

words in making it clear to him that there could be no possible relationship between continued imprisonment of a non-combatant Canadian citizen and any political developments in that country. I said that Canadian public opinion was very much interested in the fate of Mr. Opper and it would react against the Pathet Lao for keeping him imprisoned for reasons such as those he had mentioned. He promised to report my position to his superiors. In Hanoi I again enquired after Mr. Opper and was informed that the DRVN authorities would be in touch with their Pathet Lao allies to see what could be done. I am hopeful that these representations will have the effect of reducing the inexcusable delay in releasing Mr. Opper. I also raised the question of the three Canadians who were passengers aboard an ICSC aircraft which disappeared on a flight between Vientiane and Hanoi in 1965. On that matter, my enquiry was noted, but it elicited no new information.

In Hanoi, the leaders of the DRVN replied to all questions by reference to the terms of the Agreement. This they regard as sacrosanct and, like the South Vietnamese, the North Vietnamese Foreign Minister and Prime Minister asserted that they intended to abide strictly by the Agreement and expected everyone else to do the same. In this context the Prime Minister asserted that there was no conflict between North Vietnamese desire to unify the country and his insistence on his country's desire for peace. The strict observance of the Agreement would lead to the peaceful unification of North and South Viet-Nam.