

- Canada was formally invited to participate in the new peace supervisory commission, along with Hungary, Poland and Indonesia.
- And, only a very short time ago, an International Conference of 13 participants, including the Secretary-General of the United Nations, was convened in Paris to consider and endorse the cease-fire agreements.
- I attended as the leader of the Canadian delegation (we were there because we were a member of the International Control Commission) and I unexpectedly found myself a co-chairman of the conference....
- And most recently, in the events of the last three months, we've had the talks between the Republic of Vietnam and the other South Vietnamese party, the PRG -- Provisional Revolutionary Government, which have now opened in Paris.

Now, I have spoken briefly of the frustrations of the old Commission and, if you have a sinking feeling that history -- so far as the utility of the Commission is concerned -- may be repeating itself, I may tell you that I share this anxiety.

Because of this concern and because of our experience on the old Commission, as soon as the possibility arose that Canada might be invited to participate in a new commission, we made it clear that we would only accept such an invitation if our conditions based on this experience were substantially met.

The first, and fundamental, condition was that the provisions for the operation of the new Commission appear workable and offer some prospects of being effective. More specifically we stipulated these conditions:

- First, that the belligerent parties -- that is, the Americans, the South Vietnamese, the North Vietnamese and the Viet Cong -- should be bound by the same agreements which set out the role and procedures of the new Commission. Now, this was one of the shortcomings of the previous agreement -- people are inclined to forget that neither Washington nor Saigon were parties to the 1954 agreement and, therefore, never really considered themselves entirely bound by it. The signatures of all of the belligerents were, in fact, obtained in Paris. So that condition was met.
- We sought a "continuing political authority" to which the Commission or any of its members could report and consult and which would assume responsibility for the peace settlement as a whole. I went to Paris and I urged the acceptance of such a continuing political authority. We would have preferred the United Nations as the continuing political authority. It was quite clear before I reached Paris that that was quite impossible, so instead I proposed that the Secretary-General should chair the conference which I ultimately had to chair -- that the