

The Secretary of State for External Affairs, the Honourable Mitchell Sharp, announced today that the Government of Canada has extended formal recognition to the Government of the Democratic Republic of Viet-Nam and that the Prime Minister has sent the following message to His Excellency Pham Van Dong, Premier of the Democratic Republic of Viet-Nam:

QUOTE: MY DEAR PREMIER: ON BEHALF OF THE GOVERNMENT OF CANADA I WOULD LIKE TO EXPRESS MY GRATIFICATION AT THE CONCLUSION OF "AGREEMENT ON ENDING THE WAR AND RESTORING PEACE IN VIET-NAM" WHICH WAS SIGNED IN PARIS JANUARY 27 BY REPRESENTATIVES OF YOUR GOVERNMENT AND REPRESENTATIVES OF OTHER PARTIES CONCERNED. PIERRE ELLIOTT TRUDEAU, PRIME MINISTER OF CANADA UNQUOTE.

The following message was also sent to His Excellency Tran Thien Khiem, Prime Minister of the Republic of Viet-Nam, which Canada already recognizes as the sole legal Government of South Viet-Nam:

QUOTE: MY DEAR PRIME MINISTER: ON BEHALF OF THE GOVERNMENT OF CANADA I WOULD LIKE TO EXPRESS MY GRATIFICATION AT THE CONCLUSION OF "THE AGREEMENT ON ENDING THE WAR AND RESTORING PEACE IN VIET-NAM" WHICH WAS RECENTLY SIGNED IN PARIS. I WOULD HOPE THAT IN THE FUTURE WE SHALL BE ABLE TO WORK TOGETHER TO STRENGTHEN THE CORDIAL RELATIONS WHICH ALREADY EXIST BETWEEN OUR TWO COUNTRIES. PIERRE ELLIOTT TRUDEAU, PRIME MINISTER OF CANADA UNQUOTE.

The messages from the Prime Minister follow the signing in Paris on January 27, 1973 of an Agreement on Ending the War and Restoring Peace in Viet-Nam by representatives of the governments of the United States and the Democratic Republic of Viet-Nam. The effect of this decision to extend recognition to the Government of the Democratic Republic of Viet-Nam means that Canada now accords equal status to the two Viet-Nams.

There is no immediate intention of exchanging Ambassadors with either of the two Viet-Nams although Canadian representatives are now in Saigon and Hanoi as members of the International Commissions established in 1954 and 1973.