

had come together under one roof. Along with my parliamentary colleagues I had the opportunity of exchanging views with many of them and to broaden my understanding of the widely different points of view they represented.

We were, of course, given a thorough briefing by the Canadian Delegation and later visited a regional headquarters at Can Tho, in the much fought-over Mekong delta where once again we were shown in intimate and close detail just what was involved in the ICCS operation and how the parties were conducting themselves on the scene of action. We were told by our briefers that it had been estimated that there had been some 7,000 incidents since the cease-fire came into effect in January, some of these involving extremely large-scale operations, possibly up to divisional strength. Out of these have emerged only some 31 requests for investigation by the ICCS (some of these have been added since I left Saigon). From these requests just two Commission reports have emerged. Moreover, there are areas in which the essential pieces in the mechanism, the four-party and two-party Joint Military Commissions, have yet to be established.

While there is no denying the seriousness of the situation, I would not like to leave the impression that nothing has been achieved or that our presence has been of little or no value. No one will deny that the present situation, however unsatisfactory or short of the condition of peace which everyone hopes for in Viet-Nam,