

Supply—External Affairs

the case of Canada, the use of the access that is available to us, as a member of the commission, to the capitals of both countries, in addition to the efforts we have made by the sending of a special emissary to Hanoi on two occasions in the person of Mr. Chester Ronning.

But while the United Nations Security Council has not been seized of this matter, for the reasons that I have given, reasons supported strongly by the Secretary General, this does not mean that the matter has not been discussed in the United Nations. Indeed, at the last General Assembly the United States ambassador, Mr. Goldberg, himself initiated a discussion of the problem and there was a very wide discussion in the General Assembly debate on the question of Viet Nam. It was during that debate that Canada, Denmark, and Sweden called upon the United States to stop the bombing as a first act that might lead to some action on the part of the North which in turn might lead to preliminary discussions.

So this conflict, the seriousness of which is in the minds of everyone, continues to be our concern and we continue to do everything that we can to try to bring about some flexibility in the position of both sides, in the hope that we might in some way or another bring the parties together.

I am sure that it is the duty of all governments in the world to continue this process. We have not only used the United Nations, but we took advantage of ministerial discussions at NATO last fall, at Brussels, and in the previous spring in Luxembourg, to have an airing of this problem. The Canadian government will continue to use all its influence and every available opportunity that is presented to it to try to bring about a solution of this problem. It is only fair to point out that all of this is being done—

Mr. MacDonald (Prince): Mr. Chairman, would the minister accept a question?

Mr. Martin (Essex East): Just a minute. As I was saying, Mr. Chairman, it is only fair to point out that all of this is being done at the suggestion of the President of the United States himself, who said in April of 1965, following the appeal made by the 17 unaligned nations, that he welcomed the effort of countries to try to bring about a narrowing of the gap and to try to bring about a discussion that could lead to a settlement of this matter.

I know of nothing more that the Canadian government could do in its efforts to try to help bring about a solution to this regrettable war, which has great significance not only for the United States, not only for its neighbour Canada, but which has an apparent bearing on the posture and the mood of the whole world.

Mr. MacDonald (Prince): Mr. Chairman, I wonder whether the minister would accept a double-headed question. First of all I refer to the minister's previous references to the International Control Commission, which he referred to a number of times again this evening. It has been some time now since this commission has been able to issue a report. I wonder whether the minister thinks it would be not only possible but advisable, in view of this situation, that if the whole commission is unable to agree on some report, our representatives on the commission were to issue some form of report indicating the situation as it actually obtains at present, and some of the possibilities that might be applied, further to those which have already been applied by our government in regard to the cessation of bombing.

My second question, if I may tie it in with that, is as follows: In view of the fact that there is likely to be a very thorough re-examination of the basic policy of the United States in Viet Nam, I wonder whether our minister or members of this government have entered into discussions with representatives of the United States government with regard to the long term interests of the United States in Viet Nam in particular, and in southeast Asia in general, and whether or not we have stated our position on this important question.

• (8:30 p.m.)

Mr. Martin (Essex East): Yes, we have stated our own position. I think my hon. friend mentioned this when he spoke on this subject in the house last year, and he will recall that a few months before I had outlined the Canadian position with regard to the post-settlement period. We have discussed this with the United States and, as my hon. friend knows, the President announced in his Baltimore speech the position which the government of the United States would take with regard to the rehabilitation and reconstruction of southeast Asia, including Viet Nam.

With regard to the question of a report, there would be no objection, so far as Canada's position on that commission is concerned,