

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
DECEMBER 18, 1972

STATEMENT DISCOURS

SECRETARY
OF STATE
FOR EXTERNAL
AFFAIRS.

SECRÉTAIRE
D'ÉTAT AUX
AFFAIRES
EXTÉRIEURES.



TEXT OF A STATEMENT MADE TO THE
PRESS BY THE SECRETARY OF STATE
FOR EXTERNAL AFFAIRS, THE
HONOURABLE MITCHELL SHARP, ON
DECEMBER 17, 1972

"It will be a matter of great regret to the whole world to learn that the negotiations for a peace settlement in Viet-Nam have not yet reached a successful conclusion. Canada is not, of course, a participant in those negotiations and we are not therefore able to comment on them. According to the public statement of Dr. Kissinger yesterday, however, it appears that one of the problems in the way of a final peace settlement relates to the creation of an international mechanism to supervise the cease-fire in Viet-Nam.

Canada has indicated on many occasions in public statements of policy and in diplomatic exchanges its basic position that it would consider constructively any request for Canadian participation in truce supervisory arrangements when, in its opinion based on the lessons of the past and the circumstances of the request, an operation held the promise of success and Canada could play a useful role. Canadian views as to the conditions it would consider necessary to participate in an International Commission to observe and report upon the implementation by the parties of a cease-fire in Viet-Nam have been expressed publicly on many occasions recently and they have been communicated to all of the parties concerned. As we are not privy to the Viet-Nam peace negotiations we do not know the details of the supervisory mechanism being discussed or whether it would be one in which Canada could participate, and in such circumstances it would not be appropriate for me to make any further comment at this time."