

Communist forces. Efforts by the Canadian delegation to have the ICC exercise its powers to initiate an investigation in the light of this *prima facie* evidence of violations of the 1954 Cease Fire Agreement by one of the parties failed to elicit any positive response from its Commission partners.

In May 1969, the RKG published a statement setting out its views regarding the role of the ICC. In that statement, it indicated that the stationing and infiltration of Vietnamese Communist forces on Cambodian territory was a matter which concerned only Cambodia and the Democratic Republic of Vietnam and the National Liberation Front of South Vietnam and not any third parties; that it therefore did not wish the ICC to deal with this question; that, moreover, it intended "to relieve the ICC of all authority concerning the settlement of the political and military problems which set Cambodia against the U.S.A. and its satellites, on the one hand, and the DRVN and NLF of South Vietnam on the other"; and that it was for Cambodia alone to try to resolve these problems with the authorities of these states. In October, it formally informed the ICC of its decision "to terminate the mission of the Commission in Cambodia before the end of this year".

In Laos the situation was different, in that the Royal Laotian Government (RLG) asked the International Control Commission in Vientiane to undertake investigations into several attacks allegedly made by North Vietnamese troops. Despite efforts by the Canadian delegation to get some effective action on these complaints, the ICC either took no decision or, as in two specific cases, voted against Canadian proposals to investigate.

During 1969, no progress was made by the ICC in Laos on the question of periodic reports to the Co-chairmen of the Geneva Conference, even though these had not been rendered since 1963. Moreover, no effective action was possible on the great backlog of items on the ICC's agenda (some dating back to 1964) and, consequently, these were gradually being removed after concluding statements were recorded by the three delegations.

In his November 3 statement in the House of Commons regarding changes in Canadian representation abroad for budgetary reasons, the Secretary of State for External Affairs said:

"In recent years, the International Control Commissions in Laos and Cambodia have, for a variety of reasons, been unable to perform the functions assigned to them. We have, therefore, decided that little useful purpose would be served by maintaining our present physical presence in Vientiane and Phnom Penh. Canada remains a member of both Commissions and will fulfil its commitments as before. As these commitments are not expected to be onerous, it is intended that the Canadian Commissioner in Vietnam will serve on the other two Commissions. In Laos, arrangements will also be made to maintain local contact with the other members of the Commission. Our aid program in Laos and Cambodia will be run from the Canadian delegation in Saigon."