

the Commission, which is Canada's main concern, will be to discuss the question of the tasks and functions which should be allotted to the Commission if there is a cease-fire in Laos.

The Commission is to hold these discussions in New Delhi, not in Laos, and then present an appropriate report to the Co-Chairmen, Russia and Great Britain, who will consider the Commission's report and give the Commission directions on going to Laos to carry out the work of controlling the cease-fire. This is not a perfect scheme because, at the first, we are going to be working in New Delhi, a thousand miles or so away from Laos.

In addition, it is not clear just what the tasks of the Commission will be if the cease-fire should take place. We are hoping that there will be a cease-fire promptly and that the Commission can be sent into Laos promptly and can be sent in before the Conference meets in Geneva on May 12. This is the intention, as explained by the United Kingdom, and I am hoping that things will work out in that way. Canada will do her full part. It is important that there should be peace in that part of Southeast Asia if for no other reason than that a war there might lead to war all over the world. We are in a position to make a contribution in the area, and we will be glad to do so. ...

Prime Minister Souvanna Phouma, who is the key man in the picture today, requested in 1958 that the Commission get out of Laos. The majority of the members, India and Canada, voted accordingly and the Commission did get out of that country. The belief at the time was, of course, that a stable government had been established and that there would be no further need for that Commission. ...

We are also in a very influential position across the Pacific by virtue of our participation in the Colombo Plan. This has made us various friends in that area and Canada has an important voice in bringing about decisions across the Pacific which will be of general benefit to our nation as well as to the rest of the world.

I should like to say a final word about China. I feel quite sure that the Hon. Member for Assiniboia and his associates will be dealing with that subject in their remarks. I do not believe the Leader of the Opposition or the Hon. Member for Essex East will be very vocal about this particular question. During the Liberal convention last January a resolution was passed with regard to the entry of Red China into the United Nations which advocated that Canada should no longer vote for a moratorium on the discussion of this question in the United Nations. This resolution, of course, did not go very far. While that particular procedure has been followed for some years, the introduction of the moratorium resolution has not prevented an effective debate on the real issue of the admission of Red China. The step taken by the opposition in their convention does not go more than three or four inches ahead of the position which was adopted by the former Government and which has been followed by the present Government with regard to the discussion of the subject in the United Nations.