facilities, the new commission would have. These negotiations, which all the world hopes will result in a lasting peace in Viet-Nam, are being resumed in Paris and, depending on their progress, it may be possible to get a better understanding of what Canada is being asked to do.

When more details become known the Government will give the matter the most careful and understanding consideration to determine what further role Canada could usefully play. The Government has made clear both publicly and privately that it will wish to have assurances that the commission will be effective; that all four parties concerned will be bound by the agreement; that all four will invite Canada to participate; that there will be a continuing political authority to receive reports from the commission members; that the commission will have the necessary freedom of movement; and that there will be arrangements for a member's withdrawal from the commission.