

Indochina

While the conflict in Cambodia continued unabated, Viet-Nam and Laos were experiencing the first hours of a cease-fire, which was fairly generally observed in Laos but was to prove uneasy and short-lived in Viet-Nam.

The Paris Agreement of January 27, 1973, provided for an International Commission of Control and Supervision in Viet-Nam. Under this Commission, 290 Canadian soldiers and civilians joined an equal number of Hun-

garians, Indonesians and Poles to observe and report on implementation of the agreement. Canada also participated in the International Conference convened in accordance with the agreement to arrange terms and conditions that would ensure the effective operation of the ICCS. With considerable experience in this area, Canada was well aware of the conditions required, but Canadian proposals did not receive the general support of the parties concerned. Despite the efforts of the Canadian delegation, the ICCS proved unable to carry out

the role assigned to it and on May 31, having given notice to all parties concerned, Canada announced its decision to withdraw from the ICCS. The withdrawal took place on July 31; Canada was later replaced on the Commission by Iran.

Canada's bilateral relations with the area also continued to develop. In February, official Canadian recognition of the Democratic Republic of Viet-Nam was announced. In March, the Secretary of State for External Affairs visited Indochina to observe the

Canadian members of ICCS participate in P.O.W. exchange discussion in South Viet-Nam. (Can. Forces Photo)

