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STATEMENT BY THE HONOURABLE PAUL MARTIN
SECRETARY OF STATE FOR EXTERNAL AFFAIRS

MESSAGE FROM THE INTERNATIONAL COMMISSION IN LAOS TO
THE CO-CHAIRMEN OF THE 1961-62 GENEVA CONFERENCE

The Secretary of State for External Affairs, the Honourable Paul Martin, today made available in Ottawa message No. 35 of September 16, 1965, from the International Commission for Supervision and Control in Laos to the two Co-Chairmen of the 1962 Geneva Conference, which has just been released by the British Co-Chairman.

In issuing the report Mr. Martin made the following statement. The message establishes that regular units of the armed forces of North Vietnam, numbering up to 650 men, entered Laos during 1964 with arms and munitions, and that they engaged in hostilities with Laotian Government forces on Laotian soil. These acts of aggression against Laos represent gross violations by the Democratic Republic of Vietnam (North Vietnam) of the Declaration on the Neutrality of Laos and its Protocol, both of which were signed by the Government of North Vietnam and 13 other governments in July 1962.

Canada participated in the 1961-62 Geneva Conference in the hope that a solemn agreement guaranteeing the neutrality and integrity of Laos would remove that country from the arena