

Reference articles 6 and 7.

The Canadian delegation appreciates the efforts of the United States and the Democratic Republic of Viet-Nam delegations to reach agreement on this text.

The Canadian delegation is bound nevertheless to say that it is very disappointed with some of the portions of the draft document, and in particular, the portion of the document now under discussion. Our concern and disappointment arises from our participation in the International Commission of Control and Supervision, and from our anxiety to make that commission effective. It is, after all, the reason why we are participating in this conference. As all delegations are well aware, when Canada agreed to participate in the International Commission of Control and Supervision for the initial period of sixty days, it expressed doubts and reservations about the effectiveness of the arrangements for the Commission. The Canadian government stated that it would base its decision on whether to stay on in the commission beyond March 29, after the first sixty days of its participation, on its judgment of the extent to which those arrangements proved to be effective and could be made more so at this conference. In particular, Canada stated that it would look to the conference to provide the commission with an appropriate continuing political authority, and it reaffirmed Canada's position that the creation of such an authority was a sine qua non of continued Canadian participation in the commission beyond March 29.

In his opening statement on Monday, the head of the Canadian delegation, the Secretary of State for External Affairs of Canada, reverted to this subject, and made it clear that Canada would find it difficult to continue its participation in the commission after the initial period of sixty days if our well-known conditions for participation could not be satisfied. He emphasized, in particular, our long-standing conviction that the commission must have a continuing political authority through which the International Commission of Control and Supervision or any of its members could report and which would provide for some possibility of appropriate reaction to such reports. He emphasized that it would, in our view, have to be an independent mechanism more representative of the International Community than the existing mechanism, and he circulated a model resolution which gave concrete form to our views.

The Secretary of State for External Affairs said that we would work to find a solution that would meet our reasonable requirements. To that end, we were willing to examine any proposal that offered any chance of meeting our point. We have noted with satisfaction the expressions of interest and support for our approach to the question of a suitable continuing political authority on the part of some delegations. However, it seems clear to us, from the statements of a number of delegations in the plenary meeting of the conference and from the approach which a number of delegations have taken toward the role of the Secretary-General at this conference, that our original proposal, in any form, would not commend itself to the conference as a whole. That, unfortunately, became clear even before this drafting committee had an opportunity to give substantive consideration to the document before us. I must remind the committee that the Secretary of State for External Affairs of Canada described the proposal which he put forward as that which would best meet our requirements and expressed the hope that it would be given the most serious consideration.