



STATEMENTS AND SPEECHES

INFORMATION DIVISION

DEPARTMENT OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS

OTTAWA - CANADA

No. 65/14

VIETNAM--CANADIAN REPLY TO BRITISH CO-CHAIRMAN'S MESSAGE

On April 30, 1965, the Secretary of State for External Affairs, the Honourable Paul Martin, tabled in the House of Commons the text of his reply of April 27 to a message on Vietnam received on April 2 from the Right Honourable Michael Stewart, the British Foreign Secretary, acting in his capacity as one of the two Co-Chairmen of the 1954 Geneva Conference on Indochina.

The texts of this exchange follow:

Reply by Mr. Martin to Message from Mr. Stewart

In his message of April 2, the British Foreign Secretary, acting in his capacity as one of the two Co-Chairmen of the 1954 Geneva Conference on Indochina, has invited the Government of Canada, as a member of the International Commission for Supervision and Control in Vietnam, to furnish a statement of its views on the situation in Vietnam and on the circumstances in which the Canadian Government believes that a peaceful settlement could be reached.

The Canadian Government welcomes this initiative on the part of the British Co-Chairman and the opportunity which it provides for the Canadian Government to outline its views on these critical problems. The Canadian Government fully shares the British Co-Chairman's attitude of grave concern over the dangerous state of international tension now existing in connection with Vietnam and wishes to express its willingness to support any promising initiative which shows signs of contributing usefully to a lessening of tension and a resolution of the problems underlying these tensions.

The Canadian Government believes that, if there had been a strict adherence to the Geneva Cease-Fire Agreement of 1954, the dangerous situation confronting the world today would not have come about. Unfortunately, this has not been the case and the usefulness of the 1954 Agreement as a basis for the regulation of developments in Vietnam has been slowly eroded by violations on all sides. As a member of the International Commission for Supervision and Control, Canada has been directly aware of the increasing dangers produced by departures from the terms of that Agreement.