

In summary, these changes can be attributed mainly to the following developments:

the necessity of increasing the number of positions provided in the "floater" pool to compensate for the loss of service incurred by personnel on attachment, in training prior to posting, in transit to and from posts, on conferences, on home leave and on full-time language studies; the additional staff required to improve our communications system, occasioned by the provision of automatic cypher equipment for more rapid and secure communications with certain of our posts abroad, and to handle the increased volume of traffic in Ottawa; the necessity of providing additional security precautions at posts where cypher machine equipment is installed; and the need to provide additional personnel to take care of work arising out of our growing commitments at the United Nations.

It is important to note that the 1957-58 estimates were prepared on the basis of conditions as they existed prior to the international crises over developments in the Middle East area. The staff requirements for these urgent tasks have had to be met at the sacrifice of other important departmental functions.

*Canadian Personnel serving on the International Commissions for Supervision and Control in Vietnam, Cambodia and Laos*

Because of the demands on our personnel establishment resulting from our work of peace supervision in Indochina, I think you would like to hear a more detailed account of our personnel position there.

As of January 1, 1957, there were 156 Canadians serving on the international commissions for supervision and control in Vietnam, Cambodia and Laos. Of this number, 29 are from the Department of External Affairs and the remainder from the Department of National Defence. The numbers of personnel actually in Indochina may vary by 2 or 3 at any given time because of postings, illness and other reasons, but the figures given remain fairly constant.

The Canadian delegation to the commission in Vietnam is by far the largest of the Canadian groups in Indochina. We have been able to reduce within limits our personnel commitments in Indochina. As of September 30, 1957, this department had in Vietnam 5 officers and 12 administrative staff members, in Laos 3 officers and 3 stenographic and clerical personnel, and in Cambodia 2 officers and 2 administrative staff members. This reflects a decrease of 2 employees since January 1, 1957.

The necessity to maintain well-trained and experienced officer and clerical staffs in Indochina constitutes a continuing demand on the personnel resources of the external affairs department. The policy of having male personnel serve in Indochina for approximately one year and female personnel for nine months—made necessary by the unusual and difficult conditions of service—complicates our personnel planning programme.

The three supervisory commissions in Indochina—in Vietnam, Laos and Cambodia—continue to carry out the job assigned to them under the cease-fire agreements signed in Geneva in July 1954. As I mentioned in my statement to this committee in 1956, a number of the more important provisions of the agreements had been fulfilled. However, during the past year the commissions have continued to supervise the carrying out of the remaining obligations of the parties, particularly in Laos and Vietnam.