

CANADIAN GOVERNMENT REPLY OF APRIL 14
TO SEVENTEEN NATIONS' APPEAL

The Canadian Government has given careful consideration to the 17-nation appeal officially presented to it on April 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 seventeen 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