

obvious that any physical disengagement is going to have to come under direct control or supervision of the International Control Commission.

You also said that you see no immediate prospect of any agreements that would bring them to the conference table. Should there be, in the near future, the prospect of a conference table which, in my opinion and that of many, is closer than we probably think at this time, is the International Control Commission in any position at all, in view of the personnel that are there, to move in and take over this responsibility?

Mr. MARTIN (*Essex East*): So far as the demilitarized zone is concerned, I think a respectable operation could be undertaken. In respect of the other phases of the proposals that are embedded in the Geneva Agreement, I think there would have to be an expanded Commission.

In respect of the proposal made by U Thant on March 14—this is a point that has engaged the government of the United States—I think too that the same consideration might apply.

Mr. THOMPSON: Are we prepared to move in even the initial number of troops necessary even to control the demilitarized zones, not having in mind the coastal waters of South Vietnam, which obviously would have to be put under some kind of control as well?

Mr. MARTIN (*Essex East*): If a request were made by the parties concerned to Canada as a member of the Commission, I would certainly be prepared to recommend Canadian assistance in that regard. I should say that the framework for this kind of operation is present. This is one reason for keeping the Commission operative on a standing basis.

Mr. THOMPSON: Is any consideration being given or has any been given, to the construction of an actual physical barrier? I am speaking of something like that which exists in Korea, so far as a demilitarized zone is concerned.

Mr. MARTIN (*Essex East*): In the case of Korea, there is a considerable United States operation there.

Mr. THOMPSON: I am not speaking of forces; I am speaking of a physical control area through which neither side can pass.

Mr. MARTIN (*Essex East*): Well, that is the principle involved in the demilitarized zone itself.

Mr. THOMPSON: But is consideration being given to such a prospect if this first step could be agreed on?

Mr. MARTIN (*Essex East*): Yes, because if you notice, in my statement yesterday, I said that this could be accomplished by restoring the character of the demilitarized zone itself; namely, the withdrawal of troops by both sides.

Mr. THOMPSON: In view of the importance of Thailand's position, how soon do you expect to establish a direct diplomatic mission in Thailand?

Mr. MARTIN (*Essex East*): We have decided, as of yesterday, to do that. We will be establishing a diplomatic mission in Thailand.

Mr. THOMPSON: In the immediate future?

Mr. MARTIN (*Essex East*): Yes.