

The Canadian Government and people have been closely following the development of the situation in recent days in Viet-Nam and Cambodia. With respect to Viet-Nam we were, of course, well aware that there had been breaches of the Paris Agreements earlier but these have now reached a point where the armistice seems to have broken down almost completely. We have long been of the opinion that problems such as this should not be solved by force of arms and very much regret that the parties concerned have been unable to find a peaceful political solution in accordance with the Paris Agreements.

Since Canada is not a party to the Agreements, it cannot of course play a political role of any importance in the situation now unfolding in Indochina. However, on a humanitarian basis, we are deeply saddened by the human suffering that has been caused throughout the region and can only hope that a peaceful and just solution can yet be found to alleviate the sad situation. Canada can and should, however, do something to minimize the suffering of the civilian populations in Indochina. In this respect, I am pleased to be able to announce that I have just authorized the contribution of \$1.75 million in support of refugee relief programs of the United Nations Children's Fund, the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees Fund and the Indochina Operations Group of the International Red Cross. In addition, given the severe worsening of the refugee situation in recent days, I have instructed my officials to complete the details for a further contribution of a similar size for an additional cash donation to those international organizations concerned with relief to refugees. We are also looking at the possibility of sending relief supplies to the area including, if necessary, food, medical supplies