

There are different ways in which a start might be made. For our part we are guided by a number of basic considerations. The Canadian Government has repeatedly emphasized its belief that an exclusively military solution is not possible. We believe that only a political settlement which takes into account the legitimate interests and aspirations of all concerned can restore peace and stability in that country. In the interests of promoting a peaceful settlement we have used all the diplomatic channels available to us to see whether there is any contribution we could make towards resolving the problem.

I have already referred to Canada's role as a member of the International Commission for Supervision and Control in Vietnam. We have attempted to develop our responsibilities into opportunities for constructive action. It still seems to us that the Commission can provide a means of facilitating contacts between the two sides. Nor have we excluded the possibility that the Commission might help the parties to scale down hostilities as a means of eventual disengagement.

It is discouraging to us that our efforts, like those of others, have not yielded the results intended. Nonetheless, it continues to be the conviction of the Canadian Government that efforts to promote a peaceful settlement of this war should not and must not be abandoned. In this connection I have carefully noted the statement made yesterday by Ambassador Goldberg and particularly the significant questions which he addressed to the government in Hanoi. Against this background it is all the more essential that channels for contacts between the two sides be developed and maintained to prepare the way for negotiations whenever they are possible. We also believe that such channels are important in circumstances where the risk of misunderstanding and miscalculation is ever present. In Canada's view it is essential that the attention of the world community should not be diverted from the urgent necessity of a diplomatic solution. For these reasons we believe that a continuing effort must be made through whatever openings may be available to us individually or collectively to explore any possible avenues that may lead to a reversal of the present course of events in Vietnam.

Universality of Membership

It is a fact, however, that the capacity of the United Nations to play a useful role in the Vietnam conflict will be called into question as long as certain parties involved in that conflict are not members of this Organization and are not bound by the terms of the Charter. I am not saying that, if they were members, the United Nations would be able to settle the conflict. I am saying that the Organization would have a better chance of doing so if those parties were sitting here today. I know that there are fundamental obstacles.