

to say is that the results of these visits have in no way seemed to me to foreclose a Commission role in the right circumstances. In the meantime we are continuing our exchanges with India and Poland in response to their own indications that they would like to see these discussions carried forward.

Turning to another aspect of the Vietnam problem, the significance of the meeting in Honolulu between U.S. and South Vietnam leaders was that it laid the groundwork for a comprehensive programme of social and economic reform in South Vietnam. All of us recognize, I think, the very great problems which the implementation of a programme of this magnitude poses in any developing country. These problems are bound to be even greater in a context of continuing armed conflict and in circumstances where positive results can so easily be negated. Nevertheless, we believe that the renewed emphasis that is now being placed on the social and economic aspects of the problem in Vietnam is the right emphasis. It is calculated to contribute to a more stable and progressive society, in which the ordinary Vietnamese may be able to feel that his interests are actively engaged.

Recent developments in South Vietnam have underlined once again what I regard as the crucial problem in that country, which is that of achieving a stable political basis. This is not a problem that is confined to that country; it is a problem in many of the new countries which lack the resources to meet the mounting aspirations of their people for a better life. But it is aggravated in South Vietnam by the disruption which has been caused by subversion and armed conflict.

It is my understanding that the tenor of much of the current protest in South Vietnam is to the effect that only a broadly-based civilian government will provide a basis on which the South Vietnamese can be expected to take the decisions which are certain to face them in the months and years to come. We must be careful, however, not to draw false inferences from what is currently going on in South Vietnam. In particular, I think it would be wrong to conclude that these manifestations of political dissent are based on support for the concept of a government which was composed of representatives of the Viet Cong or which included their participation. There are many strands to the current dissent in South Vietnam, but that, according to the best information available to me, is not one of them.

There is a great deal of public concern in Canada, as in other countries, with the situation in Vietnam. As I interpret this concern, it is based on the risks that are inherent in the present situation and on the desire to see a fair and equitable peace established in an area which has been convulsed by conflict for the past 20 years. We share this concern. As a member of this Commission, with special responsibilities, we have felt that our position was not precisely that of other countries and of other governments. We feel very strongly that, if we are going to reach a settlement in this matter, every instrument that is capable of being used to encourage negotiation must be used.

We are strongly of the view -- and we are not without considerable encouragement and support for this view -- that the Commission has a role and that we, as a member of that Commission at the present time, have a role, and we are seeking to take advantage of this opportunity to the fullest extent possible.