

The Secretary of State for External Affairs, the Honourable Mitchell Sharp, announced today that confirmation has been received that the Agreement and Protocols regarding a cease-fire in Viet-Nam were signed in Paris today by representatives of the four parties. He also announced that all four parties have formally invited Canada to participate, along with Hungary, Indonesia and Poland, in the new international supervisory organization envisaged by the agreement and protocols. A diplomatic note has been conveyed to the representatives of the four parties informing them of Canada's willingness to participate in the international commission, but making clear that Canada's participation beyond the initial participation of sixty days will be dependent on the extent to which the conditions for full acceptance of membership by Canada, as previously communicated to the parties to the agreements, are fulfilled during the period of initial participation.

Accordingly, the first group of Canadian civilian and military personnel to serve with the new International Supervisory Commission are leaving Montreal by a Canadian Armed Forces aircraft today for Saigon where they are expected to arrive on Monday, January 29.

The Canadian Delegation which will participate in the new commission is headed by Mr. Michel Gauvin, the Canadian Ambassador to Greece. Ambassador Gauvin, a native of Quebec City, is particularly well qualified for this task, having served as an advisor to the ICSC Indochina in 1955 and as Canadian Chargé d'Affaires in the Congo during the period of the United Nations peacekeeping operations in that country. Mr. Gauvin also was sent by Canada on a special mission to the Congo during the Stanleyville crisis in 1964 and to the Dominican Republic during the civil war in 1965. Before joining the Department of External Affairs in 1947, Mr. Gauvin served with distinction in the Canadian Army in the United Kingdom and Northwestern Europe during the Second World War, for which service he was awarded the DSO in 1944. He was discharged with the rank of Major.

Ambassador Gauvin's senior political advisor will be Mr. V. G. Turner who will have the rank of Minister. Mr. Turner, who is a native of Toronto, joined the Department of External Affairs in 1954 and has served as an advisor to the ICSC in Indochina and in various Canadian diplomatic posts in Europe and Africa. Mr. Turner was Chargé d'Affaires in Warsaw in 1963 and currently is Director of the Eastern European Division of the Department of External Affairs.

Mr. R. D. Jackson, the Canadian Commissioner to the existing Commissions for Supervision and Control in Viet-Nam and Laos will continue to serve in that capacity during the initial period.

The first group of Canadian personnel which are leaving Ottawa today is composed of members of the Department of External Affairs and members of the Canadian Armed Forces.

In making this announcement, Mr. Sharp recalled the Government's position with regard to Canada's participation in the new commission for an initial period of sixty days, as expressed in his statement in the House of Commons on January 24, 1973. Mr. Sharp said that during this initial sixty day period the Canadian Delegation will co-operate fully with all other parties concerned and act in every way as a full member of the Commission, accept the