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The Secretary-General of the United Nations presents his compliments to the Permanent Representative of Canada to the United Nations and has the honour to acknowledge receipt of his two notes dated 20 August 1973 with attached information copies of notes dated 17 July 1973 from the Secretary of State for External Affairs of Canada to the Parties to the Act of the International Conference on Viet-Nam.

The Secretary-General takes this opportunity to express his appreciation to the Permanent Representative of Canada for this communication, and to renew to the Permanent Representative the assurances of his highest consideration.

30 August 1973
The Acting Permanent Representative of Canada to the United Nations presents his compliments to the Secretary-General of the United Nations and has the honour to attach for his information copies of a Note from the Secretary of State for External Affairs of Canada to the Parties to the Act of the International Conference on Vietnam. The text of the Note was forwarded to the Secretary-General by the Permanent Representative of Canada on July 18, 1973.

New York, August 20, 1973

Original - S.G

cc. Mr. Gayfer
Mr. Urquhart
No. FLA-381

The Secretary of State for External Affairs of Canada presents his compliments to the Parties to the Act of the International Conference on Viet-Nam, signed at Paris on March 1, 1973 by the Parties and has the honour to refer to his Note of May 31 to the Parties to the Agreement on Ending the War and Restoring Peace in Viet-Nam in which he informed the Parties inter alia that, prior to the Canadian withdrawal from the International Commission of Control and Supervision, there would be a period of approximately one week during which Canadian participation in the activities of the International Commission of Control and Supervision would be phased out.

The Secretary of State for External Affairs now has the honour to inform the Parties, in accordance with the decision of the Canadian Government to withdraw from the International Commission of Control and Supervision by July 31 at the latest as conveyed in his Note of May 31 that the Canadian Delegation to the International Commission of Control and Supervision will terminate its participation in the International Commission of Control and Supervision on July 31.
The Secretary of State for External Affairs has the further honour to inform the Parties that at the sub-regional level the Canadian Delegation will end its participation in observations and investigations at midnight on July 21; that the Canadian Delegation at the sub-regional level will withdraw to the seven regional headquarters on July 24; that at the regional headquarters the Canadian Delegation will end its participation in the Regional Executive Committees at midnight on July 25; and that the Canadian Delegation at the regional headquarters will withdraw to Saigon on July 26.

Ottawa, July 17, 1973
Le Secrétaire d'État aux Affaires extérieures du Canada présente ses compliments aux Parties à l'Acte de la Conférence internationale sur le Viet-Nam signé à Paris le 1er mars et à l'honneur de se reporter à sa Note du 31 mars adressée aux Parties à l'Accord sur la cessation de la Guerre et le rétablissement de la Paix au Viet-Nam, par laquelle il informait les Parties, entre autres choses, qu'avant le retrait du Canada de la Commission internationale de contrôle et de surveillance il y aura une période d'environ une semaine au cours de laquelle le Canada cessa progressivement ses activités au sein de la Commission internationale de contrôle et de surveillance.

Le Secrétaire d'État aux Affaires extérieures désire informer les Parties que, conformément à la décision du Gouvernement du Canada de se retirer de la Commission internationale de contrôle et de surveillance le 31 juillet au plus tard telle que communiquée aux Parties dans la Note...
du 31 mai, la Délégation du Canada à la Commission internationale de contrôle et de surveillance mettra fin à sa participation à cet organisme le 31 juillet.

Le Secrétaire d'État aux Affaires extérieures désire aussi informer les Parties qu'à compter de minuit le 21 juillet la Délégation canadienne cesserà de participer aux travaux d'observation et d'enquête des équipes sous-régionales et qu'elle se repliera sur les sept quartiers-généraux régionaux le 24 juillet; qu'à compter de minuit le 25 juillet, toute participation canadienne aux travaux des comités exécutifs régionaux cessera, et que la Délégation canadienne quittera les quartiers-généraux régionaux et se retirera à Saigon le 26 juillet.

le 17 juillet 1973
The Acting Permanent Representative of Canada to the United Nations presents his compliments to the Secretary-General of the United Nations and has the honour to attach for his information copies of a Note from the Secretary of State for External Affairs of Canada to the Parties to the Act of the International Conference on Vietnam.

New York, August 20, 1973
with effect from May 31, if it were to decide to terminate its participation in the International Commission of Control and Supervision. The Secretary of State for External Affairs has the honour to inform the Parties that, if the Parties so wish, Canada is prepared to continue its participation for an additional period beyond June 30 but not later than July 31. If at any time prior to July 31 another country is prepared to replace Canada on the International Commission of Control and Supervision, Canada will terminate its participation at an earlier and mutually convenient date. The Secretary of State for External Affairs assures the Parties to the Agreement on Ending the War and Restoring Peace in Viet-Nam that Canada will continue to discharge fully its obligations and to meet its responsibilities as a member of the International Commission of Control and Supervision until July 31 or until such earlier date as may be mutually agreed.

"Whether, by agreement, the definitive Canadian withdrawal takes place before July 31 or whether it does not take place until that date, in either case there will be a prior period of approximately one week during which Canadian participation in the activities of the International Commission of Control and Supervision will be phased out."

The Secretary of State for External Affairs has the honour to inform the Parties to the Act of the International Conference on Viet-Nam
The Secretary of State for External Affairs of Canada presents his compliments to the Parties to the Act of the International Conference on Viet-Nam, signed at Paris on March 1, 1973, and has the honour to inform them that, on May 31, he sent to the Parties to the Agreement on Ending the War and Restoring Peace in Viet-Nam identical Notes, of which the text is quoted below:

"The Secretary of State for External Affairs of Canada presents his compliments to the Parties to the Agreement on Ending the War and Restoring Peace in Viet-Nam, and the Protocols thereto, signed at Paris, January 27 by the Parties and has the honour to refer to his Notes of January 27 and March 28. The Secretary of State for External Affairs has the honour to inform the Parties of the final decision of the Government of Canada to terminate the participation of Canada in the International Commission of Control and Supervision.

"The Secretary of State for External Affairs in his Note of March 28 referred to above, had informed the Parties inter alia that Canada would give to the Parties thirty days notice"
that when, in accordance with the provisions of his Note of May 31 quoted above, Canada terminates its participation in the International Commission of Control and Supervision, whether on or before July 31, then Canada, in accordance with the statement made on March 1, 1973 by the Secretary of State for External Affairs, on the occasion of his signing the Act of the International Conference on Viet-Nam, will no longer regard itself as bound by the arrangements provided for in that Act especially under the provisions of Articles 6 and 7 as they relate to Canada as a participant in the International Commission of Control and Supervision.

Ottawa, July 17, 1973
No. FLA-353

Le Secrétaire d'État aux Affaires extérieures du Canada présente ses compliments aux Parties à l'Acte de la Conférence internationale sur le Viet-Nam qu'elles ont signé à Paris le 1er mars 1973 et a l'honneur de les informer que, le 31 mai, il a envoyé aux Parties à l'Accord sur la Cessation de la guerre et le Rétablissement de la Paix au Viet-Nam des Notes identiques dont voici le texte:

"Le Secrétaire d'État aux Affaires extérieures du Canada présente ses compliments aux Parties à l'Accord mettant fin à la guerre et rétablissant la paix au Viet-Nam et aux Protocoles de l'Accord qu'elles ont signés à Paris le 27 janvier et a l'honneur de se référer à ses Notes du 27 janvier et du 28 mars. Le Secrétaire d'État aux Affaires extérieures a l'honneur d'informer les Parties de la décision finale du Gouvernement du Canada de mettre fin à la participation canadienne à la Commission internationale de Contrôle et de Surveillance.

Dans sa Note du 28 mars, le Secrétaire d'État aux Affaires extérieures informait les Parties, entre autres choses, que le Canada leur donnerait un préavis de 30 jours à compter du 31 mai s'il décidait de mettre un terme à sa participation à la
Commission internationale de Contrôle et de Surveillance. Le Secrétaire d'État aux Affaires extérieures a l'honneur d'informer les Parties que, si elles le désirent, le Canada est disposé à maintenir sa participation pour une période additionnelle au-delà du 30 juin mais pas au-delà du 31 juillet. Si, à tout moment d'ici au 31 juillet, un autre pays accepte de remplacer le Canada au sein de la Commission internationale de Contrôle et de Surveillance, le Canada mettra un terme à sa participation à une date antérieure qui serait mutuellement acceptable.

Le Secrétaire d'État aux Affaires extérieures assure les Parties à l'Accord mettant fin à la guerre et rétablissant la paix au Viet-Nam que le Canada continuera de s'acquitter pleinement de ses obligations et d'assumer ses responsabilités en tant que membre de la Commission internationale de Contrôle et de Surveillance jusqu'au 31 juillet ou jusqu'à une date antérieure qui pourra être convenue mutuellement.

Que le retrait final du Canada ait lieu à la suite d'une entente, avant le 31 juillet ou qu'il n'ait lieu qu'à cette date, il y aura, dans les deux cas, une période d'environ une semaine au cours de laquelle le Canada cessera progressivement ses activités au sein de la Commission internationale de Contrôle et de Surveillance.

Le Secrétaire d'État aux Affaires extérieures a l'honneur d'informer les Parties à l'Acte de la Conférence internationale sur le Viet-Nam qu'à partir du moment où, conformément aux dispositions contenues dans sa Note précitée du 31 mai, il mettra fin à sa
participation à la Commission internationale de Contrôle et de Surveillance, le ou avant le 31 juillet, le Canada, comme l'a déclaré le Secrétaire d'Etat aux Affaires extérieures le 1er mars 1973 à l'occasion de la signature de l'Acte de la Conférence internationale sur le Viet-Nam, ne se consi dérera plus lié par les dispositions dudit Acte, notamment par les articles 6 et 7 qui ont trait aux obligations du Canada à titre de participant à la Commission internationale de Contrôle et de Surveillance.

Ottawa, le 17 juillet 1973
12 June 1973

Dear Mr. Ambassador,

I wish to acknowledge receipt of your letter of 30 May 1973 concerning the announcement by the Secretary of State for External Affairs, the Honourable Mitchell Sharp, made in the House of Commons on 29 May 1973, that Canada would withdraw from the International Commission for Control and Supervision in Viet-Nam by 31 July.

I also thank you for transmitting the text of Mr. Sharp's statement, together with a copy of the Government White Paper concerning Canada's approach to the question of participation in the ICCS up to the end of March 1973.

Yours sincerely,

Kurt Waldheim

H.E. Dr. Saul F. Rae
Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary
Permanent Representative of Canada

to the United Nations

866 United Nations Plaza, Suite 250
New York, N.Y. 10017
VIET-NAM:
CANADA'S APPROACH TO PARTICIPATION IN THE INTERNATIONAL COMMISSION OF CONTROL AND SUPERVISION
OCTOBER 25, 1972—MARCH 27, 1973

Honourable Mitchell Sharp
Secretary of State for External Affairs

VIET-NAM:
PARTICIPATION À LA COMMISSION INTERNATIONALE DE CONTRÔLE ET DE SURVEILLANCE TELLE QU'ENVISAGÉE PAR LE CANADA
DU 25 OCTOBRE 1972 AU 27 MARS 1973

L'honorable Mitchell Sharp
Secrétaire d'État aux Affaires extérieures
My Dear Secretary-General,

As you know, the Secretary of State for External Affairs, the Honourable Mitchell Sharp announced yesterday in the House of Commons, that Canada would withdraw from the International Commission for Control and Supervision in Vietnam by 31 July 1973, at the latest. Should an acceptable replacement be found, Canadian personnel would be withdrawn at any mutually acceptable earlier time. If no replacement was found and if at a later time elections which were envisaged under the Cease Fire Agreement were to be held, Canada would, if asked, consider sympathetically a request to return temporarily to the Commission.

I have enclosed for your information a copy of Mr. Sharp's statement in the House of Commons on 29 May 1973, and a copy of the Government White Paper concerning Canada's approach to the question of participation in the ICCS up to the end of March 1973 which was tabled in the House on the same date.

Yours sincerely,

Saul F. Rae
Ambassador and Permanent Representative

H.E. Mr. Kurt Waldheim
Secretary-General of the United Nations
United Nations Headquarters
New York, N.Y. 10017
Press Release No. 2
Tuesday, May 29, 1973

Vietnam

Statement in the House of Commons, Ottawa, by the Secretary of State for External Affairs, the Honourable Mitchell Sharp, on Tuesday, May 29, 1973.

Communiqué de Presse No. 2
mardi, le 29 mai 1973

Vietnam

Déclaration faite à la Chambre des Communes par le Secrétaire d'état aux Affaires extérieures, l'Honorable Mitchell Sharp, mardi, le 29 mai 1973

CANADIAN DELEGATION
TO THE UNITED NATIONS

DELEGATION DU CANADA
AUPRES DES NATIONS UNIES
My Dear Secretary-General,

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Yours sincerely,

Saul F. Rae
Ambassador and Permanent Representative

H.E. Mr. Kurt Waldheim
Secretary-General of the United Nations
United Nations Headquarters
New York, N.Y. 10017
OTTAWA (UPI) -- THE GOVERNMENT ANNOUNCED TODAY THAT CANADA WILL WITHDRAW ITS 260-MAN PEACE OBSERVER FORCE FROM VIETNAM BY JULY 31.

OTTAWA (UPI) --A CAMBODIAN GOVERNMENT SPOKESMAN TUESDAY DISLOUNCED A REPORT THAT PRESIDENT LOU NOL HAD CATEGORICALLY TOLD U.S. ENVOYS THERE WOULD BE A VIETNAMESE MILITARY PRESENCE IN CAMBODIA.

AND CANADA, OTTAWA (UPI-132)

"WE ARE PREPARED IF THE PARTIES TO THE (PARIS) AGREEMENT WISH, TO STAY FOR A PERIOD BEYOND JUNE 30, BUT NOT LATER THAN JULY 31," EXTERNAL AFFAIRS MINISTER MITCHELL SHARP TOLD THE HOUSE OF COMMONS.

"CANADA'S DECISION TO WITHDRAW IS FIRM AND DEFINITE, BUT THE ADDITIONAL FLEXIBILITY SHOULD GIVE THE PARTIES ADEQUATE TIME TO FIND A REPLACEMENT FOR THE CANADIAN DELEGATION," HE SAID.

THE MINISTER NOTED CANADA'S PREVIOUS POSITION THAT IT WOULD PULL OUT OF THE INTERNATIONAL COMMISSION FOR CONTROL AND SUPERVISION (ICCS) BY JUNE 30 IF THERE WERE NOT "SUBSTANTIAL PROGRESS".

HE SAID THIS PROGRESS HAD NOT BEEN ACHIEVED AND CANADA THEREFORE WOULD WITHDRAW.

HE SAID THE ADDITIONAL 30 DAYS PRESENCE IN VIETNAM WOULD GIVE MORE TIME FOR THE PARTIES TO FIND A SUCCESSOR AND FOR THE CONCLUSION OF NEGOTIATIONS BETWEEN U.S. AND NORTH VIETNAMESE NEGOTIATORS IN PARIS.

THE OTHER MEMBERS OF THE ICCS -- POLAND, HUNGARY AND INDONESIA -- HAVE SET NO TIME LIMIT ON THEIR MEMBERSHIP IN THE ORGANIZATION.

CAMBODIA (PENH)

PENH (UPI) -- A CAMBODIAN GOVERNMENT SPOKESMAN TUESDAY DISLOUNCED A REPORT THAT PRESIDENT LOU NOL HAD CATEGORICALLY TOLD U.S. ENVOYS THERE WOULD BE A VIETNAMESE MILITARY PRESENCE IN CAMBODIA.
To: Mr. Georg Hennig
From: Brian E. Urquhart

Ambassador Rae of Canada has been asked by Ottawa to inform the Secretary-General of the following.

In the Canadian House of Commons at 2 p.m. today the Government will announce its decision to withdraw from the Viet-Nam Truce Supervision Commission not later than 31 July, and earlier if a replacement is ready before that time. This decision is final and subject only to a possible return of Canadian personnel to assist in supervising elections under the Paris Agreement if Canada has not been replaced before that time.
My Dear Secretary-General,

You may find of interest the attached statement issued on 3 December, 1972 by The Honourable Mitchell Sharp on the subject of possible Canadian participation in the supervision of a ceasefire in Vietnam. The statement summarizes the current position of the Canadian Government.

Yours sincerely,

Saul F Rae
Ambassador and Permanent Representative

His Excellency
Mr. Kurt Waldheim, Secretary-General of the United Nations.
NEW YORK.
STATEMENT ISSUED 3 DECEMBER, 1972

BY

THE HONOURABLE MITCHELL SHARP
SECRETARY OF STATE FOR EXTERNAL AFFAIRS

I have received a number of enquiries in recent days about the role Canada is being asked to undertake in Vietnam and about the Government's position on the matter. I would, therefore, like to summarize the position in both of these respects.

First of all, I want to emphasize that in the role being contemplated for a new International Commission in Vietnam, there is no question of maintaining peace through the use of arms. If it is decided to provide Canadian military personnel for the commission they would not be a military formation but would be specially selected individuals who have the required expertise to observe and report on the implementation of the cease-fire agreement. They would be part of mixed observer groups drawn from each of the four participating countries. At the present time it is not clear how many would be involved.

The second point I wish to emphasize is that the Government has taken no decision on whether to join and cannot do so until the cease-fire negotiations have been completed and full information on the proposed arrangements is available.

Over the past four years the Government 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.

On October 25, I was informed by United States Secretary of State Rogers that Canada had been mentioned in connection with the arrangements being discussed between the USA and North Vietnam. On October 26, following Radio Hanoi's revelation of the existence of a nine-point draft peace agreement between the USA and North Vietnam, the Government was informed, through its Ambassador in Washington, that both sides had agreed on an International Commission composed of Canada, Hungary, Indonesia and Poland to supervise the cease-fire. The same day Dr. Kissinger outlined in a press conference the details of the agreement he had worked out in Paris with the North Vietnamese.
Later that day the Prime Minister said that Canada would carefully consider any invitation in the light of the conditions which had been set forth clearly on many previous occasions.

Shortly thereafter it seemed an agreement for a cease-fire in Vietnam might be concluded very quickly and there would be a need for some form of international presence immediately on the ground when a cease-fire went into effect. In those circumstances, the Government announced, on November 2, that it would be prepared to place at the disposal of the proposed new International Commission the services of the Canadian Delegation to the existing International Commission for Supervision and Control in Vietnam for an initial period. It was our hope that this would meet the need until the international conference, provided for in the proposed cease-fire agreement, enabled Canada, as well as the parties concerned, to determine what, if any, future role Canada could play.

What has been put to us and what we have been examining since, is a proposed arrangement to be embodied in a protocol signed by the parties to the agreement which would become operative in advance of the conference and continue on after it. We have accordingly sought clarification from the Governments involved regarding the structure of the proposed new Observer Commission, the role it would be expected to play in Vietnam, its size and its terms of reference. Our representative in Hanoi was instructed to explore these questions with the North Vietnamese authorities and our Ambassador in Washington has been in close touch with the USA authorities. On November 20, I discussed these matters with Secretary of State Rogers in New York who explained that many of the questions on which I sought clarification could not be answered since the negotiations were still in progress. I am satisfied that the USA fully understands our position.

The cease-fire negotiations have not been concluded and therefore it still is not possible to know what terms of reference, operating conditions, size, responsibilities, financing and facilities, the new commission would have. These negotiations, which all the world hopes will result in a lasting peace in Vietnam, are being resumed in Paris and, depending on their progress, it may be possible to get a better understanding of what Canada is being asked to do.

When more details become known the Government will give the matter the most careful and understanding consideration to determine what further role Canada could usefully play. The Government has made clear both publicly and privately that it will wish to have assurances that the commission will be effective; that all four parties
concerned will be bound by the agreement; that all four
will invite Canada to participate; that there will be a
continuing political authority to receive reports from
the commission members; that the commission will have the
necessary freedom of movement; and that there will be
arrangements for a members withdrawal from the commission.

Only when all the considerations involved in reaching
a decision of this nature have been assessed in the light of
the Government's policy and its long and varied experience
in truce observing roles will the Government be able to
decide.
Meeting held in the Secretary-General's office on Wednesday, 22 November 1972, at 4:00 p.m.

Present: Secretary-General
          Ambassador Saul Rae
          Mr. Guyer
          Mr. Urquhart

The Secretary-General gave a brief account of his understanding of the UN involvement and non-involvement in the Vietnam settlement.

Ambassador Rae gave the Secretary-General a note on the press conference by the Canadian Secretary of State for External Affairs (copy attached) and explained the Canadian position as regards the Canadian involvement in the supervision of the cease-fire. Ambassador Rae said that there had been a suggestion in Ottawa that the UN might provide the Secretariat in the Control Commission.

The Secretary-General pointed out that it would be most unwise for him to accept responsibility without the necessary authority and without the necessary mandate. In this particular case, it was known that Hanoi did not view with favour any UN involvement in the supervision of the cease-fire.

The problems involved in the supervision of the cease-fire were discussed. The possible UN role in rehabilitation and reconstruction were also discussed.

The Secretary-General said that as far as possible the Secretariat was engaging in discreet preparatory planning without in any way assuming that the UN would necessarily be entrusted with this task.

cc: Secretary-General
    REG
    BEU
PRESS CONFERENCE OF
THE HONOURABLE MITCHELL SHARP, SECRETARY OF STATE FOR EXTERNAL AFFAIRS FOR CANADA
November 24, 1972

RE VIETNAM

Mr. Rogers and I met in New York to continue discussions we had been carrying on by telephone over a number of days. We spent most of our time of course discussing the proposed supervisory commission which would observe the Vietnamese ceasefire if that is achieved. As you know, Canada has offered to put the contingent that is now in the International Control Commission in Vietnam at the disposal of the proposed commission for the initial period, that is up to the time of the call of the international conference. We have made no other commitments and I made no other commitments during our talks on the weekend. I sought clarification on a number of points:

'First, that the proposed supervisory commission would be acceptable to all the parties, that is the North Vietnamese, the Provisional Revolutionary Government of South Vietnam, the Government of South Vietnam and the United States, and that the protocol governing the operations of the commission would be acceptable by all the parties.

The second point, that there would be some international authority to which the commission would report.

Third, that the procedure for reporting by the commission would be workable.

Fourth, that the commission would have freedom of movement to investigate in all parts of South Vietnam.

Many of these points cannot yet be fully answered but I was satisfied that the United States understands our position and we shall make the same points to the other parties to the proposed ceasefire.

I would also like to make some points clear:

First is that the proposed supervisory commission is not a military force like the peacekeeping force in Cyprus. Its function is to observe and report, not to keep the peace.

Second, we will accept this responsibility only if we are asked to do so by all the parties to the ceasefire. In other words, we would not be acting on behalf of the United States. The request must come from the North Vietnamese as well as from the United States and be agreeable to all four parties.

And finally, if we do accept, it will be for the purpose of helping to bring the war in Indochina to an end.
RE VIETNAM

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And finally, if we do accept, it will be for the purpose of helping to bring the war in Indochina to an end.
My Dear Secretary-General,

In my letter of 2 November 1972, I forwarded the text of a statement made on 2 November 1972, by the Honourable Mitchell Sharp, Secretary of State for External Affairs outlining Canada's position with respect to its participation in the supervision of an eventual ceasefire in Vietnam. I have enclosed a summary of the remarks made by Mr. Sharp during a press conference on 2 November, 1972 following the release of the statement, which should serve to amplify and clarify the Canadian position.

Yours sincerely,

Saul F Rae
Ambassador and Permanent Representative
Following is a summary of the remarks made by the Honourable Mitchell Sharp, Secretary of State for External Affairs, at a Press Conference on November 2, 1972.

Q. We gather from your statement that we are not prepared to make any long term commitment at this stage to any sort of truce body in Indo-China.

A. No, we feel that we should make our position clear now so that our participation at the beginning is assured, but we do not want to take on any long term commitments that would result in a non-constructive role for us, after the conference. As you may recall we have insisted that if we were to participate in further operations of this kind, we should be assured in advance that it is a role we could really fulfill.

Q. What sort of assurances will we be looking for?

A. We will be looking for assurances that there will be real work for the Commission to do, that it can report, that it can fulfill its role as a supervisory organization. We didn’t think that the old CSB IOC really did fulfill those requirements.

Q. Can you be more specific, sir, what kind of guarantees or terms of reference are we looking for?

A. Well, we haven’t seen the agreement itself, which has not been actually signed itself, so I cannot answer those questions.

Q. Mr. Sharp, do you want to take part in the Conference? The International Conference, does Canada want to have a role in the International Conference so that we can take part in establishing this Commission?

A. Yes, we understand that Canada’s name has been raised as a possible participant in the supervisory force and we have insisted from the beginning that we ought to have an opportunity to discuss the terms of reference before we’re fully committed so we would of course, want to be present.

Q. When you say force you don’t mean the type of force we have in Cyprus, a peacekeeping force?

A. No, no, the role of this organization is not defined yet, at least we have not seen it yet, and if it has been defined yet it has not been revealed to us. And therefore we do not want to make any commitments until we see what it is we are asked to do, that is
why it would be a mistake to think that we are going to send soldiers necessarily to Viet-Nam. We have no idea what is involved.

Q. Has there been any consultation at all with Robert Stanfield or the Conservatives in reaching this decision or ...?

A. No we felt that we were not doing anything more at the present time than continuing our role in the ICC, we were not committing anything more at the present time and therefore we didn't think we were taking on any new commitments, that would raise any questions of that kind.

Q. Mr. Sharp, you mention that the ICC or at least Canada's representation in Viet-Nam would be available immediately for any consultation or any peacekeeping role, how many do we have there now?

A. We have about 19 or something of that kind.

Q. Not a major contingent or ...

A. No, no, and at one time, I think, the total number perhaps ranged to as high as a couple of hundred, but at the present time it is about nineteen.

Q. When was it exactly that we went there?

A. Oh, we went there long before my time in Government ... 1954.

Q. What could those nineteen do under different terms of reference?

A. Oh, they could do varying things, as I say we are not quite sure just what this supervisory organization is supposed to do, and until we find out we do not want to make commitments more than we have made to date.

Q. Is nineteen the limit of Canada's contribution or might they receive extra support?

A. That would depend, as I say, the number of people that have been involved in the ICC has varied from about its present level to as high as two hundred at one time, but it has not been at that level for a very long time.

Q. Mr. Sharp, was the uncertainty of the present political situation here in Canada, did it add to or circumscribe the extent of the division of commitment that you are willing to make at this point in time?
A. I really don't think so, no, we were very conscious of this all the time but in fact I don't really think that if we had been returned with the majority that we would have made any greater commitment then that one we are making at the present time.

Q. Mr. Sharp, would Canada object to serving on a long term or permanent truce commission if India or Poland or both were also members of that commission?

A. No, I don't think it is the personnel that is the concern, it is the role and the rules. The ICC in its present form. You know the one that is in existence now, has been frustrated in its efforts by quite impossible requirements, for reporting, and so, we don't want to continue in that role, so we hope that this is not what the new supervisory organization is going to be all about. We have made these points over and over again in the U.S.A., in the United Nations, and everywhere else and I have made them a number of times personally.

Q. Mr. Sharp, how valid will the Canadian Government's commitment today be tomorrow?

A. When the Canadian Government speaks, most people think that it is committing the Government.

Q. Well, would it be wrong to presume from this statement that the Government has decided against resigning?

A. No, I just said that this is a decision that we can make without in any way committing the country to a role different to what is now involved in the ICC. So we don't feel that it makes any difference to us whether we have been returned with a majority Government or whether we continue in Government or whether it is another Government that takes over, I don't think that we are committing the country in any way different to the present commitments.

Q. Mr. Sharp, you said in answer to a question a little while ago that what these nineteen people could do, you said that they could do varying things, I wonder if you could elaborate on these things. What positive constructive contributions could nineteen people, including secretaries, and what not make in the true supervisory sense?

A. Well, we're not quite sure what just will be involved here, but you know, the people mostly concerned are the four countries which are now negotiating a peace settlement, the U.S.A. and the two Governments in South Viet-Nam and the North Viet-Nam,
they will be the people who will be involved and the real question is how can there be some sort of supervision of the truce, or of the cease fire, that is the point - until there is a political settlement, and just what is in mind, we really don't know yet and that is why we want to approach this with some caution.

Q. Did you receive any indication from the U.S.A. Government as to when they actually expect a cease fire or when an agreement will be achieved?

A. No, not more than has appeared in the newspapers, I think that the U.S.A. had hoped that it would have been accomplished earlier but there are difficulties - we have heard of the difficulties, just as you have, but we have no inside information other than that.

My dear Secretary-General,

Enclosed is the text of a press release issued today by The Honourable Mitchell Sharp, Secretary of State for External Affairs, concerning the possibility of Canadian participation in a new peace supervisory body in Indochina.

Yours sincerely,

Saul F. Rae, Ambassador and Permanent Representative

His Excellency
Mr. Kurt Waldheim,
Secretary-General of the United Nations,
NEW YORK.
Following is the text of a press release containing a statement made by The Hon. Mitchell Sharp, Secretary of State for External Affairs in Ottawa on November 2, 1972.

Recent statements by the USA and North Vietnam have indicated the possible conclusion of a peace settlement in Vietnam in the very near future. The Prime Minister, in his statement of October 26, welcomed this development and expressed the hope of all Canadians that this conflict can be brought to an end as soon as possible.

It has been stated publicly that part of the peace settlement envisaged by the parties concerned includes the formation of new international machinery to supervise the implementation, by the parties, of some of the terms of the proposed peace settlement and there have been speculative press reports regarding Canada's possible participation in this new machinery.

Over the past few years the Government's policy in regard to Canada's participation in any new peace supervisory arrangements in Indochina has been stated clearly on many occasions, both in public and in private. Accordingly the Government would consider favourably any request by all the parties for Canadian participation in such arrangements if, in the light of Canada's experience in this area, the proposed operation held the promise of success and it seemed likely that Canada could play a useful and effective role in it.

The parties concerned appear to have concluded that when a cease-fire goes into effect in Vietnam there should be some form of international presence immediately on the ground to participate in such supervisory functions as may be required. To meet this situation, therefore, the Government of Canada is prepared to place at the disposal of the new international supervisory body for the initial period the Canadian Delegation to the existing International Commission for Supervision and Control in Vietnam established by the 1954 Geneva Conference. The Canadian Delegation already has offices in both Saigon and Hanoi, and would therefore be in a position to participate in the initial supervisory activities of the proposed new organization until the international conference provided for in the peace settlement. Developments at the conference would enable Canada as well as the parties concerned to determine what, if any, future role was appropriate for Canada in Vietnam in the light of the arrangements that emerged from the conference concerning the membership, the terms of reference and the operation of an international supervisory body.
If invited to the international conference, which is scheduled to convene 30 days after the signing of a cease-fire, Canada would, of course, be prepared to attend.

The Government hopes that, insofar as Canada's participation is a factor, this course of action will enable the initial cease-fire arrangements to proceed without delay subject of course to an agreement being reached among the parties concerned.