

The difficulties in Laos prompted numerous requests for reconvening the International Commission for Laos, of which, as hon. members know, Canada is a member. The Canadian position as stated by the Prime Minister in the House on May 8, is that Canada cannot agree to any commission action which would infringe upon Laotian sovereignty. The Laotian Government is understood to be opposed to the reconvening of the commission, but has pledged itself to uphold the Geneva Cease-Fire Agreement. We are in continuous touch with the Indian and United Kingdom Governments on this question--India being another member of the commission, with Poland the third member--and we are watching Laotian developments closely.

As to Cambodia, it was stated in the House on July 25, 1958 that an adjournment formula similar to that used in Laos might be applied to the Cambodian Commission. This has not proved possible, although efforts in this direction are continuing and the strength of the Cambodian Commission has been reduced to a minimum.

In Vietnam, the tension between south and north had not abated, unfortunately, and the Vietnam Commission--on which Canada is also represented, as she is on the Cambodian Commission--continues to perform a valuable task in maintaining stability in the area. However, we hope that it might be possible to effect a reduction of the strength of the Vietnam Commission which would not impair its effectiveness.

I take this opportunity to pay tribute to the way in which India has fulfilled the difficult role of chairman of the three International Commissions. Our work together in Indochina has been and will. I am sure, continue to be one of beneficial co-operation.

The policy of the Canadian Government toward relations with Communist China was examined to some length of the late Mr. Sidney Smith last February, and I do not intend to restate it here. Hon. members will find that statement commencing at page 1405 of the year's Hansard. The Peking authorities, however, do not make things any easier for us. Last year, for instance, when the Chinese question was being discussed in the United Nations, it had to be done against a background of communist attack on the nationalist-held islands of Quemoy and Matsu. More recently there has been the repression of Tibet, the attempt to tamper with its way of life, extinguish its religious values and destroy its autonomy. These actions are not conducive to the peaceful relations which we should like to have with the Chinese people. Let us hope that the situation in the respect will improve.

United Nations

Finally, Mr. Chairman--last but by no means least--I have a few comments to make with regard to Canada and the United Nations. This is the season of the year at which foreign