

there, more particularly because of our participation, with India and Poland, in the supervision of the cease-fire settlements in Indochina.

The settlement reached at Geneva last July comprised cease-fire agreements for Viet Nam, Laos and Cambodia. These provided for the establishment of three separate international supervisory commissions, each made up of representatives of India, Poland and Canada, and each charged with the task of supervising the carrying out of the cease-fire agreement for the particular country to which it was assigned. In each case, however - and this point is sometimes forgotten - the execution of the terms of the cease-fire agreement is the responsibility of the two sides directly concerned. The international commissions have no enforcement powers and their functions are purely mediatory, judicial and supervisory.

In Viet Nam the main provisions of the cease-fire agreement for withdrawal and re-development of French forces from north Viet Nam and Viet Minh forces from the south have so far been carried out reasonably well. This regroupment process which is to be completed, I believe, by May 18 has taken place without serious incident and is now well advanced. That is no mean achievement. I think we can take some satisfaction from the knowledge that the international commission, with Canadian membership, in its supervisory role and through mediation has helped to bring about this situation.

In relation to those clauses of the cease-fire agreement designed to maintain the military status quo and forbidding the introduction into Viet Nam of fresh troops, arms or munitions except on a restricted replacement basis, the international commission through its inspection teams, fixed and mobile, has tried to maintain a check on men and materials entering the country. It has taken some time to establish the inspection machinery which is required for this purpose, and I certainly am not yet in a position to say how effective it will prove to be.

In other parts of the world we have already had some experience with the difficulties encountered by international commissions with communist representation in an effort to police activities of this kind. Hence in Viet Nam, if one of the parties to the agreement is determined to circumvent these provisions of the agreement the international commission is not likely to be able to prevent it, though the inspection activities which are possible and which are being undertaken will certainly make, and indeed are making, violations more difficult.

With respect to those provisions of the cease-fire agreements relating to the right of democratic freedom and the movement of refugees, the record is not satisfactory. This has been a matter of great concern to us in view of our responsibility on this commission, because it has involved the fate of many thousands of Christians who have suddenly found themselves under the hard and intolerant rule of a communist administration. Our own representative on the Viet Nam commission has spared no effort to see to it that the commission does all within its power to facilitate the movement of persons from one zone to the other as is provided in the armistice