

Vietnamese desire to unify the country and his insistence on his country's desire for peace. The strict observance of the agreement would lead to the peaceful unification of North and South Vietnam.

In summary, I would say that both North and South Vietnam expect to get quite different, and perhaps contradictory, results from the strict observance of the agreement. In Laos the earnest desire of the people with whom I spoke was that they should be left alone to settle their own differences. It seemed such a reasonable and modest request that one could not help being attracted to it and to the people who made it.

One of the high points of the trip was the time spent with the Canadian delegation in South Vietnam. I would like once again to say how good it was to see Canadians working in this extremely difficult environment against so many odds and maintaining such a high level of morale and effectiveness. The vast majority of personnel in the Canadian delegation are, of course, from the Canadian Forces, ably directed by Major-General Duncan McAlpine under Ambassador Gauvin, the head of our delegation. They and their External Affairs colleagues have demonstrated their technical and professional competence many times over. It became abundantly clear that, had it not been for these Canadians, it is very doubtful if the ICCS, and, indeed, in some respects, other bodies established by the agreement, would have functioned even to the extent that they do.

Some of the members of the Committee may have seen reports of the reception given by the head of the Canadian delegation, Michel Gauvin, on the evening of our arrival, which, I believe, was the first time that all parties to the agreement and all the members of the ICCS had come together under one roof. Along with my Parliamentary colleagues, I had the opportunity of exchanging views with many of them and to broaden my understanding of the widely different points of view they represented. I think it must have been particularly helpful to the press, who, I gather, monopolized most of the time of the PRG delegation.

We were, of course, given a thorough briefing by the Canadian delegation and later visited a regional headquarters at Can Tho.... Saigon is there and Can Tho is down in the middle of the Delta. This place, as I say, is in the much-fought-over Mekong Delta, where once again we were shown in intimate and close detail just what was involved in the ICCS operation and how the parties were conducting themselves on the scene of action. We were told by our briefers that it had been estimated that there had been some 7,000 incidents since the cease-fire came into effect in January, some of these involving extremely large-scale operations, possibly up to divisional strength. Out of these have emerged only some 31 requests for investigation by the ICCS -- some of these have been added since I left Saigon. There were only 26 when I was there, so five have been added in the few days since. From these requests, just two Commission reports have emerged. Moreover, there are areas in which the essential pieces in the mechanism, the four-party and two-party Joint Military Commissions, have yet to be established.