

through which the International Commission of Control and Supervision, or any of its members, could report, and which would provide for some possibility of appropriate reaction to such reports.

But we also have another concern. I have no authority to speak for other member countries of the International Commission of Control and Supervision but my Government, as the government of a responsible country, could not accept the onus of passing to the former belligerents in Indochina reports that could conceivably result in a re-escalation of the war in Indochina. At the same time, we are not prepared to suppress information once we are satisfied that it is soundly based. For this reason, Canada has consistently stated a fundamental condition to its participation: that it would serve on the International Commission in Vietnam only if, among other things, this conference produced some more broadly-based international authority which would accept the responsibility for evaluating and, if necessary, acting upon reports from the International Commission, or its members, dealing with the manner in which the agreement was being carried out. Ideally, as I have said before, the Security Council of the United Nations should be the body responsible for receiving reports from the International Commission of Control and Supervision or its members and determining what, if any, action is required. Reluctantly, we are prepared to acknowledge that this solution is not practicable in the present situation, but we must have some acceptable substitute. In any event, Canada considers that the Secretary-General of the United Nations, who has been invited to this conference by the United States and the Democratic Republic of Vietnam on behalf of the parties to the agreement, would provide the most appropriate and effective channel for receiving and transmitting the views of the International Commission. He is present here not only as the principal public servant of the world but as representative of the world's concern at the decades of warfare in Vietnam. His obviously disinterested position fits him uniquely for this task. I should make it clear that I do not propose that the Secretary-General assume any responsibility, either in this capacity or on behalf of the United Nations, for action consequent upon his transmission of information received from the International Commission during the interim period of its involvement in Vietnam. If, however, it is agreed that the membership of this conference constitutes the continuing political authority to which the International Commission of Control and Supervision should report, the Secretary-General should, in our view, also be vested with the task of reconvening the conference when requested to do so, on whatever basis we may here decide. I would like to circulate and table a resolution which could cover the kind of arrangement I have in mind.

My Government is well aware of the problems that a vacancy in the International Commission of Control and Supervision could create and would, in practice, do whatever it could to avoid that situation arising. But we should not be asked to watch in silence a resumption of hostilities or to accept direct responsibility for all the consequences that could ensue if we felt duty-bound to report to the world that the agreement has been seriously breached.