

can be no doubt about the importance which Canada attaches to a renewed effort to solve the problem manifested in the Vietnam situation by negotiations undertaken in a genuine determination to achieve a mutually acceptable, just, and durable settlement.

The Canadian Government has noted the willingness expressed by the President of the United States on April 7 to enter into unconditional discussions looking for a peaceful solution. This offer is of great significance, and will no doubt be as gratifying to the sponsors of the appeal as it has been to the Canadian Government. This offer, and suggestions for a vast regional economic development scheme for Southeast Asia, provide grounds for hope that progress may be made towards solving outstanding problems in a peaceful and constructive context.

Discussions or negotiations, however, require a willingness of both sides to participate. The Canadian Government earnestly hopes, therefore, that all the other interested governments will respond affirmatively to the appeal as a demonstration of their concern for peace, and that they will not hesitate to take up the offer of unconditional discussions made by the President of the United States. The Canadian Government also hopes that the sponsors of the appeal will not be discouraged by indications of preliminary unsympathetic responses from some quarters and will continue their efforts to impress on those concerned the need for a beginning to be made at talks without preconditions. To such an effort, the Canadian Government gladly lends its support.

(B) On April 1, the Secretary of State for External Affairs, the Honourable Paul Martin, in reply to an inquiry as to whether Canada had been "approached by the representatives of Yugoslavia and other non-aligned states who are planning to issue an appeal for a negotiated settlement in Vietnam" and, if so, what position would be adopted by Canada "in regard to such an appeal", made the following statements:

... Representatives of some 14 non-aligned nations met in Belgrade two weeks ago at the instance of the Government of Yugoslavia in an attempt to work out an appeal for a peaceful settlement of the problem in Vietnam. This morning I received the Ambassador of Yugoslavia and the Chargé d'Affaires of the United Arab Republic who made a formal presentation of the text of the appeal which invites the support of the Canadian Government. I might add that a few days ago the Yugoslav Ambassador called on the Prime Minister.

We have been following the deliberations of the Belgrade group with considerable interest as a manifestation of the genuine concern felt everywhere in the world at the development of the conflict in Vietnam and its potential dangers for world peace. I believe that any constructive initiative aimed at reducing tensions in the present instance, and in a longer view, at achieving an equitable long-term solution, deserves commendation and encouragement.