

its usefulness and the desirability of continuing it. I am not, of course, proposing any compromise on points of principle, not any weakening of resistance to aggression in South Vietnam. I merely suggest that a measured pause in one field of military action at the right time might facilitate the development of diplomatic resources which cannot easily be applied to the problem under existing circumstances.

Obviously, the objectives of any lasting settlement cannot be defined in detail at this stage. I think, however, that few would quarrel with President Johnson's view - that an honourable peace should be based on "a reliable arrangement to guarantee the independence and security of all in Southeast Asia". Both sides should examine the substance of a possible, rather than a perfect, settlement.

In doing so, we should realize that the crisis in Vietnam is, in part at least, a reflection of a broader conflict, and that a lasting resolution of the specific problem may be possible only within the framework of a much broader settlement. But one thing is certain: without a settlement guaranteeing the independence, neutrality and territorial integrity of North Vietnam's neighbours in Southeast Asia and without a willingness by all parties to respect and protect these, a continuation of the present fear and instability will be inescapable.

RESPONSIBILITY OF INTERNATIONAL COMMUNITY

The problem, therefore, remains the responsibility of the international community. The members of that community will therefore be obliged to make available the means of supervising any settlement and guaranteeing the fulfilment of its terms in spirit and in letter. The world community will also be obliged to assist in establishing the economic, as well as political foundations of future understanding and security. In this connection, I was encouraged by President Johnson's expression of the willingness of the United States to help in promoting economic and social co-operation in the whole area. This is important.

There is at present a U.N. project for social and economic enterprise going on in this part of the world: the Mekong River Project.

The Mekong River Basin embraces most of Indo-China, as well as