

QUESTION: Did you discuss this with Mr. Nehru, Sir?

ANSWER: Well, Mr. Nehru has been kind enough to inform me about conditions as he appreciates them in Indo-China as well as in many other parts of the world.

QUESTION: You have a very large population in Canada, haven't you, of French-speaking Canadians?

ANSWER: Oui, oui, il y a . . . qui parle la langue française.

(laughter)

Well, I will repeat it in English because the two languages are official, you know, under our constitution. There is about a third of our people who are of French descent and who are very much attached to their language and who are now quite happy to be able to feel that their fellow citizens recognize the value to the Canadian patrimony of the two European cultures that we are blending in our own national culture.

QUESTION: Sir, my point is somewhat different -- my point was what is their reaction to a cease-fire in Indo-China?

ANSWER: They would be very happy to have a cease-fire in Indo-China, and they would hope, as we have hoped since there was a cease-fire in Korea, that it would lead to a permanent settlement without any renewal of fire. We -- and it may perhaps be a little more acute among the Canadians of French origin -- have deplored over the years this drain on the young manhood of France that was involved in the fighting in Indo-China.

QUESTION: Will your Government try and back the Indian proposal if it comes up?

ANSWER: Well, our Government will do everything that it can, but our Government hasn't the presumption to feel that there is very much that it can do in an effective way about the settlement of problems in this hemisphere. But I can assure you that all our efforts are directed towards the establishment of political settlements because we believe that their results are apt to be more permanent than whatever results can be obtained by killing each other off.

QUESTION: From your talks with Mr. Nehru do you have the impression that there is something that India at least can do towards settlement?

ANSWER: I think India has already done something that is apt to have considerable influence in the speech that it was my privilege to hear the Prime Minister make in the House of the People on, I think it was, Monday