

so that it could supervise and control the border areas of his country more effectively in accordance with the terms of the 1954 Cease-fire Agreement under which the Commission operates. Toward the end of December 1967, the United States Government responded to a suggestion by Prince Sihanouk and offered to provide the Commission with two helicopters for this purpose. The Canadian Government supported the strengthening of the Commission in the hope that the Commission might be able to play a helpful role in preventing the conflict in Vietnam from spreading to Cambodia. Despite the Canadian delegation's persistent efforts in the early months of the year, however, it was unsuccessful in getting the agreement of the other Commission members to accept the United States offer.

On September 2, the Canadian Government issued a declaration in response to the Cambodian Government's request for international reassurances regarding its territorial integrity. The declaration, basing itself on the principles of the United Nations, stated in part that Canada "recognizes and respects the territorial integrity of the Kingdom of Cambodia within the limits of its present frontiers". In issuing a declaration of this character as other states had done, the Canadian Government hoped that it might contribute to alleviating some of the tensions in the area. Canada's interest in promoting the peace and stability of the area was further reflected in its decision to contribute financially to the Prek Thnot power and irrigation project in Cambodia.

In Laos, the International Commission made no progress on the various outstanding items before it, including the question of periodic reports, which have not been submitted to the Co-Chairmen of the Geneva Conference since 1963. Canadian efforts to have the Commission give effective consideration to this backlog of items were unsuccessful.

Increasing concern about the substantial number of North Vietnamese troops operating in Laos was reflected in Royal Laotian Government complaints to the Commission. The Canadian delegation proposed formal investigations of these complaints in accordance with the Commission's responsibilities under the 1962 Protocol to the Declaration on the Neutrality of Laos. As a first step, however, it agreed that the Commission should undertake visits in the hope that they would have a calming effect on the situation. After considerable delays, visits were made to four sites in southern Laos. The Polish delegation, which opposed the visits, refused to participate in them. The Canadian proposals to undertake formal investigations into all these complaints remained tabled.

Latin American Division

This Division is concerned with Canada's relations with Latin America. Canada has had diplomatic relations with all 20 Latin American countries since 1957, and now maintains 14 embassies in the area, nine headed by ambassadors and the others by chargés d'affaires. The scope of the work of the Latin American Division was considerably broadened by events in 1968.