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Request for investigation at the Khe Sanh area of Vietnam

Canada's Ambassador Michel Gawin made the following statement in Saigon on March 10:

At the twenty-third session of the International Commission of Control and Supervision on Wednesday, February 26, 1973, the Commission considered a request dated February 26, 1973, from the Republic of Vietnam delegation to the Central Joint Military Commission to the International Commission of Control and Supervision to investigate a complaint alleging that three SAM-2 rocket sites with missiles had been introduced into the Khe Sanh area, contrary to Article 7 of the agreement on ending the war and restoring peace in Vietnam. The Republic of Vietnam request for an investigation was supported by a series of photographs purported to have been taken between January 24 and February 12 to 18, 1973. The United States delegation to the Central Joint Military Commission, in a letter dated Febru-

Investigation justified

Article 2 of the International Commission of Control and Supervision protocol provides that "the International Commission shall investigate violations of the provisions described in Article 18 of the agreement on the request of the four-party Joint Military Commission, or of the two-party Joint Military Commission, or of any part...." In the circumstances there was, in the opinion of the Canadian delegation, no alternative under the agreement and the relevant protocol but for the International Commission of Control and Supervision to begin an immediate investigation. Nevertheless, despite this clear and mandatory obligation, opposition was expressed to an investigation on the basis, *inter alia*, that there were no adequate grounds for an investigation. Also, the view was put

Decision awaited on Canada's continued participation in ICCS

Secretary of State for External Affairs Mitchell Sharp, who returned to Ottawa on March 19 after a five-day inspection tour of North and South Vietnam and Laos, was, at the time of going to press, scheduled to report to the House of Commons as soon as the Cabinet had decided whether the results of the trip justified Canada's continued participation in the International Commission for Control and Supervision. The Minister's statement is expected to appear in the next issue of *Canada Weekly*.

ary 28, 1973, confirmed that the Central Joint Military Commission had been unable to agree on joint action concerning this complaint. The Canadian delegation, supported by one other delegation, considered that the International Commission should immediately investigate this alleged violation because of its seriousness and the obligation of the International Commission of Control and Supervision to do so under Article 2 of the International Commission of Control and Supervision protocol.

forward that the other party in the dispute should be consulted before any investigation was launched.

Canadian viewpoint

The Canadian delegation could not accept this view. If the International Commission of Control and Supervision on each occasion had to consult the other party or parties involved before acting on a request by a party for an investigation, the result would be interminable delays with the prospect that no investigation would ever be