

then what is it all about? Moreover, how seriously can you take the efforts that are being made to try to protect the sovereignty of Laos and Cambodia? So, while as I say, we haven't had very much success so far, we are persisting. And parallel with this are, of course, the other ideas of trying to get the Geneva powers to meet again, and generally we're in favour of that, but as a member of the I.C.C. we say we have a primary responsibility, and that is to see if we can't get the facts.

Can the Government of Canada bring any pressure to bear on Washington not to extend the war in Indochina?

I don't think any more pressure than anyone else. We have said publicly, and we've expressed the same views to the Government of the United States, that every effort should be made to end the war in Indochina, and I must say that since President Nixon took office there has been a very substantial reduction in the American involvement, and if there is any justification for the invasion of Cambodia and Laos, not by the Americans in the case of Laos, but by the South Vietnamese, it is that it's a protection to the flank of the Americans as they are withdrawing, because I'm satisfied that President Nixon does want to get the Americans out of Viet Nam if he possibly can.

Q. But the invasion of Laos as such cannot be approved of, I don't think. Do you feel that?

A. No. No, I don't think that the invasion of Laos by the North Vietnamese or the South Vietnamese can be. It seems to me that the situation there is not improving in the whole of Indochina. All that is improving is the American participation which is being reduced, and that is an improvement. But that area will have to decide its own future, and providing it is left to decide its own future, then I don't think that we can complain or that we should try to intervene. If outside powers intervene, that's a different matter.

Q. In the Middle East, Mr. Sharp, things are again at the point where an explosion might start any time. If it's to be prevented and if there's to be any kind of United Nations action there would Canada be willing to participate in the United Nations force in the Middle East?

A. Yes, in principle we would. We are convinced, however, after our experience in the Middle East and in Indochina, and in Cyprus and so on, that it is most important that the terms of reference of any peacekeeping force be very clearly stated. Otherwise, the peacekeeping force cannot fulfil its purpose or it becomes not a contribution to peace but potentially a detriment. That is, it may result in unnecessary delays in the reaching of a settlement, or on the other hand,