

6. Consideration of the winding of the Commission.

The Canadian Commissioner made the following statement, proposing the dissolution of the International Commission for Supervision and Control in Cambodia:--

"It is well over two years since, in the summer of 1954, after long and careful negotiations at a conference in Geneva, terms and methods were negotiated and agreed by the States concerned to put an end to the tragic fighting which had for many years ravaged the peoples of Indo-China. There resulted from that Conference three separate cease-fire agreements and the international recognition of distinct sovereign states in Cambodia, Laos and Vietnam. For each of these States, the Conference produced a separate cease-fire agreement under the terms of which three separate International Commissions for Supervision and Control were established.

"I have sometimes heard differences of opinion expressed as to whether there was in effect one Geneva settlement or three. In my view such discussions are academic and fruitless. Certainly the three States of Indo-China are interdependent. Indeed we are all interdependent in the modern world, wherever on this planet we may live; this interdependence of all States has been recognised, for example, in the United Nations Charter. Certainly too, the Cease-Fire Agreements for these States in South-East Asia have many points in common and certain elements of interdependence.

"Equally certainly, the three bilateral agreements are separate, and are signed by different pairs of parties.

"Just as it would be wrong to ignore the interdependence of any part of Indo-China or, indeed any part of our modern world with its neighbours, so too it would be wrong politically and legally to ignore the essential separateness of the three parts of Indo-China -- the distinct differences in background, culture and religion; and the fact that after discussion the Geneva Conference decided to work out not one Cease-Fire Agreement, but three Cease-Fire Agreements, which set up not one International Supervisory Commission but three International Supervisory Commissions.

"Certainly, too, Mr. Chairman, the evolution of events since the Geneva Conference has proceeded very differently in the three States. In Cambodia alone has the evolution been almost entirely along the lines foreseen in the settlements reached at the Geneva Conference: and in Cambodia alone can the situation already achieved be called an unmitigated success.

"The question which we now have to consider is whether this International Commission for Cambodia should not now wind up and depart. It is the view of my Government that it should, for reasons which I shall set out below.

"Our decision will, of course, be based on our best judgment, taking into account not only the situation immediately around us within this country, but also that in neighbouring countries and indeed in the world as a whole. That goes without saying. To do anything else would be to act irresponsibly, and none of us, I assume, wish to do that.