

[PIÈCE JOINTE/ENCLOSURE]

*Le secrétaire d'État aux Affaires extérieures  
au chef de la délégation à la Conférence sur le Laos à Genève*

*Secretary of State for External Affairs  
to Chairman, Delegation to Conference on Laos, Geneva*

TELEGRAM Y-404

Ottawa, July 10, 1961

CONFIDENTIAL. OPIMMEDIATE.

Reference: Your Tels 1098† and 1099† of July 8.

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## FUTURE WORK OF CONFERENCE

I agree with Steeves' views that there are urgent problems in the area of control which clearly fall within the "international" aspects of a settlement and which should be clarified as soon as possible. From our point of view, the most important of these are Commission equipment and freedom of access. Of course, it is only in a limited sense that these can be described as "short term problems of control." While it is true that we are looking for means of meeting immediate needs in the period before a settlement, we oppose any plan directed to the immediate situation which would compromise the principles which are essential to an acceptable settlement.

2. As a device for enabling the Conference to get on with its work, there may be something to be said for the Conference taking up these two broad aspects of the problem simultaneously. One procedure, which Pushkin already appears to have firmly rejected, is for the Conference to discuss these problems on alternate days. Another would be to get up two working groups which could work concurrently on the questions of neutrality and on supervision. If the latter procedure were chosen, it would of course be essential to ensure that Western position in the two committees was closely and continually coordinated to avoid concessions in one field which might prejudice principles vital in the other.

3. As far as the Canadian delegation is concerned, the essential points are to keep firmly before the Conference the questions of equipment, freedom of access and suitable terms of reference for the Commission and to leave others to take the lead in discussions about neutrality. If as a result of discussions on the future work of the conference, the USA, UK, and French delegations are prepared to agree to some device for concurrent considerations of neutrality and supervision, I would not, of course, want you to oppose it.

[H.C.] GREEN