

commission would be needed to translate a new cease-fire into a lasting settlement, it remained resolved that such a cease-fire must not collapse for want of such a commission. It followed that Canada should obtain, through exploratory talks, information about the structure of the new commission being considered, its size and terms of reference, and the role it would be expected to play in Viet-Nam.

On December 3, the Secretary of State for External Affairs informed the Canadian public of the task Canada was being asked to undertake in Viet-Nam and of the Government's policy on this issue. He emphasized that in this role there was no question of peace being maintained through the use of arms. The Parties themselves would be responsible for achieving peace. If Canada decided to provide military personnel for the commission they would not be a military formation, but would be specially selected for their expertise to observe and report on the implementation of the agreement. The Secretary of State for External Affairs also stressed that the Government had taken no decision on whether to join and could not do so until the cease-fire negotiations had been completed and full information on the proposed arrangements was available. As stated on previous occasions, the Government was ready to consider constructively any request for participation if in its opinion, based on the lessons of the past and the circumstances of the request, Canada could play a useful role. But the Government still required assurance that the commission would be effective, that all four Parties concerned would be bound by the agreement and would invite Canada to participate, that provision would be made for a continuing political authority to receive reports from the commission members, that the commission would have the necessary freedom of movement and that members could withdraw from it.

The cease-fire negotiations stalled in mid-December; the United States resumed its bombing of North Viet-Nam from December 18 to December 30, after which negotiations reconvened in Paris. In the House of Commons on January 5, 1973, the Secretary of State for External Affairs presented a motion, that won support from all sides, noting with grave concern the continuation of hostilities in North and South Viet-Nam, deploring the recent bombing in the Hanoi area, welcoming its halt, and requesting the United States to refrain from a resumption of bombing. The motion also welcomed the renewal of negotiations and called upon the Parties to avoid warlike acts which could jeopardize these talks.

Speaking to the motion, the Secretary of State for External Affairs noted that the Government had already made known to the United States the views reflected in it. However the bombing was only part of a larger situation—the high level of hostility and violence on both sides in Viet-Nam. This was to