

co-operative one. Frustration, inactivity and ineffectiveness have been forced upon us in Vietnam in the past. If they are forced upon us again, we are determined that it will be no fault of Canada's.

Members will be aware that the cease-fire machinery includes joint commissions on which the parties to the cease-fire are represented, as well as the international commission on which Canada is serving. Unless these joint commissions function effectively, the international commission cannot function.

There have been great difficulties in setting up these joint commissions. Many of these difficulties seem to be psychological in nature. Given the history of the conflict, this is no surprise. The time of enforced waiting is, however, being put to good use by the International Commission on Control and Supervision. The logistics support and organizational arrangements for the teams and the headquarters are being improved. So far, co-operation between the members of the ICCS has left nothing to be desired. The moment the joint commissions are functioning effectively, the international commission can begin to deploy its teams and get down to work. I was informed today that the first movement of the commissions may begin very soon out to very limited areas. The situation in Vietnam is still serious. I do not want to minimize the real risks that exist. These can only increase if the cease-fire itself, and the supervisory parties, continue to be ineffective.

In trying to make the commission work, we shall bear in mind that there are things which neither we nor the commission as a whole are expected to do. In particular, it must be clearly understood that neither the Canadian delegation nor the commission as a whole is a force to keep the peace. I regret very much that the shorthand term "peacekeeping force" is used so frequently because it seems to cause misunderstanding on the part of the general public. We are not sending a regiment to keep the peace in Vietnam. We are sending a group of civilians and members of the armed forces to undertake a civilian task, which is to supervise a peace which we hope will come. It is the parties to the agreement who bear the responsibility for keeping the peace. We may be able to play a good-offices role from time to time if the parties wish to avail themselves of the services of the commission or of the Canadian delegation for that purpose.

To accomplish the tasks which do form part of the responsibilities of the commission, we have provided, and are continuing to assemble, a body of men and women of the first quality. The delegation is headed by a foreign service officer of distinction and experience, including experience in Indochina, Ambassador Michel Gauvin. It is composed of personnel of the Department of National Defence and of the Department of External Affairs, who have been specially selected for the task. Many of them have previous experience of Indochina and of international observation roles elsewhere. They can be counted upon to do all that anyone could, and the Government will give them maximum support in their task. The Government is mindful of the fact that Canada has been asked by all four parties to participate; Canada and the Canadian delegation are not the nominees, representatives or spokesmen of any one party or of one side in the Vietnam struggle. The delegation will conduct itself accordingly.