

We will work to find a solution that would meet our reasonable requirements. We are willing to examine any proposal that offers any chance of meeting our point. This is one of the reasons why, at the very beginning of the conference, I am putting forward a resolution that would best meet our requirements, and we hope it will be given the most serious consideration. Although this is only one of a number of factors in our decision-making, we shall examine the results of this conference with the greatest care and in the light of the information we have received from our delegation in Vietnam. Should we decide, as a result of our study of the outcome of this conference and of our experience up to now, that we must terminate our membership on the International Commission of Control and Supervision, we would so inform all the interested parties that, at the end of the 60 days for which we undertook to serve -- that is, on March 30 --, Canada would cease to be a member of the International Commission of Control and Supervision. At the same time, however, we would declare our willingness, if all the parties signatory to the agreement so desired, to remain in place and act as a member until April 30, 1973, or such earlier date as a new member could be agreed upon by the signatories and take our place.

Such a decision would be a very sad one for my Government to have to make. All Canadians have taken justifiable pride in the manner in which the Armed Forces of Canada, in particular, have contributed to peacekeeping operations throughout the world. It would be a bitter disappointment to them and to us to have to terminate our participation unilaterally. But I am satisfied that no Canadian would wish to see our representatives placed in the position of having to choose between suppressing relevant information or accepting full and direct national responsibility for the possible consequences of transmitting it under the existing arrangements. Even less would the Canadian people wish to see our delegation stand idly by, as Canadian delegations in Indochina have had to do in the past, while agreements they are supposed to supervise are disregarded.

I am hopeful that the new agreement will succeed if there is a desire on the part of those present to help make it succeed and to involve themselves in the process. If I am wrong, we shall have to arrange for the orderly transfer of our International Commission of Control and Supervision responsibilities to some other government. In doing so we would not be suggesting that our partners in the International Commission or a potential successor would be less sensitive or less alert to the problems that could arise than we were. We reached our own conclusions on peacekeeping in Vietnam some years ago and we have no reason to doubt their validity. On the other hand, we can readily understand that other countries differently situated from Canada could come to quite different conclusions. We respect their points of view and hope that they will understand ours.

Canada was invited to this conference as a member of the International Commission of Control and Supervision and its participation now and in any final act or declaration is linked to our continued participation in the International Commission of Control and Supervision. It follows, therefore, that a cessation of Canadian participation in the International Commission of Control and Supervision would also mean a