

Mr. ASSELIN (*Charlevoix*): But there is also another principle enunciated by the United Nations that every country has the right to self-determination. The principle, to which you refer would have precedence over that which the United Nations has always accepted: that each country has the right to elect its own government. Does the United Nations' principle of national self-determination override the one which you have just quoted?

Mr. MARTIN (*Essex East*): No, I do not believe so. Article 51 provides for the right of any country to ask another country to come to its assistance, to provide military assistance for its defence.

Mr. ASSELIN (*Charlevoix*): During your travels in Russia, you took part in talks and discussions with Soviet government officials. In those discussions, did you detect, on the part of these officials, any marked willingness to work towards peace in Vietnam?

Mr. MARTIN (*Essex East*): Certainly. Indeed. That was the purpose of our discussion. Russia asked us to use our influence with our American neighbours to put an end to the bombing. We, for our part, asked Russia to exert its own influence on the Hanoi government to accept the conditions necessary for a beginning of negotiations.

I must say that when Mr. Kosygin met Mr. Wilson in London a few weeks ago, the two co-chairmen of the Conference had that objective in mind.

Mr. ASSELIN (*Charlevoix*): Did the Soviet authorities foresee the restoration of peace in Vietnam through the Geneva Agreements, or otherwise?

Mr. MARTIN (*Essex East*): The North Vietnamese Government states that it respects the provisions of the Geneva Agreement of 1954 and that it is prepared to negotiate a settlement in accordance with this agreement. That is why we have put forward these four points which are based on the provisions of the agreement.

Mr. ASSELIN (*Charlevoix*): Mr. Ronning our roving ambassador, who has been to North Vietnam several times. . .

Mr. MARTIN (*Essex East*): Twice.

Mr. ASSELIN (*Charlevoix*): Yes, twice. While in North Vietnam, did he have occasion to confer with Vietcong authorities?

Mr. MARTIN (*Essex East*): No, he did not meet any Vietcong representatives. He met only the representatives of the North Vietnamese government—the Prime Minister and the Minister for Foreign Affairs.

Mr. ASSELIN (*Charlevoix*): Do you believe that peace can be restored in Vietnam, without the participation of Vietcong representatives at the negotiation table?

Mr. MARTIN (*Essex East*): I think it will be necessary to bring all belligerents to the conference table. Mr. Goldberg himself, at the United Nations, last September 22, stated that this solution might not be impossible.

Mr. ASSELIN (*Charlevoix*): One last question, Mr. Minister. U Thant, the Secretary-General of the United Nations, had already stated that if it were not possible to establish peace in Vietnam through the United Nations, he would