

Mr. MARTIN (*Essex East*): I never overlook the fact that that is all you have in mind.

Mr. CHURCHILL: I asked a question in the House some time ago of the Minister of National Defence who said that the question involved matters of some secrecy.

Mr. MARTIN (*Essex East*): Do not get me in the position where I would be contradicting my colleague now, Mr. Churchill.

Mr. CHURCHILL: I will point out in a minute where you failed with regard to your colleague. But should we not have a military appreciation of the situation in Vietnam in order to understand it very thoroughly? What are the sizes of the forces engaged? If you are looking forward to a peace settlement, as we all are, is it reasonable to assume that it is within sight? How intensive is the war at the present time; what degree of success is attendant upon the US and their allies' activity; are they failing in their mission, or have we reached the stage where there is a possibility of the war coming to a successful end from the point of view of the United States? You must have had some of these things in mind when you were making suggestions and looking ahead to a peacekeeping operation.

Mr. MARTIN (*Essex East*): No, I do not think that that follows at all. I do not think, in the first place, that it is my role to give a report on the success of the battle one way or another. Canada is not a belligerent in this war. As a member of the Commission our role, in most difficult circumstances, is to try to comply with the obligation imposed on us 13 years ago, and that we are seeking to do through the Commission.

As to whether or not the chances for peace are good or bad, all I can say at the moment is that the positions have hardened and I do not see any immediate prospect, but that does not mean that one could not suddenly arise.

I said to Mr. Allmand yesterday that no one likes to see people killed on either side in any war, and that we are doing all that we can, as are other countries, to see that it comes to an end, but coming to an end is not a matter that is within our exclusive power in any way.

Now, you asked about the number of troops. I can give you the statistical information. I can tell you it is estimated that there are approximately 435,000 US troops, 600,000 South Vietnamese, 45,000 Koreans, 5,000 Australians, some New Zealanders, some Thais, and some Philippine personnel as well.

On the other side in the South, there are about 280,000 combined Viet Cong and North Vietnamese regulars.

Mr. CHURCHILL: That will lead me to the next question. In the course of your endeavours in your visits to Russia and Poland—and we have not seen the film of that yet, I suppose that will be on display—did you consider, also, going to Australia and New Zealand to talk directly with the people there who are engaged in this war? They seem to be left out of the picture; it is just North Vietnam, South Vietnam, and the United States that we hear about. Yet, here are two countries of the Commonwealth involved for some time now in this war. What contact have you with those people?