

afternoon. I think that any appeal, any public appeal, made by the Prime Minister of India is listened to very attentively and with very respectful consideration by the heads of all the governments with whom I have had any contacts.

**QUESTION:** Beyond the appeal, though, Sir, do you think that at the present time, the way the situation looks in Indo-China, there is any possibility of immediate steps for a cease-fire?

**ANSWER:** Well, as Mr. Nehru put it, there is to be a meeting of those we regard as the five great powers, in Geneva in April, and that meeting is for the purpose of dealing with the Korean situation and afterwards with the Indo-China situation; and wouldn't it seem to you and me as reasonable human beings that if it were our affair, and if we were on opposite sides, we would say, "Why not stop shooting and see if this April meeting can't bring about a settlement?"

**QUESTION:** Would you concede that peace -- no, I will narrow the issue and say the suspension of killing -- in the East would lessen world tension today?

**ANSWER:** I think it would be an indication of a desire for those who are now engaged in hostilities to find peaceful solutions, and I think that any move towards peaceful negotiated solutions is a move that would encourage me and would confirm my confidence that mankind was trying to reach a level on which there would be saner behavior than it has been your and my misfortune to find during this first half of the twentieth century.

**QUESTION:** Do you have any indication whether the Chinese Communists or the Viet-Nam is prepared to accept Mr. Nehru's proposal?

**ANSWER:** No I do not.

**QUESTION:** Would the Canadian Government endorse Mr. Nehru's appeal in general terms?

**ANSWER:** Oh yes, without any reservation or hesitation whatsoever. We wouldn't have ventured to make it ourselves because we wouldn't have felt that our importance in world affairs was sufficient to justify us in making it, but we would have no hesitation whatsoever in rejoicing at the fact that Prime Minister Nehru was able to make that appeal.

**QUESTION:** Do you think that it would be practicable to also have a stoppage of fighting in Malaya and parts of Africa as also referred to by the Prime Minister?