

*Supply—External Affairs*

him whether the United Nations would accept to undertake negotiations with a view to putting an end to that war, provided, of course, it were asked to do so; and whether this organization might stand a better chance of success than the International Control Commission, because it does seem that the commission is unable to initiate the negotiations which would appear to be the only way to put an end to this war. If the International Control Commission seems powerless, I think we should resort to another international body in an attempt to settle this conflict, because it will have to stop sooner or later. It does not seem possible, at least for the moment, that one of the two belligerents should gain a victory.

If we can avoid the genocide of the population of that part of Asia which, like any other nation, has a right to life and to self-government, I think it would be time to consider the possibility of establishing in that area a durable peace which might extend to the neighbouring states.

Not long ago, on October 5, 1967, an editorialist of *L'Action* of Quebec city, Mr. Odilon Arteau, asked himself the following question:

What is going on exactly in Viet Nam?

He mentioned what several writers, namely French writer Suzanne Labin, and men like Father Patrick O'Connor and Father Raymond de Jaegher, who have lived for years in Viet Nam, had said regarding the Vietnamese conflict. In his editorial, Mr. Arteau summarized the ten points made by these three journalists, all of them experts on Asian problems, and whose views were in complete agreement with the views of 20 other American and British experts who had also spent years in Viet Nam.

I quote:

● (8:50 p.m.)

Let us summarize the views of those experts who are in complete agreement, I repeat, with the views expressed by well-known experts, versed in all questions connected with the Far East.

1. It was the Viet Cong which started the hostilities in South Viet Nam and carried them on for several years before the American government was compelled to give substantial aid to South Viet Nam.

2. The Viet Cong is a political movement directed by communists. Its purpose is to establish a communist government in South Viet Nam.

3. Since 1954, the South Vietnamese government has constituted a true Vietnamese government and it is now fighting to gain its independence. No prominent nationalist in South Viet Nam has deserted to the Viet Cong since 1954.

[Mr. Laprise.]

4. The people's revolutionary party which is controlling the Viet Cong is a branch of the communist party in North Viet Nam. The Viet Cong itself is organized, armed and trained by North Vietnamese.

5. The Viet Cong have used terror, torture and cold-blooded murder in a way that differs only in quantity from Hitlerian atrocities.

6. The North Vietnamese communist regime is amongst the toughest and most brutal in all Asia. All opposition is exterminated.

7. Up till the time when the North intensified its attacks, the South Vietnamese population enjoyed a standard of living greatly superior to that of the North. Industries were prospering, schools, clinics and welfare services were rapidly increasing in numbers. From 1954 to 1963, there have been in South Viet Nam, in an atmosphere of great liberty, four national elections.

8. As amply shown by the files of the International Control Commission, the communists have broken and frequently violated the Geneva agreements.

9. President Johnson has continuously offered to hold unconditional peace talks with Hanoi, Peking and Moscow have rejected all offers. The burden of proof is now on the side of the communists.

10. If the United States stopped defending South Viet Nam as they do, Laos and the whole of the south and southeast Asia would lose their determination to resist a communist takeover, and all this half of the globe would be lost. Chinese domination over southeast Asia would be disastrous for the United States, since sooner or later Japan, India, Pakistan, the Philippines and many other countries would be lost.

From these ten points, Mr. Chairman, can be seen the strength of communist power in Viet Nam and that part of Asia. I think that we cannot condemn without a trial the United States and other countries of the free world for coming to the aid of the southern portion of this country which does not want communism.

So, Mr. Chairman, such is the situation in Viet Nam. Both the free and the communist worlds are wasting in that war considerable amounts of money and irreplaceable human lives. That must stop.

If both communists and Americans did their utmost to promote freedom and prosperity, if as many efforts and as much money were spent to help those underdeveloped countries, quite different results would be achieved, but unfortunately, too many people still seem to profit by such clashes. Too many people seem to be making large profits through those losses in human life, that destruction which they feel must rage in some part or other of the world, so that they may grow rich by manufacturing war weapons.