

Concerning the war in Vietnam, Canadians have - and have had from the beginning - one basic aim: to see the end of hostilities. As a result the Canadian Government has worked unceasingly to find ways in which this aim might be realized. It must be realized not only because of the tragic cost to the Vietnamese people but also because of the danger which continued fighting holds for world peace.

A basic guide line in our approach has been that to be helpful, any suggestion or initiative must have some prospect of acceptance by the parties themselves. It has been with this point in mind that we have explored the possibilities with both sides and tried to put forward some points that could provide the basis for the creation of an atmosphere in which a dialogue might be undertaken. Particularly we have sought a means of easing hostilities, including both the end of the bombing and the end of infiltration into the South, as a prelude to wider agreement. In addition, Canada has tried to keep open the possibility of the International Control Commission playing a role in paving the way for a peaceful settlement or in helping to implement the settlement. We have also indicated that we would be prepared to give sympathetic consideration to proposals for an international presence in Vietnam as part of the settlement process.

So far neither Canada nor any other country or person of goodwill has hit upon a formula which both sides could accept. But the tragic consequences of the war demand that we persist in doing what we can to find a solution. I can assure you - we shall persist.