

Between March 13 and March 18, as you know Mr. Chairman, I led a group of parliamentarians, officials and journalists on a journey of 22,000 miles in the course of which I had conversations with the Foreign Minister and Prime Minister of Japan; and the Foreign Minister, Prime Minister and President of the Republic of Viet-Nam. I also met the Head of the so-called Provisional Revolutionary Government's delegation to the Joint Military Commission in Saigon. In Laos I spoke with the Prime Minister the Foreign Minister and high officials of the Pathet Lao movement. In Hanoi I spoke to the Foreign Minister and Prime Minister of the Democratic Republic of Viet-Nam. In addition to these conversations, I talked with a representative cross-section of the Canadians who are serving with the Canadian Delegation in South Viet-Nam and with our representatives in Laos. Our last representative on the old ICSC in Hanoi closed our operation there after close to nineteen years and departed with us.

All these talks centered upon the question of continued Canadian participation in the ICCS in Viet-Nam and I may say that the views of those with whom I spoke were either very clearly or by direct implication to the effect that Canada should continue to serve on the Commissions and that the consequences of our early departure would be far-reaching. I have also received similar views from the Governments of the United States, Britain, and China. I made no commitment to any of them and can make no commitment now as to what our response will be, since the question is still before the Government.