

It is all too clear that not only has it been denied serious consideration by this conference, but that the prevailing circumstances have been such that there was no prospect of it receiving any consideration at all. My delegation is reluctantly forced to conclude therefore that to pursue further the approach which was contained in the Canada model resolution would delay the deliberations of this conference to no practical purpose.

As I informed this committee the day before yesterday, we had intended to make some concrete suggestions to the committee. We would, for example, have wished to introduce amended drafts of articles 6 and 7 of the United States/Democratic Republic of Viet-Nam draft; our amended articles would have been based upon the Canadian model resolution. As I have said we have now concluded that this would serve no useful purpose. Thus, notwithstanding the obvious merit of the provisions, in the draft before us, for the respect of the Paris agreements by the participants at this conference--which we welcome wholeheartedly--the package as a whole is disappointing to us.

One of the major shortcomings of the arrangement contained in articles 6 and 7 is that it is essentially a closed circuit and does not provide for the kind of independent international transmission machinery that we consider to be essential. Having said this, however, and without prejudice to any statement which the Secretary of State for External Affairs of Canada may make in plenary discussion on the arrangement, I should say that we would have preferred it if for greater clarification certain drafting changes had been made in article 6.

In conclusion, I should like to re-emphasize that the proposal tabled in plenary by the Secretary of State for External Affairs was introduced not only because it reflected in its approach an arrangement that would meet one of our essential conditions for continued participation in the International Commission of Control and Supervision but also because it represents our belief, acquired through long experience in both cease-fire supervision in Indo-China and peacekeeping activities elsewhere, as to what is required for an effective operation of that kind. Canada will now therefore have to assess the situation very carefully.

Reference article 8.

We were pleased that article 8 makes reference to Cambodia and Laos, although we agree that it would not be appropriate for the conference to deal with the situation in those countries without their representatives being present, Canada is a member of both the International Commission for Supervision and Control in Laos and the International Commission for Supervision and Control in Cambodia and as such, was encouraged by the provisions in article 20 of the Paris Agreement of January 27 regarding the commitments of the parties to that agreement vis-à-vis both of those countries and would have been even more encouraged to see an explicit reference to article 20 (B).