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STATEMENT DISCOURS

SECRETARY
OF STATE
FOR EXTERNAL
AFFAIRS.

SECRÉTAIRE
D'ÉTAT AUX
AFFAIRES
EXTÉRIEURES.

STATEMENT BY THE SECRETARY OF
STATE FOR EXTERNAL AFFAIRS OF CANADA,
THE HONOURABLE MITCHELL SHARP,
TO THE INTERNATIONAL CONFERENCE
IN PARIS, PLENARY SESSION,
MARCH 1, 1973

Canada supports the spirit of the act of this Conference. We also wish to associate ourselves with the expressions of goodwill and cooperation reflected throughout this conference and underlined in the document before us. For these reasons, we are prepared to sign it. I wish to make it clear, however, that we will have to assess the provisions of Articles 6 and 7 in particular, as to whether they are sufficient to meet one of the major requirements we have consistently stated as being essential to the ultimate effectiveness of the International Commission of Control and Supervision, on the basis of our quarter century experience in international supervision in Viet-Nam and elsewhere throughout the world. In very general terms Articles 6 and 7 represent one approach; an effort has undoubtedly been made to meet our requirements but does it go far enough and will it work? Our concept of an independent continuing political authority is contained in the proposal tabled by me in my statement of February 26. The arrangements provided in Articles 6 and 7 will be reviewed carefully by the Canadian Government as it carries out its consideration of the extent to which the various conditions we have stated to be essential to our continued participation in the commission beyond the initial period of sixty days have been, or, are likely to be fulfilled.

I must add that in signing the act of this conference, I am not accepting any responsibilities on behalf of Canada that are not determined by our initial participation in the commission, nor by previously announced Canadian policy. Finally, Canada considers itself bound by the arrangements provided for in the Act only so long as it remains on the Commission and should Canada find it necessary to terminate its participation in the International Commission of Control and Supervision, it would no longer consider itself formally bound by the terms of the act of the conference. I can, nevertheless, assure this distinguished company that Canadians would, as a matter of policy and as a matter of principle, remain committed to the promotion of the achievement by the peoples of Indochina of a stable and peaceful situation, and our acts would reflect this commitment.