



STATEMENTS AND SPEECHES

INFORMATION DIVISION

DEPARTMENT OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS

OTTAWA - CANADA

No. 65/15

STATEMENTS RELATING TO THE 17-NATION APPEAL FOR A VIETNAM SETTLEMENT

- (A) On April 14, 1965, the Secretary of State for External Affairs, the Honourable Paul Martin, presented to the Ambassador of Yugoslavia to Canada and the Chargé d'Affaires of the United Arab Republic the following reply to the April 1 appeal of 17 non-aligned nations for a negotiated settlement in Vietnam:

The Canadian Government has given careful consideration to the 17-nation appeal officially presented to it on April 1. (1)

The Canadian Government welcomes the spirit in which this appeal has been launched and commends the sponsoring nations for their initiative, which reflects the anxiety of all responsible nations of the world over the deepening crisis in Vietnam and their concern for a peaceful resolution of the conflict.

In a statement to the House of Commons on April 1, the Secretary of State for External Affairs stated that there was much in the appeal with which the Canadian Government could agree. In particular, Canada shares with the sponsoring powers the belief that only through negotiations looking to a peaceful solution can the conflict in Vietnam be terminated; and Canada supports the call of the 17 powers for negotiations as soon as possible without either side imposing any preconditions.

The Canadian Government's view of the nature of the situation in Vietnam is, of course, based on Canada's membership in the ICSC, which provides an opportunity at first hand to examine the various factors contributing to this unstable situation. The conclusions to which Canada has come on the basis of this experience have most recently been put before the international community in the Commission's special reports of June 2, 1962, and February 13, 1965, and in various statements on behalf of the Canadian Government by the Prime Minister and the Secretary of State for External Affairs. While the appeal notes that there may be differences in appraising the various elements in the existing situation in Vietnam, there

(1) The text of the appeal is appended.