



The food services officer buys provisions at the Leopoldville vegetable market for the 300-man Canadian force that served in the Congo.

Less than a month later the picture already gave cause for concern. Mr Sharp stated at the Paris International Conference on Viet-Nam that the ceasefire had not been effective throughout South Viet-Nam and that the four-party joint military commission responsible for policing the truce had not operated effectively. These factors had seriously impaired the effectiveness of the ICCS.

Despite Mr Sharp's efforts, the conference failed to set up the "continuing political authority" that Canada deemed necessary for the success of the Viet-Nam peacekeeping operation. A Canadian representative in vain drew pointed attention to Canada's position that the creation of such an authority was the indispensable condition of conti-

nued Canadian participation in the ICCS after 29 March—the last day of the 60 days of Canada's commitment. Nevertheless, Canada signed the conference Act as a gesture of goodwill and cooperation.

In the meantime some Canadians had already retired from Viet-Nam, discouraged. A Canadian Red Cross team which had been informally invited to help supervise the living conditions of military prisoners held by both sides flew home after spending several weeks in Saigon awaiting proper clearance.

The old International Commission for Supervision and Control had been hamstrung by a unanimity rule and by the practice of conducting its deliberations in secret. While the unanimity rule continued to govern the investiga-

tion of alleged ceasefire violations, Canada had made sure this time that the world would know details of the Commission's operating difficulties. In a series of statements, Ambassador Michel Gauvin exposed the day-to-day doings of the Commission to the press. When the representatives of the Republic of Viet-Nam on the Joint Military Commission complained that the communists had introduced SAM-2 rockets into the Khe Sanh area Mr Gauvin had to report that "two delegations" had opposed investigation of this particularly serious allegation.

AS THE term of Canada's 60-day period of commitment approached the Canadian government was confronted with a difficult decision. Hostilities had resumed