

Mr. MARTIN (Essex East): I understood from you, Mr. Chairman, that the steering committee wishes me, on the first item, to make a statement on the general position that Canada has taken on some of the vital problems facing the international community to-day. I think it would be useful to discuss three that are of major concern to us in Canada, namely, Viet Nam, and Rhodesia. If it was agreeable to the committee I would proceed to give the government's views with regard to these three problems, and in that order.

Before doing that I wonder if I could have advantage of this meeting of the committee to recall that on March 21 I announced that the government proposed to ask Parliament to approve a major expansion in our food aid program for India in the coming year, and had begun to pay our part in helping India to meet its current emergency food requirements and shipping some of food to that country. There is to be a meeting of the steering committee today or tomorrow morning, and I would like to have a further announcement in this connection.

APPENDIX

I now wish to advise the committee of the government's intention to take an additional step to assist India. A sum of \$10 million remains to be paid by India as a result of the agreement made in 1958 to cover the balance of the cost of providing additional help to India in its difficult economic situation which has deteriorated significantly as a result of the drought conditions caused by drought and other factors. The first \$10 million was paid on March 21. My colleagues and I have asked the government to ask Parliament to cancel the remaining \$10 million. The agreement provides immediate relief of \$10 million, which this payment covers. The balance of \$10 million will be additional to the food aid program and will cost about \$71 million in the coming year.

STATEMENT ON FOREIGN AFFAIRS

By

**Honourable Paul Martin, Secretary
Of State For External Affairs**

To The

**Standing Committee On External Affairs
April 4, 1966**

I am sure that this is a significant Canadian response to the needs of India at the present time. We have received a comparable response from other countries to the Indian nation.

Mr. Chairman, I welcome this opportunity to discuss the Canadian view on a number of issues. It will be understood, of course, that there will also have to be negotiations between the government of Canada and the organization and France. There will be possible for me—and, I am sure this will be position or, in some cases, to have a first there has been the fullest consultation by those involved in this negotiation with the government.

Mr. CHAIRMAN: But, you have to be consulted.