

cease-fire agreements for the three states of Indochina, where war had been waged for some eight years. The discussions resulted in three agreements on the cessation of hostilities in Vietnam, Laos, and Cambodia respectively, signed on July 21 by representatives of the two opposing sides in each case. On the same day the last plenary session of the Geneva Conference adopted a final declaration formally taking note of the agreements.

Each of the agreements contained a provision establishing a separate international commission with responsibility for the control and supervision of the application of the provisions of the agreement. The parties directly concerned were of course in each case made responsible for the execution of the agreement. Representatives of Canada, India, and Poland were to compose each of the commissions, with the Indian representative acting as chairman in each case. The Canadian Government accepted the invitation to appoint members on these international bodies in the belief that, by assisting in establishing security and stability in Southeast Asia, it would be serving the interests of Canada. Acceptance of membership on these commissions did not mean that Canada was called upon to guarantee or enforce the Indochina cease-fire or undertake any new military or collective security commitments.

Canadian representatives were duly appointed to each of the commissions and a number of political advisers, most of whom were from the Department of External Affairs, were sent to Hanoi, Vientiane, and Phnom Penh to assist the representatives in their work. A much larger number of service officers and men were sent from Canada to serve as military advisers and as members of the various mobile and fixed teams which were to be established in accordance with the provisions of the agreements.

The Vietnam agreement provided for the removal of French and Vietnamese troops from that part of Vietnam north of the 17th parallel, and the removal of Viet Minh troops from South Vietnam. The agreement also contained provisions for the transfer of civil authority, release of prisoners and civilian internees, and restrictions on the introduction into the country of fresh military personnel, and of all kinds of arms, munitions, and war materials.

The agreement for Cambodia set forth the procedure for the withdrawal of foreign armed forces and "foreign military personnel" from the territory of Cambodia. It also contained provisions for the demobilization of the Khmer resistance forces and for their reintegration into the national community, as well as a ban on the introduction of fresh troops, military personnel, armaments, and munitions. The main responsibilities given to the commission were to control the withdrawal of foreign forces, to see that the frontiers were respected, to control the release of prisoners of war and civilian internees, and to supervise the application of a declaration by the Cambodian Government which stated that foreign aid in war material, personnel, or instructors would not be solicited "except for the purpose of the effective defence of the territory". The responsibilities of the commission in Laos were somewhat similar.

Some of the main provisions of each agreement have already been carried out by the parties, whereas others remain to be fulfilled. Some of the provisions have definite time-limits laid down for their execution; others are of a more continuing nature.