

for the performance of important and substantial tasks of keeping the peace and consolidating the Cease-Fire.

"Indeed, our departure from Cambodia at this time, when we are no longer required here, is important, among other reasons, in order to maintain and enhance the prestige and reputation of international bodies in general: for the real power and effectiveness of such bodies must always lie above all in their moral weight. It is primarily the prestige and self-respect of international bodies which create the weight they must be able to wield if they are to perform effectively the tasks assigned to them.

"To keep this Commission in being now that there is no longer a real job to be done, and when reliance can be placed on other more normal means of ensuring stability and peace in Cambodia, is inevitably to whittle away at the prestige of all three Indo-China Commissions, and of international truce commissions in general. An international body with no real functions to perform can easily and rapidly become a laughing-stock, and slip almost imperceptibly into a position where its word is ignored and its advice disregarded. It would be a pity to see this happen to this Commission, which has always met with success.

"We must not underestimate the force, or the danger, of inertia. We could, I suppose, hang on indefinitely, slowly degenerating, in point, morale, and self-respect, if we do not take the initiative, and exert the moral and political energy, to wind-up. Inertia is no contribution to the international community, Mr. Chairman. It is all too easy to slide lazily into futility. We should not, I repeat, wish to remain in Cambodia for an indefinite period of time when nothing more remains to be done.

"A consideration which should be prominent in our minds is that Cambodia, as a sovereign and independent State, must not be saddled unnecessarily with a body whose functions are to supervise and control its actions. It is inevitable that the presence of the Commission involves a check on Cambodia's exercise of her sovereignty. That was for a period necessary, as part of the Cease-Fire Settlement; and it was accepted voluntarily and with good grace. But it should not go on when it is no longer needed. The International Commission was, for a time, necessary to give confidence and to dissipate the distrust which the years of fighting had made so sharp. But today the confidence exists: no one, I think, today distrusts Cambodia's policies or intentions.

"The departure from Cambodia of the International Commission for Supervision and Control will be one more step in this country's march toward untrammelled independence and sovereignty. It will be a step which all Cambodia's friends should, and I believe will, welcome.

"As far as our specific tasks are concerned, they were largely concluded by September 1955, with the successful holding of a general election; and the few remaining tasks were defined by the Commission's memorandum of September 1955 on reduction of our activities. The Commission then enumerated three items which it considered still remained within its competence. These three items were: the checking of the entry of war material; the question of military alliances and foreign bases; and finally, possible cases concerning the re-integration of former Khmer Resistants.