

favour of sending a letter of condolence was not prepared to do so without the support of all Delegations. Mr. Woodsworth, since he was unable to move the Commission, then sent a letter on behalf of the Canadian Delegation expressing his sympathy and his hopes for Colonel Nam's safe and early return.

On October 16 Col. Nam's body was found, and a letter was sent by the Liaison Mission demanding an investigation of the circumstances. Woodsworth was then able to get the Commission to send a letter of condolence, and it was sent on October 18. Woodsworth asked that a meeting be called immediately to send a letter to the Liaison Mission asking for substantiation of the claim that the Viet Cong (Vietnamese Communists) had been responsible, and for evidence of the relationship between the Viet Cong and the Hanoi authorities, so indicating the Commission's interest in carrying the case further. The Polish Commissioner at first refused to agree to this, but later that same day, apparently fearful of reprisals that might be taken by the Vietnamese against the Polish Delegation, he agreed and a letter was sent.

N.A. R[OBERTSON]

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*Le commissaire de la Commission internationale de surveillance
et de contrôle pour le Vietnam
au sous-secrétaire d'État aux Affaires extérieures*
*Commissioner, International Commission for Supervision
and Control for Vietnam,
to Under-Secretary of State for External Affairs*

LETTER NO. 242

Saigon, October 31, 1961

SECRET. CANADIAN EYES ONLY.

DRVN ATTITUDE TOWARD I.C.C. AND RUMOURED INTRODUCTION
OF UNITED STATES TROOPS INTO SOUTH VIETNAM

On a farewell visit to Hanoi on October 30 and 31 I made courtesy calls on Prime Minister Pham Van Dong; General Huyen Van Thai, Vice Minister of Defence (Chief of staff at the battle of Dien Bien Phu); Colonel Mai Lam, deputy head of the PAVN Liaison Mission; Mr. Joseph Ford, U.K. Consular representative; and Raden Sunarjo, Indonesian Consul General. At a reception given in my honour by our Canadian personnel in Hanoi on the evening of October 30, I also spoke with many other former friends and acquaintances.

2. Brigadier Clift accompanied me on my calls on General Thai and Mai Lam, but left subsequently on a visit to Fixed Team Haiphong. I did not see either President Ho Chi Minh, now in Moscow attending a gathering, or General Giap, who is reported as usual to be absent from Hanoi, this time "on long leave and not very well."

3. North Vietnamese officials and brotherhood diplomatic representatives alike expressed deep concern over General Maxwell Taylor's visit to South Vietnam⁴² and the possibility that the Americans might move in troops there. As to the chances of this happening I did not, of course, hazard any guesses. There seems no doubt, however, that people in the North are profoundly worried by the prospect. Pham Van Dong, General Thai and Colonel Mai Lam all emphasized the gravity of such a step in a situation they noted is already extremely serious. They underlined the obvious, i.e., that if war were to break out great numbers of people in the

⁴² Voir/See *Foreign Relations of the United States, 1961-1963*, Vol. I (Washington: United States Government Printing Bureau, 1988), Part VIII.