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A REPORT FROM VIETNAM

The Secretary of State for External Affairs, Mr. Howard Green, commented on June 25 on the special report of the International Supervisory Commission for Vietnam. He said:

"The International Supervisory Commission for Vietnam, by majority vote of its Indian and Canadian members, has concluded:

- (a) that 'armed and unarmed personnel, arms, munitions and other supplies' have been sent from North Vietnam into South Vietnam 'with the object of supporting, organizing and carrying out hostile activities, including armed attacks, directed against the armed forces and administration' of South Vietnam;
- (b) that the North Vietnamese authorities have allowed North Vietnamese territory to be used 'for inciting, encouraging and supporting hostile activities in the zone in the south aimed at the overthrow of the administration' in South Vietnam;
- (c) that South Vietnam has received military aid from the United States in quantities which appear to be in excess of those permitted by the Geneva Agreement of 1954, and has made military arrangements with the United States which amount to a factual - though not to a formal - military alliance.

"These are the principal conclusions of a special report signed in Saigon on June 2 by the representatives of India and Canada. The report, which was addressed to the foreign ministers of Britain and the Soviet Union, acting as Co-Chairmen of the Geneva Conference of 1954 which drew up the Agreements ending the Indochina war, was made public today. The

third member of the International Commission, the representative of Poland, dissented from the findings of the majority.

NORTH VIETNAM ACCUSED

"The Canadian Government fully endorses these conclusions of the International Commission. It considers that the report establishes beyond any reasonable doubt that North Vietnam has engaged, for a number of years and with rising intensity in 1960 and 1961, in subversive activities of an aggressive nature directed against South Vietnam. The Commission's report also makes clear that the increased military aid which South Vietnam has received since December 1961 was requested for the purpose of dealing more effectively with these subversive activities. The report brings out the fact that the South Vietnamese Government has undertaken to end these extraordinary measures 'as soon as the North Vietnamese authorities have ceased their acts of aggression and have begun to respect the Geneva Agreement'.

"The recommendations of the Commission, directed to preserving peace in Vietnam by ensuring compliance with the provisions of the Geneva Agreement, have the full support of the Canadian Government.

"I earnestly hope that these recommendations of the International Supervisory Commission for Vietnam will be heeded, and that the 'threat of resumption of open hostilities', which the Commission reports to be growing in that country, will thereby be averted. Canada remains prepared to co-operate effectively to that end with its partners in the Commission."