

Mr. MARTIN (*Essex East*): Not if there were a disposition to disengage; not at all.

Mr. LAMBERT: Well, we would have to require a complete change of mind. This is the point that I am concerned with. This looks very nice on paper, and as an ideal but, frankly, in this business how do you assure the success of it?

Mr. MARTIN (*Essex East*): Well, I think we have given you the postulates.

Mr. LAMBERT: I reserve my views on that; I do not think so.

Mr. MARTIN (*Essex East*): I recognize that this is a fair argument to make, but all you are doing is properly labouring the nature of the task that is confronting all of us; and it is a task, but to point to the difficulty is not to destroy the objective.

Mr. LAMBERT: Some plans sound very nice until you start to put together the nuts and bolts.

Mr. MARTIN (*Essex East*): I venture to suggest, Mr. Lambert, if we do reach the stage that Mr. Thompson envisaged a moment ago, that these provisions in the Geneva Agreement are not unlikely to be the basis of the kind of action that will be taken by both sides.

Mr. LAMBERT: I will move to another point. On page 17, the opening sentence of the third paragraph reads;

When I last spoke to the House, I said that we could see merit in proposals which are being made for the neutralization, in due course, not only of Vietnam but possibly of a wider area in Southeast Asia.

I would like to have you elaborate on that, first of all on the reasons you find merit in these proposals for neutralization, and also to what extent you feel this neutral zone might go.

Mr. MARTIN (*Essex East*): One of the concerns in Southeast Asia, particularly in the Indo-China area of Vietnam both North and South, Laos and Cambodia, is that there is a danger of action by the populous state of Mainland China with its some 700 million or more people. If peace comes to Vietnam as a result of negotiations, our view is that what was done in Laos ought to be done in Vietnam. In Laos in 1962 there was a guarantee of neutrality of the area; that neutrality has not been fully preserved. I do not think it is possible to envisage a neutralization in the absence, first of all, of an international presence. I think Lord Avon is on the right track when he suggests that in addition to an international presence there would have to be a great power guarantee of that neutrality. Could such a guarantee be given in view of the inward attitude taken by Mainland China? A very difficult question is whether or not that would be forthcoming, certainly in the present circumstances in China. It might be, as I suggested yesterday, that in the interests of neutralization and stability in the area, some kind of guarantee would have to be undertaken, possibly by countries like France, the United States, and the Soviet Union. I cannot say what the attitude of the Soviet Union would be in that situation. I believe that the Soviet Union is interested in seeing a neutralization of the area.

Mr. LAMBERT: What about the people of the area; have they any desire to be neutralized?