

It might be noted that Britain, as one of the co-chairmen of the 1954 Geneva Conference, has a special responsibility with respect to Vietnam, as have India and Canada, as two of the three members of the international commission set up to supervise the cease-fire arrived at in 1954. Two other members of the Commonwealth, Australia and New Zealand, both situated in the area of conflict, are contributing forces for the defence of South Vietnam.

Canada has of course no direct national interest to assert or maintain in South East Asia. We have been drawn into that part of the world as citizens of the wider world community, and we have endeavoured, both through the commission and in other ways, to use our influence in promoting the cause of peace in Vietnam.

It has been our position all along that a settlement of the conflict in Vietnam will require concessions on both sides. We would certainly like to see the bombing of North Vietnam stopped, but we would also like to see the infiltration of the south stopped, and we would like to see negotiations looking towards the peaceful solution of the conflict begun, for only through negotiations do we believe that a genuine solution can be found.

The situation in Southern Africa is also a matter of concern to the countries of the Commonwealth. The illegal regime in Rhodesia represents a grave problem for Britain and a serious challenge to the principles of racial co-operation to which the Commonwealth is committed. Indeed, it has been the dominant theme at three of the last four meetings of the Commonwealth Prime Ministers.

The Canadian Government, together with the rest of the Commonwealth, finds any regime representing a racial minority to be unacceptable as a partner