



No. 23

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

17-NATION APPEAL

The Secretary of State for External Affairs, the Honourable Paul Martin, today released the text of the Canadian Government's reply to the 17-nation appeal received on April 1. The reply is as follows:

"The Canadian Government has given careful consideration to the 17-nation appeal officially presented to it on April 1.

The Canadian Government welcomes the spirit in which this appeal has been launched and commends the sponsoring nations for their initiative which reflects the anxiety of all responsible nations of the world over the deepening crisis in Vietnam and their concern for a peaceful resolution of the conflict.

In a statement to the House of Commons on April 1, the Secretary of State for External Affairs stated that there was much in the appeal with which the Canadian Government could agree. In particular Canada shares with the sponsoring powers the belief that only through negotiations looking to a peaceful solution can the conflict in Vietnam be terminated; and Canada supports the