

PRESS RELEASE



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The Secretary of State for External Affairs, the Honourable Paul Martin, ^{today} announced the release of the Special Report of February 27, 1965, of the International Commission for Supervision and Control in Vietnam. The report deals with the withdrawal of the Commission's fixed teams from North Vietnam at the insistence of the North Vietnamese authorities.

The Canadian Government regards this report as having been submitted under that section of Article 43 of the Geneva Agreement which reads as follows: "The International Commission shall inform the members of the Conference in all cases where its activity is being hindered". The withdrawal of the Commission's fixed teams from North Vietnam at the insistence of the North Vietnamese authorities is an obvious and very serious illustration of the way the work of the Commission has been hindered by North Vietnam. For years the Northern teams have not been allowed to conduct meaningful controls but their presence was symbolic of the Geneva settlement and North Vietnam's acceptance of it. The demand for the withdrawal of teams and the implementation of this demand, in certain cases before the Commission's instructions to its own teams had been received, represents a clear departure from the procedures envisaged under Article 35 of the Geneva Agreement.