

"Third, we recognize the unity of the people of Vietnam. We have no wish to inhibit the reunification of Vietnam. We are bound to recognize, however, that the temporary division of that country reflects the political realities of the situation and cannot be abrogated by force. It is for the people in the two parts of Vietnam to decide how soon, and under what conditions, preparations for reunification can be set in train. This is not something which can be imposed upon the people of Vietnam from the outside or in disregard of the principle which they must enjoy like anyone else - of self-determination.

"Fourth, we believe that any Vietnam settlement will have to involve an international presence. We believe it is generally agreed that, as soon as conditions permit, there must be a withdrawal of all outside forces from both parts of Vietnam. This would be consistent with the terms of the Geneva Agreement. The same applies to military bases maintained in Vietnam.

"We believe that it is likely to be necessary - for some period at any rate - to have international supervision of any settlement agreed to by the Parties. The purpose of such supervision would be to give each side adequate guarantees that the terms of such a settlement were being fairly carried out. We have no firm views as to what form that international supervision might take.

"If it were decided that the three powers represented on the present International Commission should assume a new mandate in an expanded form, I can assure the House that Canada would be prepared to co-operate fully in the constitution of a new supervisory force. In that event we shall have to consider, in the light of our experience, what powers and what resources should be given to such a force if it is to carry out its mandate effectively and with the best interests of the Parties in mind.

"Fifth, we believe that it is for the Vietnamese people themselves to determine their own political future and the shape of the institutions under which they wish to live. We welcome the progress which has been made in South Vietnam to bring about the conditions in which a constitutional government, responsive to the interests of the people of the south, can be elected. We understand that this process will be completed within the current year. We would hope, when the hostilities have ceased and a settlement of the current conflict has been reached, that all segments of the people of South Vietnam will be afforded an opportunity to participate on a fair, constitutional and peaceful basis in the political life of South Vietnam, but so far as the representation of the Viet Cong at a conference is concerned, in the words of Mr. Goldberg's recent statement, this does not seem to present an insurmountable problem.

"Sixth, we can see merit in proposals which have been made for the neutralization, not only of Vietnam, but of a wider area in Southeast Asia.

"Seventh, we believe that in Southeast Asia, as in other parts of the developing world, there is a close link between the requirements of stability and the requirements of economic development."