

There is no connection between this decision and the question of our continuing participation in the United Nations Peacekeeping Forces on the island. Canada remains deeply concerned in the search for a solution of the Cyprus dispute and is willing to make whatever contribution it can to the settlement of the problem.

In recent years, the International Control Commissions in Laos and Cambodia have, for a variety of reasons, been unable to perform the functions assigned to them. We have therefore decided that little useful purpose would be served by maintaining our present physical presence in Vientiane and Phnom Penh. Canada remains a member of both Commissions and will fulfil its commitments as before. As these commitments are not expected to be onerous, it is intended that the Canadian Commissioner in Vietnam will serve on the other two Commissions. In Laos arrangements will also be made to maintain local contact with the other members of the Commission. Our modest aid programme in Laos and Cambodia will be run from the Canadian Delegation in Saigon.

These actions have been taken with the utmost regret and after long and careful study. They are dictated by the need for economy and do not reflect any lessening of Canada's interest in the areas concerned or suggest that our relations with them have diminished in importance. The Governments concerned have been notified.

Further economies in the Department of External Affairs will be effected by substantial reductions in resident staff in other posts and missions, by cutting back on planned capital expenditures, by reductions in the cultural, information and military assistance programs and by continuing to scrutinize administrative expenses carefully, reducing them where possible."