

General of the United Nations. Article 7 provided for reconvening the Conference upon a joint request by the USA and the DRVN, or upon a request by six or more signatories to the Act. The Secretary of State for External Affairs expressed doubt that these arrangements went far enough in meeting Canada's essential conditions concerning a continuing political authority and that they would work. However, in his final statement to the Conference he made it clear that the Canadian Government would suspend judgement until it had had an opportunity to review carefully the new arrangements in light of Canadian experience in the ICCS. The Secretary of State for External Affairs said that Canada supported the spirit of the Act and wished to associate itself with the expressions of goodwill and cooperation underlined in it. For those reasons, he was prepared to sign it, but he made it clear that in doing so he was not accepting any new responsibilities for Canada.

In reporting to the House of Commons on March 5 about the International Conference, the Secretary of State for External Affairs stated the need to relate the political authority and the reporting arrangements that had been devised in Paris to the effectiveness of the ICCS on the ground. He said that disturbing developments in Viet-Nam posed the question of whether the Commission would be allowed to function in a way that would justify continued Canadian participation and that he was considering going to Viet-Nam to see the situation for himself. He re-emphasized that peace in Viet-Nam depended upon the Parties to the Agreement and that the ICCS could help, but only if the Parties wanted it to function.

Before the Standing Committee on External Affairs and National Defence of the House of Commons on March 6 the Secretary of State for External Affairs elaborated on his reference of the previous day to disturbing developments in Viet-Nam. He mentioned two principal difficulties: within the Commission itself, some members were reluctant to proceed with investigations and raised procedural obstacles which made it difficult for it to function effectively; furthermore, full cooperation by the Parties to the Agreement was lacking in allowing the ICCS access to certain areas.

MINISTERIAL VISIT TO INDOCHINA

From March 13 to 18, the Secretary of State for External Affairs visited the region to discuss with leaders in Saigon, Vientiane and Hanoi and with members of the Canadian Delegation to the ICCS the general situation, the role of the Commission and Canada's participation in it. He was accompanied