

Canadians had a number of ways of verifying that they were members of the ICCS including use of the radio in the jeep in which they were traveling. What is even more disturbing is that the PRG, rather than bringing their concerns about "false ICCS" to the attention of the other parties and of the ICCS through its Two-Party Joint Military Commission delegation in Saigon, instead gave out orders to their soldiers which in effect jeopardized every member of the ICCS. This lack of respect for the ICCS, and this unwillingness to create safe conditions in which the Commission can operate, has been evident previously in the PRG's behaviour. The "false ICCS" concept is in our view part and parcel of the highly subjective attitude which the PRG has adopted toward the ICCS. There is little evidence of genuine good-will in this attitude, notwithstanding professions to the contrary by this Party.

Captains Patten and Thomson were held for eighteen days. For ten days of this time they were held incommunicado. It is worth noting that on July 2 the two officers were informed by their captors that they had been identified as ICCS and would be released following a talk with the PRG "district representative" who would arrive that afternoon or the next day. This "talk", however, did not materialize until July 5 and it was followed by a series of forced marches and further "talks", eventually with the PRG "province chief". From July 11 until their release on July 15 the two Captains were frequently put under pressure to sign what can only be called prepared confessions that they had been on a private trip and had entered PRG-controlled territory illegally. All during the time of their captivity Captains Patten and Thomson were denied even the treatment normally accorded prisoners-of-war; they had to make forced marches through the jungle under guard while bound by the hands and neck, they were subjected to political propaganda, they were deprived of their uniforms and on occasion, in the case of Captain Patten, suffered physical violence. Treatment of this sort for members of an International Commission is outrageous in the extreme, and must be nearly if not completely without precedent. It is certainly not the type of behaviour one would expect of a serious and responsible party, conscious of its moral and legal obligations under an agreement which it has itself signed.

Our two Canadian officers, members of a national delegation to the ICCS, were attempting to become familiar with their territory and to give the people of the area an opportunity of coming to know of the existence of the ICCS. Both of these objectives directly serve the interests of the work of the Commission; the Canadian officers concerned had obtained the agreement of the teamsite Chairman for their trip and had informed him of the exact route which they intended to follow. My Delegation rejects entirely suggestions that have been made that they were engaged in any improper activities. Moreover, since the areas controlled by the two South Vietnamese Parties have never been delimited and there was no reason to believe that the area in question was controlled by the PRG, it was manifestly impossible to hold the ICCS personnel responsible