

termination of any other Canadian responsibilities that might arise out of either the agreement and protocols or any acts or declarations emanating from this conference.

I have asked the head of our delegation in Saigon -- who happens, like myself, to be chairman at the present time -- to give me an interim report on the work of the International Commission of Control and Supervision and the state of affairs in respect to the implementation of the agreement and protocols.

The report that I received late last week from the head of the Canadian delegation made two points very clearly: first, the cease-fire has not been effective throughout South Vietnam and, second, the four-party joint military commission has not operated effectively. Both these factors have seriously impaired the Commission's ability to meet its obligations.

With respect to the cease-fire, it is evident from this report that the Vietnamese parties are still engaged in hostile activities related to efforts by one side or the other to enlarge its areas of control. The Commission has received numerous complaints from the four parties alleging violations of the cease-fire. In a number of cases investigations have been ordered but, at this early stage, we have been obliged to settle for investigations of a more limited scope than that envisaged in the agreement, debate within the Commission over what the Commission is empowered to investigate and at whose request, delays on the part of the four-party joint military commission in establishing itself in the field, and the conditions of insecurity prevailing in the countryside as a result of continued hostilities -- all these have militated against the Commission's ability to take decisive action in investigating most cease-fire violations. After receiving a series of general complaints alleging cease-fire violations, the Commission issued a strong appeal to the parties to respect the cease-fire. This appeal on February 16 predated by one day an appeal by the four-party joint military commission to the same effect.

The delay of the four-party joint military commission in becoming fully effective has presented the International Commission with serious problems in meeting its obligations with respect to the deployment of teams in the field. The Commission's regional headquarters teams were deployed on February 5, several days after the deadline imposed upon us. On February 20, the Commission decided to deploy its teams at the sub-regional level. In addition, the Commission has decided to deploy its teams to points of entry into South Vietnam to control the import of armaments and other military material, as well as four teams to observe the withdrawal of United States forces and other forces allied with the Republic of Vietnam, from South Vietnam. Every effort is being made by the Canadian delegation to ensure that teams in the regions and at points of entry are deployed within the deadline established by the agreement -- that is to say, by February 27. Whether we succeed in meeting this deadline will depend -- as everything will depend -- on the ability of the four parties to afford the necessary co-operation. We have, however, taken the position that the