

MESSAGE FROM THE HON. PAUL MARTIN, M.P.,
SECRETARY OF STATE FOR EXTERNAL AFFAIRS OF CANADA
to

RT. HON. MICHAEL STEWART, M.P.

In his message of April 2 the British Foreign Secretary, acting in his capacity as one of the two Co-Chairmen of the 1954 Geneva Conference on Indochina, has invited the Government of Canada, as a member of the International Commission for Supervision and Control in Vietnam, to furnish a statement of its views on the situation in Vietnam and on the circumstances in which the Canadian Government believes that a peaceful settlement could be reached.

The Canadian Government welcomes this initiative on the part of the British Co-Chairman and the opportunity which it provides for the Canadian Government to outline its views on these critical problems. The Canadian Government fully shares the British Co-Chairman's attitude of grave concern over the dangerous state of international tension now existing in connection with Vietnam and wishes to express its willingness to support any promising initiative which shows signs of contributing usefully to a lessening of tension and a resolution of the problems underlying these tensions.

The Canadian Government believes that if there had been a strict adherence to the Geneva Cease-Fire Agreement of 1954, the dangerous situation confronting the world today would not have come about. Unfortunately, this has not been the case and