

In the end Canada joined with others in bringing about this adjournment sine die. We made it very clear that we were not getting out by reason of any threats or suggestions by Laotians, but we had in mind the representations made here by Souvanna Phouma, the Prime Minister of Laos, that after the election had been held and the situation stabilized, he felt that the commission would have performed its task. That commission can be reconvened in Laos at the call of the chairman, the representative for India. Canada must be consulted. If we go back by reason of any particular emergency we will always have in mind the rights of the Laotian Government, and we will not interfere with the sovereignty of that country. In the opinion of the Canadian Government, the commission which began its operations in 1954 has completed its task.

With respect to Viet Nam there is tension, as the members of the House well know, between South and North Viet Nam. That situation has not been stabilized. There is a need for the continuation of the work of the international commission in Viet Nam, but we have advice that we can apply a formula similar to the Laos one to Cambodia where the situation has been stabilized.

I seize this opportunity to pay tribute to India, which provided a chairman, for its co-operation, and also to pay a tribute to the success of the Royal Government in Laos in bringing about a reconciliation of the two forces that were indeed hostile to one another. We will now take up the problem with respect to Cambodia. As I indicated a moment ago, we should be able to use the same formula of adjournment.

I come back to this concept that I advanced earlier with respect to Lebanon and with respect to certain other countries in the Middle East. Is there not something in the example of the success of the international commissions in Laos and Cambodia for a solution of some of the problems at least in some of the trouble spots in the Middle East?

DISARMAMENT

I will now speak on the problem of disarmament. It may be that some will have the thought that we should not be talking about disarmament in the particularly vexed situation that we now have. I do not share that view. Indeed, the interest in and the desire for disarmament have been intensified by events in the past few weeks. In order to provide members of the House a perspective with respect to disarmament, a perspective that will be read with deeper concern during the present situation, I am tabling a White Paper with respect to the disarmament discussions in 1957.