

solution of the Cyprus problem. And, when I speak of a durable solution, I mean, of course, a solution that is capable of commanding the agreement of all the parties. Given the necessary spirit of compromise and accommodation, I believe that such a solution is not beyond reach. I would certainly hope that all concerned will do all they can to bring it within their grasp.

If I am moderately encouraged by the recent trend of developments in Cyprus, I can see no prospect of early improvement in the situation in Vietnam.

In that part of the world, too, there has been an international presence. In this case, it took the form of a commission of which Canada, India and Poland are members. The task assigned to that commission was to supervise the implementation of a cease-fire agreement. It was hoped, at the time the agreement was concluded in 1954, that peace would be restored to the area. In the event, that has not proved to be the case. On the contrary, the situation in Vietnam today is probably more serious than it has been at any time in the past 11 years.

We have watched this situation evolve at first hand. We have tried to assess it objectively and impartially. We have never claimed that there have not been breaches of the cease-fire agreement on both sides. But, when all is said and done, there is one central fact that stands out in this situation and it is this: what we are faced with in Vietnam is a case of covert aggression being conducted by the North against the South. And the ultimate aim of that aggression is nothing less than the overthrow of the government and administration of South Vietnam.

The justification being given to that aggression by the authorities in Hanoi and Peking is that it represents a "war of national liberation". This is a claim which we cannot and do not accept.

Of course, there are many situations all over the world where people are looking for change -- political, economic and social change. No doubt, elements of such a desire for change are present in the situation in South Vietnam. This is part of the process of transformation of a traditional into a modern society which it is in our interest to encourage and support.

We cannot expect that process to be accomplished without some measure of unrest and instability. And when we see one government succeeding another in the South, we should not throw up our hands in despair. We should recognize that after centuries of mandarin authority, after 100 years of colonial administration, and after ten years of attempts at self-rule, a new political pattern is in the process of working itself out in Saigon. And that is happening in the most difficult circumstances of aggression abetted and directed from without.

We were confronted with very similar circumstances in Europe in the years immediately following the Second World War. We were then able to bring aggression under control by making it clear that we were determined to protect and preserve the right of nations to order their own affairs. That is one of the major achievements of the North Atlantic Alliance. And may I say