

the new Commission. Its headquarters was to be in Saigon, with other locations named for its regional and area teams. The Parties were to afford "full cooperation, assistance and protection" to the Commission and maintain liaison with it through the JMCs. The ICCS and its teams were to be given the freedom of movement needed to do their work, as well as necessary communications and transport facilities. Except for salaries and allowances which each member country would pay its own personnel, the expenses of the Commission would be met from a fund to which each of the four Parties would contribute 23% and each ICCS member 2%. Any member could withdraw from the Commission by giving three months notice, at which time the four Parties would consult for the purpose of agreeing upon a replacement member.

### CANADIAN POSITION

Reviewing the situation for the House of Commons on February 1, the Secretary of State for External Affairs envisaged the initial 60 days during which Canada would participate in the ICCS as a period when the arrangements made for international observation and reporting could be evaluated and the scope for mediation determined. If the Commission could be made to work, the Government was determined to make it work. Having been asked to serve by all four Parties, Canada would not represent any one Party or side on the ICCS.

The Secretary of State for External Affairs then turned to what he termed "serious inadequacies" in those provisions of the Agreement and Protocols concerning the arrangements for international supervision. One of these was the failure to provide for a continuing political authority, a deficiency which Canada hoped the proposed International Conference would repair. The Secretary-General of the United Nations had been invited to the Conference and the Government suggested it would welcome his becoming the continuing political authority to which the Commission might report. Another deficiency was the rule of unanimity. When unanimity could not be achieved there was provision for reporting to the Parties by individual Commission members; however, only unanimous reports would have the status of Commission reports. A third deficiency was that the Commission and each of its teams were to act as a single body comprising representatives of all four members; this could become an invitation to paralysis. Additionally the qualified provisions for the Commission's freedom of movement would have to be tested. The Secretary of State for External Affairs also objected in principle to the requirement that ICCS members contribute to the general budget of the Commission, but since the percentage was small he said the Government would not make an issue of this. As for the ICCS controlling the entry into South Viet-Nam of military personnel and equipment, this was a task clearly beyond the means of a commission of this size. Finally, the Secretary of State