

Mr. MARTIN (*Essex East*): Yes, they have done some, but they are not able, by any means, to do all that they would like to do because of the nature of the conflict. In the case of the North, you will remember, there were five team sites. Prior to the heavy bombing about a year and a half ago, the North said "in the interests of security"—that is the way they put it—they wished these team sites to be withdrawn. They were withdrawn. This did not mean to say that we closed the office in the North—in Hanoi—because we did not; it continues to be open; it continues to be manned.

Mr. HARKNESS: But, in effect, these military personnel really are doing nothing useful in Vietnam at the present time because of the circumstances which prevail.

Mr. MARTIN (*Essex East*): Oh, I would not say that they continue to be doing nothing.

Mr. HARKNESS: They are not able to do the job that they are sent out there to do because of the circumstances that prevail.

Mr. MARTIN (*Essex East*): Because of the nature of the conflict, they are not able to do the full job for which they had been assigned under our acceptance of the obligation which we were asked to assume in 1954.

Mr. HARKNESS: Then, in effect, they are wasted manpower.

Mr. MARTIN (*Essex East*): No, I would not say that they are wasted manpower. It would be wrong for Canada, it seems to the Government, to withdraw its personnel beyond the level which continues to be provided for by India and by Poland.

Last year—quite rightly, I think—you put some questions to me along this line and I carefully examined the matter at that time, and we came to the conclusion that misunderstanding would arise if, in view of the frustrations or the difficulties, we were to withdraw our personnel beyond those proportions maintained by Poland and India.

Mr. HARKNESS: With my Scottish background, I have an inherent dislike of waste, and this seems to me to be a serious waste of manpower and thus of funds.

Mr. MARTIN (*Essex East*): That is why I thought, sometimes, that your views as Minister of National Defence were not as appreciated as they should have been.

Mr. HARKNESS: Thank you.

Mr. CHURCHILL: What is he doing, complimenting him?

The CHAIRMAN: Mr. Thompson?

Mr. THOMPSON: Mr. Chairman, my first question is somewhat supplementary to some of those asked by Mr. Harkness. Having in mind that the first sentence of your four point program, Mr. Martin, states that:

The first step should involve some degree of physical disengagement of the parties.

and also having in mind that during the New Year's truce approximately a full division of North Vietnamese regular forces moved across the demilitarized zone with sufficient supplies and equipment to keep them operating for one year, it is