

and there was, of course, no reason why we should. As I said in the House this morning, there is no doubt that these decisions were hard ones and certainly very momentous. It remains to be seen whether they will accomplish what the President has in mind.

I have no doubt whatever that the President is very conscious of the risks of uncontrolled escalation in this situation, and that this must be a governing factor in the implementation of his policy. I think it is fair to say too that the President made his decision in full knowledge of the opposition of many leading figures in the United States, including Senator Fulbright....

The United States is a democratic country. There are many countries in the world where decisions of government are made without attention to the views of their people. The American people can at any time reject a Government that makes decisions that are contrary to what they believe to be in their interests. I believe, if I may say so, that the American people are as fully conscious as we are as Canadians of the implications of the decisions that have been made by the U.S. Government.

...I doubt very much, however, whether the anguish in Indochina would end if the United States were simply to withdraw its forces immediately and without condition. This seems to me to be the dilemma in which we all find ourselves today.

...(I)t has been suggested that we ought to do more to have the International Control Commission in Cambodia revived. It has also been suggested that we should do more to reconvene the powers involved such as the members of the Geneva Conference. Others have suggested we should take steps to bring the matter before the United Nations.

Let me deal first with the question of reconvening the International Control Commission. We have been discussing this question with those governments directly involved in any decision that would be taken on this matter and there is no indication yet that they see the reconvening of the Commission as being helpful. I have made the Canadian Government's position clear. We are, of course, prepared to see the Commission reconvened if there is any reasonable prospect of its being able to do a job. We have indicated our readiness to participate in a tripartite meeting in New Delhi in order to discuss with India and Poland the function of a reconvened International Control Commission as well as improvements in its methods of operation which would be necessary in order to make it more effective than it was before. Whether there is now any better prospect of the Commission being reconvened is at least doubtful. The only responsibility which the Commission has is to supervise a cease-fire which has already been agreed upon. It may facilitate the implementation of an agreed cease-fire, but it has no mandate, and, indeed, no capacity, to stop the parties engaging in a full-scale conflict.

The French Government has put forward the idea of negotiations among what they call interested parties with a view to the neutralization of the whole of Indochina. When I discussed this proposal with Mr. Schumann in Paris a few weeks ago, he made clear that this was not a new proposal for a new Geneva Conference, although that possibility was not ruled out....The Soviet Union appeared to show some interest in the idea of a Geneva Conference. However, the Soviet Union made no specific proposal, as some believe, and subsequently made clear, in the words of the Soviet Ambassador to the United Nations, that