

arrangement. Clearly reflecting the frustrating Canadian experience with the ICSC, the Government has adopted a cautious approach to future operations, stating that, in the event of a settlement, "there could even be a role for an international mechanism, provided that a clear mandate, adequate resources and the full cooperation of the parties could be assured. These are essential conditions if the role of such an international mechanism is to be effective rather than merely symbolic." (p. 24). During his Pacific visits in 1970 and 1971, the Prime Minister at times expressed an even more guarded approach to the suggestion of Canadian participation in a revitalized ICSC, or similar new body.

146. The Committee concurs with the testimony of Mr. Macdonald, who stated "... there is, I think justifiably, a feeling of Canadian opinion—and I think there would be in this case—that if we can play a constructive and helpful role in Vietnam, then we should get right in there and do it." (p. 8:13). As the Policy Paper points out, "The political aspect of a new settlement will, in all likelihood, be even more complex." (p. 24). Here, of course, the intentions and commitments of the parties involved will be fully tested. The Committee agrees with the Government's judgement that "It would be unwise for Canada to go any distance in advance toward undertaking a new obligation to supervise a political settlement until it has been fully defined and is judged acceptable and workable." (p. 24).

147. While understanding the reasons for the Government's reservations, the Committee believes it important for Canada to indicate its continuing willingness to accept a role in order to help bring an end to the war in Indochina.