

VIETNAM

The situation in Vietnam which I should now like to discuss has not arisen from any lack of clear international directives for achieving stability. If the ceasefire provisions agreed to in 1954 had been fully observed, the tragedy and danger we now face in that part of world would not have occurred. But they were not observed. One of the basic provisions of the agreement was non-interference and it has been progressively disregarded. The ensuing instability and the measures introduced to correct it have not resulted in any new and more satisfactory balance; instead, the situation has spiralled upwards imposing untold suffering on Vietnamese people and creating an increasing threat of the peace of the region and of the world.

There are obvious reasons why, up to now, the Security Council has been able to act over Kashmir but has been powerless to intervene usefully in Vietnam. Speaking for Canadians I can say that it is a matter of deep concern that the United Nations has been prevented from effective action in the crisis in Vietnam. This is a test for the United Nations General Assembly. We cannot abdicate this responsibility in this grave situation. It is the duty of this Assembly to express clearly and forcefully the collective conviction of the United Nations that the war in Vietnam must be brought to a negotiated settlement.

There can be no doubt of the right of the people