

CANADIAN CONDITIONS FOR NEW ROLE IN VIETNAM

At a press conference on November 21, Secretary of State for External Affairs Mitchell Sharp stated that he had discussed with United States Secretary of State William Rogers the proposed commission to supervise the cease-fire in Vietnam. Canada had previously offered to put at the disposal of such a commission the contingent that is now part of the International Control Commission in Vietnam, until the calling of an international conference. Mr. Sharp stated that Canada had made no other commitments at that time, adding: "and I made no other commitments during our talks during the weekend".

The Minister said he had sought clarification on the following points:

"First, that the proposed supervisory commission would be acceptable to all the parties - that is, the North Vietnamese, the Provisional Revolutionary Government of South Vietnam, the Government of South Vietnam and the United States - and that the protocol governing the operations of the commission would be accepted by all the parties.

"The second point: that there would be some international authority to which the commission would report.

"Thirdly, that the procedure for reporting by the commission would be workable.

"Fourth, that the commission would have freedom of movement to investigate in all parts of South Vietnam.

"Many of these points cannot yet be fully answered but I was satisfied that the United States understands our position, and we shall make the same points to the other parties to the proposed cease-fire.

"I would also like to make some points clear:

"First is that the proposed supervisory commission is not a military force like the peacekeeping force in Cyprus. Its function is to observe and report, not to keep the peace.

"Secondly, we will accept this responsibility only if we are asked to do so by all the parties to the cease-fire. In other words, we would not be acting on behalf of the United States. The request must come from the North Vietnamese as well as the United States and be agreeable to all four parties.

"And finally, if we do accept, it will be for the purpose of helping to bring the war in Indochina to an end."

ORAL CONTRACEPTIVES AND CANCER

As a result of continued surveillance by officers of the Health Protection Branch, "the adverse findings of an increased number of breast nodules in dogs have been responsible for the withdrawal of some contraceptive agents from the Canadian market," former federal Health Minister John Munro said recently.

Mr. Munro was commenting on a report of the Committee on Safety of Medicines in Britain on investigations designed to test oral contraceptives for cancer potential. This committee has concluded from the results in rats and mice that the findings in rodents cannot be interpreted as constituting a carcinogenic hazard to women, when these preparations are used as oral contraceptives at the recommended doses. The evidence from similar animal studies conducted in dogs and primates in the United States will be considered by the British committee when this information becomes available to them.

Mr. Munro noted that the Special Advisory Committee he had appointed to advise on all aspects of the safety and efficacy of oral contraceptives marketed in Canada, concluded in their December 1970 report that there was no significant clinical evidence to indicate that carcinoma is caused by the administration of oral contraceptives.

The committee was reconvened this year to review the health hazards of contraceptives, including the problem of carcinogenesis. It is expected that

their report will be available for publication in the near future.

The withdrawal of some contraceptives from the Canadian market was a precautionary measure, said Mr. Munro. Similar action has been taken by the United States. Since this information accumulated on a continuing basis for the lifetime of the experimental animals, surveillance will be maintained, Mr. Munro concluded.

CANADA'S WATER NOT FOR SALE

No sale or diversion of water to the United States has been or is being contemplated by the Government of Canada, Environment Minister Jack Davis said on November 10. He was referring to remarks made recently on the Canadian Broadcasting Corporation's Sunday night television program "Weekend" suggesting that there were plans to divert water from Northern Ontario through the Great Lakes system into the United States. "There is absolutely no truth in this," said Mr. Davis. "Canada's water is not for sale."

Mr. Davis's statement continued: "There has been and there is no participation in these studies by representatives of the United States Army Corps of Engineers, nor by any other United States agency."

"Not only has no such water diversion project been launched, but no proposal to export water has been made to Canada by the U.S. Government," the Minister concluded.