

reintegrated into the community and had taken part in the election campaign. The third interim report of the Commission in Cambodia had stated that the government had fulfilled its obligation with regard to elections. There were residual tasks which still remained to be done, but the Minister hoped that the Commission could be dissolved in a short time. He stated that all the inspection teams in the field had been withdrawn from Cambodia and that the Commission's establishment had been reduced. Although he saw no reason why the Commission should stay much longer in Cambodia, Mr. Pearson said that it might be necessary to maintain a token Commission there because of the relation of the three Commissions to each other under the Geneva settlement.

Mr. Patterson enquired whether or not the inspection teams had been faced with the same obstructionist tactics that they had encountered earlier. In reply the Minister stated that recently conditions in Vietnam had been less difficult because the military clauses of the armistice which were concerned with the regrouping of forces and similar questions had been implemented. Because of this the military teams had not experienced quite so much difficulty recently, but they had not always found it easy to secure the co-operation of the Communist Government in the north or indeed, of the government in the south. Both of the governments in Vietnam had blamed the other for all the difficulties which the Commission had encountered, but the Secretary of State for External Affairs considered that it was fair to say that the major difficulties facing the Commission had been caused in the beginning by Communist obstruction in the north.

Mr. Patterson asked whether or not there had not been some obstruction by certain members of the teams themselves at one time. Mr. Pearson replied that this difficulty had diminished recently because there had been less necessity for investigations by mobile teams than in the earlier days of the Commission; consequently the opportunities and incentive for delay action had been less.

Mr. Fleming, M.P. for Eglington, said that he assumed there was now little or no prospect that the elections originally envisaged would take place in Vietnam this year. The Minister confirmed that, under the Final Declaration of the Geneva Conference, elections should have been held in the summer of 1956, but that there was now no prospect of this happening. There had been no consultations between the two governments of Vietnam with regard to preliminary arrangements. Mr. Fleming enquired whether or not there had been any protest from the Communist Government in the north because of this. Mr. Pearson replied that the Communist Government had made continual protests that the south had failed to bring about the elections promised by the Final Declaration. However, the Government of South Vietnam maintained that, as it was not a party to the Geneva settlement, it had no responsibility for bringing about such elections and no obligation to consult with the north to make arrangements for elections. Mr. Fleming asked whether or not there was any indication that there might be an attempt to carry out this part of the settlement by force. The Minister replied that there was no indication that the Communist Government in the north would attempt to use force to carry out this part of the settlement. Mr. Fleming then asked if the border between the north and south had been effectively closed to prevent any further entry of refugees from the north into the south. Mr. Pearson replied that there had been very little movement of refugees from north to south in the last six months.