

Canada will also inform the four Parties to the Paris Agreement that as Canada neither negotiated nor signed the Paris Agreement we do not regard ourselves as bound by its provisions beyond the extent to which those who did sign it consider themselves to be bound. This was in fact one of our earliest conditions of service. Consequently, we will leave or otherwise regulate our deployment at any time if the Parties who signed the Agreement show, by their actions, that they no longer regard themselves bound by it. The resumption of large-scale hostilities or any action tantamount to a direct denial by the parties of their obligations under the Agreement would, in the Government's view, relieve Canada of further responsibility to the ICCS. Should this decision be forced upon us, the Government will state its reasons for withdrawal publicly.

I am not predicting that the arduous and skilful work involved in reaching this Agreement will be nullified by an early escalation of hostilities. Nevertheless, there is a great deal of evidence that the means to resume the war are readily available and there is, unfortunately, also reason to think that this possibility is not excluded from the calculations of some at least of the parties concerned. We shall reassess the situation again before the end of May and give our definitive view at that time.

In closing, I should state that in the time remaining to us in the Commission we will continue to maintain the objective and open approach we have taken until now and endeavour to see that the ICCS fulfills not only the psychological part that has been superimposed on it by remaining in Viet-Nam but also the duties as laid down in the Agreements. We will not take part in a charade nor will we tacitly condone inaction when we believe action is required.