

repeated without meeting strong and collective resistance; that convincing evidence should be given now that any state which wanted to be free would be assisted in staying free.

It was felt by those who held this viewpoint-- and there were of course shades of viewpoint between these two--that the adoption of this position and this attitude would not only make early peace in Indo-China more likely, by underlining the risks the communists would be taking if they prolonged the war, but would also act as an effective deterrent against communist aggression in the future. The United States, of course, has been reported as leaning to the latter view, and the United Kingdom to the former. Therefore alarming and often exaggerated conclusions have been drawn of Anglo-American divisions and differences. That was not unnatural in the circumstances, the circumstances being that there were at least 1,500 journalists in Geneva looking for news. Included in those 1,500 there was a small group of Canadian journalists and I should like to pay my tribute to the full, and I thought objective and careful, reports that were sent back home by the small group.

While differences, differences in emphasis and differences in approach, are I think unavoidable in a coalition of free states, especially in circumstances of this kind, it is of importance of course that they should be resolved. It is of vital importance, and I know that this is appreciated on all sides and indeed in all countries except the communist countries, that these differences should not become differences of policy and principle between our two closest friends, the United Kingdom and the United States. It would be the greatest possible tragedy if Asia were allowed to split the west. I am confident that this will not occur.

So far as the immediate problem of Indo-China is concerned, the short range problem that I mentioned, the delegation of France put forward proposals to solve it and so did the communist delegations. The French proposal put forward by Mr. Bidault, who is playing a very difficult part in Geneva with great skill, enumerated certain points of settlement, and his points were supported by the United States, the United Kingdom and the associated states of Indo-China.

First, there should be an armistice to bring the fighting to an end, and then a political settlement based on the independence of the three states, which would be internationally supervised and guaranteed. Secondly, there should be separate consideration for the three states of Laos, Cambodia and Viet Nam. In so far as Laos and Cambodia were concerned, the Viet Minh should evacuate those countries at once. So far as Viet Nam was concerned, there should be an evacuation of the Red River delta by agreement upon a no man's land around the periphery of the delta beyond which all Viet Minh forces were to retire. In central Viet Nam, the Viet Minh troops would have to withdraw to a prearranged position, and they would have to evacuate the south.