

The second point was that it would be necessary to freeze the course of military events in Vietnam at its present level.

Third, that it would be logical that there would be a cessation of all activities between the parties; whether on the ground, air, or on the sea.

The final stage would be to complete the process of return to the cease-fire provisions of the Geneva Agreement, which includes the withdrawal of all outside forces.

Mr. CHURCHILL: I selected U Thant's proposals from your document on page 9, and then your own proposals on page 13, and I am glad that you have refreshed your memory with regard to them.

Mr. MARTIN (*Essex East*): But only because you were kind enough to cause me to reflect on them.

Mr. CHURCHILL: Your first step, and these are your own words:

...should involve some degree of physical disengagement of the parties. This might be accomplished by restoring the demilitarized character of the zone on either side of the seventeenth parallel by the withdrawal of all military forces, supplies and equipment from that zone...

Mr. MARTIN (*Essex East*): Yes, by barring overflights, and so on.

Mr. CHURCHILL: What is the size of that demilitarized zone?

Mr. MARTIN (*Essex East*): It is six miles wide; a three mile strip on each side. Its course runs east-west from the sea to the Laotian border.

Mr. CHURCHILL: It is a rather insignificant area in relation to the war that is going on in that country.

Mr. MARTIN (*Essex East*): I do not know what you mean by "insignificant".

Mr. CHURCHILL: Well, in size.

Mr. MARTIN (*Essex East*): Yes, in size, but that does not mean that it is an insignificant proposition. You see, before last September there was, practically at all times, an absence of significant clashes in the demilitarized zone. The nature of the escalation was reflected in the fact that last September the forces of the USA and South Vietnam and the forces of the north, entered into a process of engagement in the demilitarized zone, so it became a rather significant bit of territory. The thought here is that if there were this disengagement this would be a very significant gesture that might have a cumulative exemplary effect. You, as a very well known military strategist, I am sure would agree with that.

Mr. CHURCHILL: I thought it was rather an insignificant factor to be listed prominently as a first step. It would just give your International Commission a chance to move about a little bit more than they have been doing in the last few weeks.

Mr. MARTIN (*Essex East*): You say it would be insignificant, that is your judgment, but I would point out to you that this is a provision in the Geneva Agreement that was considered carefully by 9 powers at the time in 1954, and re-considered by a government of which you were so distinguished a member.

Mr. CHURCHILL: Thank you, very much. I was attempting to compliment you on adding to your four points something that had been omitted by U Thant.