

I would express on behalf of Canada the hope that we will have this concept of flexibility. It is here, I believe, that the Secretary-General, with his great experience and wisdom which he has shown particularly during the past two weeks, could be given the opportunity of devising some formula within the existing United Nations structure in order to enable these important conclusions to be reached with respect to those matters to which I referred, and to the end that the consultations at New York will be fruitful.

INDOCHINA

It is not inappropriate that I announce at this time an important development in connection with the responsibilities of Canada in Indochina. I would just bring back to the attention of the members of the House the role that Canada has played through its membership in three international commissions in Indochina; one international commission in Laos, one in Cambodia and one in Viet Nam. That was an example I used a few moments ago. Here were powers sitting down at Geneva in 1954 to deal with dissensions in these three parts of Indochina. There was in that particular area the possibility, indeed the probability, of a collision of the communist powers on the one side and western countries on the other.

What was done? There was established at the Geneva meeting machinery whereby the situation in these three countries could be stabilized or helped to be stabilized through the presence of international commissions. Canada was and is a member of those international commissions in the three countries, the other members being India and Poland. With the physical manifestation, if nothing else, of these three international commissions the result was that in Laos the Royal Government was enabled to bring about the stabilization of the situation there. There was a reconciliation of the communist forces and the royal force and there came about stability. On May 4 of this year supplementary elections were held in Laos and they indicated to Canada that its task had been performed in Laos through its membership in that commission.

Hence I informed the House recently that the Canadian Delegation to the International Commission for Supervision and control in Laos had introduced a resolution calling for the dissolution of the commission. I wish now to inform the House that the international commission for Laos was adjourned sine die on July 19. There were forces at work there - and you can guess their origin - which resisted the retirement or the adjournment of the Laos international commission.