

the general to the particular, we have also stipulated that all the present belligerent parties, the United States, the Republic of Vietnam, North Vietnam and the Viet Cong, should be bound by the agreement the implementation of which the new commission would observe and report upon. In this same category, we have required that there should be a "continuing political authority" that would assume responsibility for the settlement as a whole and to which the commission, or any of its members, would have access through reports or consultations. We should prefer it if such an authority could be provided for in the original agreements but, failing that, we consider that it could be established by the international conference which, as we understand it, will be convened 30 days after the cease-fire.

We have also insisted that the proposed new commission should have the freedom of movement and observation within the demilitarized zone and in South Vietnam necessary to achieve a proper exercise of its functions. Moreover, we have required that Canada should be invited to be a member of the new commission by all of the parties concerned.

In addition to these specific and essential considerations we have, from our broad experience in Vietnam, put forward a number of other suggestions and requests. The extent to which they were met would also constitute elements in our assessment of the viability of the operation as a whole. As an additional condition, we have stated that, if all the essential criteria I have already mentioned were satisfied except that which relates to the existence of a "continuing political authority", we should be prepared to consider serving on the commission for a minimum of 60 days, during which we should assess the outcome of the international conference with particular reference to the establishment of a "continuing political authority". If no such authority were created or if, once created, it ceased to exist, Canada would have to reserve the right to withdraw at any time, even after the initial two-month period. In any event, the Government could not accept a commitment beyond two years, although some other formula for opting out on shorter notice might be acceptable.

We have also said that we assumed that the necessary logistic support for the new commission would be available from the outset to make its operation substantive and effective or even possible.

The Government has also urged that unrealistic demands should not be placed upon the new commission in the initial stages particularly, and that no unrealistic expectations should be vested in it. For example, the commission should not be expected to begin functioning in any part of Vietnam before a cease-fire has been established locally by the belligerents themselves.

In respect of the international conference, it has been our view that it should be free to establish its own relation with the commission or indeed with other provisions of the agreement or its protocols. The Government has also taken the view that participants in the new commission should pay the salary and allowances for their own personnel but should not otherwise be expected to contribute to the general overhead and