

consider constructively any request for participation in a new supervisory venture in Viet-Nam provided Canada could see the operation having some promise of success, and provided Canada could play a useful role.

Over the years, concern in this country about developments in Viet-Nam grew, largely as a reflection of our neighbourhood with the United States and Canada's long-established interest in the effective promotion of international peace. In these circumstances both the Prime Minister and the Secretary of State for External Affairs took a number of opportunities to state Canadian policy concerning participation in new supervisory arrangements. Moreover, to ensure an understanding of that policy both in Canada and in the international community, the Government set it out in official publications and statements and through diplomatic channels. It is against this background that the Secretary of State for External Affairs was informed on October 25, 1972 by the United States Secretary of State that a cease-fire agreement on Viet-Nam was imminent, that it was expected to be internationally supervised, and that Canada was being considered for membership on the proposed supervisory commission.

The next day, Dr. Henry Kissinger told the press that peace was at hand in Viet-Nam. Similar news came from Hanoi. The Prime Minister welcomed the development, and at a press conference he revealed that the State Department had raised with the Canadian Ambassador in Washington the question of Canada's participation in a new international commission. Before the end of the month it was known that the United States and the Democratic Republic of Viet-Nam had agreed upon an international commission of control and supervision to consist of Canada, Hungary, Indonesia and Poland. In view of what seemed to be imminent prospects for a cease-fire, Canada was asked to decide as a matter of urgency whether it would serve on this commission. Because of the nature of the negotiations between the United States and the Democratic Republic of Viet-Nam, Canada had not been, and had not expected to be, informed of all the cease-fire arrangements and their implications. This, in addition to preoccupation with the elections held in Canada on October 30, made an early decision difficult. Nevertheless, with the possibility of an end to the war in Viet-Nam looming so large, the Government wanted to respond as positively as the circumstances warranted. It did so in the form of a statement made by the Secretary of State for External Affairs on November 2, although the consequences of the election were still unclear.

After reiterating Canadian policy regarding participation in supervisory arrangements in Viet-Nam, the Secretary of State for External Affairs noted the possible need for an international presence there immediately a cease-fire went into effect. To meet this situation, Canada was prepared to place at