

I am sure that the leaders of Poland, Hungary, Roumania and other Eastern European nations would agree that the world of today is one in which there is a good deal the lesser powers can do towards those objectives. Yugoslavia chose its own special role some years ago in relation to what it considered to be national interests and international necessities....

Asian Problems

... The necessity of encouraging the political dialogue between Western and Communist powers is clear when we consider some of the major Asian and European problems.

Since the beginning of the present United Nations General Assembly a few weeks ago, there has been a renewal of diplomatic activity concerning the war in Vietnam. The leaders of many nations have interested themselves anew in the possibilities for reaching a settlement.

I have discussed with Mr. Rusk and Mr. Goldberg our appreciations of the situation in Asia and the world as it affects the outlook for a settlement. I have discussed the possibility of constructive action by Canada as a member of the International Control Commission or in any other capacity. I have spoken to Mr. Gromyko on this same subject and I look forward to resuming conversations with him in Moscow.

This is not the occasion to consider in detail the complex nature of the situation in Vietnam or the various initiatives which could have some bearing on it.

So far as the situation on the spot in Vietnam is concerned, it is very difficult to predict the course of events or the nature of the military situation which would lead to a cease-fire and negotiated settlement. Canada has had civilian and military personnel in Vietnam for 12 years and has tried to make its contribution through the International Control Commission to the achievement of stability. Under present conditions, it is very difficult for the Commission to impose limits on the scale of the conflict.

We do think, however, that the Commission may have a part to play if the two sides were agreed on using it as an instrument for disengaging their forces on the ground. The Commission could also, no doubt, make a new contribution in the context of any eventual settlement of the Vietnam problem.

We cannot consider the Vietnam situation in isolation. We must consider it in the wider perspectives of the foreign policies of those nations chiefly concerned, of East-West relations, and of the world situation generally. The calculations and miscalculations made by leading protagonists about one another, the changing relations within the ranks of Communist nations, the role of neutral Asian nations and the plans for international action to confirm a peaceful settlement - all could play a part in influencing the course of events which we hope will lead to an early end of the conflict.