

now or later to any charges that we have acted partially; we can be proud of our objectivity in the Commission and of our attempts to see this impartiality as an integral part of Commission activities.

I also said, in my statement to the House on March 27, that Canada would be prepared to return to Vietnam to participate in the international supervision of an election clearly held under the terms of the Paris agreement and therefore with the concurrence and participation of the two South Vietnamese parties. It went without saying that our participation would not be necessary if a replacement were found for Canada on the ICCS. I am not convinced that there is much chance that an election will take place as provided for in the agreement but, if it should (and we should want to examine it carefully to make sure it was this kind of election), and if no replacement had been found for Canada, we should consider sympathetically a request to return temporarily to the ICCS for this purpose, in the light of the circumstances then prevailing and our assessment of the chances for effective supervision.

The peace agreement itself anticipates the replacement of the named members of the ICCS -- Canada, Hungary, Indonesia and Poland -- or any of them. I have also said that we should be prepared to remain on the Commission until June 30 so that a replacement could be found. We have since learned that the discussions which took place recently between Dr. Kissinger and Mr. Le Duc Tho will be resumed in June. We want to give those discussions every chance of success and we would certainly wish to do nothing that would complicate them in introducing what might seem to be too short a deadline for agreeing on a replacement for Canada on the Commission.

In recognition of that possible difficulty, we are prepared, if the parties to the agreement so wish, to stay for a period beyond June 30 but not later than July 31. Canada's decision to withdraw is firm and definite, but the additional flexibility should give the parties adequate time to find a replacement for the Canadian delegation. Should a successor be named and be ready to take its place before July 31, we should, of course, be prepared to hand over our responsibilities at any mutually-convenient earlier time. We shall, of course, continue to function as we have been doing during the remaining period of our stay on the Commission.

In conclusion, I should like to pay tribute (and I know I speak for all members of the House of Commons) to Ambassador Gauvin, Major-General MacAlpine and all the members of the Canadian delegation now in Vietnam and to their predecessors going back to 1954. Notwithstanding great frustration and serious risks, they have carried high the flag of Canada; for some it has cost them their life. Those who

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