

Fuller story, by Claude Lemelin, Montreal, Washington Post 26 Mar 73, filed POWs.

SFChronicle

MAR 26 1973

Canada 'Misled by U.S.' On Peace-Keeping Setup

Montreal

The Trudeau government was misled by U.S. State Department officials last October into believing that the signing of the Paris agreement hinged almost exclusively on Canadian acceptance of a peace-keeping role in Vietnam, according to officials in the Canadian External Affairs Department.

This misleading information put tremendous moral pressure upon Canada and forced the Trudeau government, in the interest of peace, to make a reluctant commitment to the International Commission for Control and Supervision to be set up, these officials say.

AIDE

The commitment was made by External Affairs Secretary Mitchell Sharp on November 2, at which time Canada had been told nothing about the cease-fire agreement under negotiation between Washington and Hanoi, nor about the supervisory arrangements then being discussed.

The conclusion in Canada that the information disclosed by the State Department was false has complicated Canada's decision of a pullout from the already lame ICCS, in the view of the Canadian Department of external Affairs. The depart-

ment is no longer fully confident that what Ottawa is told by U.S. officials is a true reflection of the Nixon Administration's intentions in Vietnam.

The Canadian government is reported to have discovered, through diplomatic contacts in several capitals, that, among other things, neither Poland, Hungary nor Indonesia had apparently committed themselves at the time to the ICCS.

AREAS

Later the Paris negotiations broke down, and it became evident that substantial areas of disagreement remained between Hanoi and Washington. The negotiations resumed only after the Nixon administration resorted to massive bombings of Hanoi and Haiphong.

The alleged deception by the U.S. State Department aroused considerable bitterness in Ottawa.

The episode in U.S.-Canada relations was recently disclosed by senior officials in the Canadian department.

It is claimed that, soon after Henry Kissinger's "peace is at hand" press conference, on October 25, Ottawa was told by William Sullivan, the deputy assistant secretary of state for East Asian and Pacific Af-

fairs, that the conclusion of the cease-fire agreement then under negotiation in Paris depended upon Canada's willingness to be a member of the proposed supervision commission.

Poland, Hungary and Indonesia, Canadian officials were told, were already committed to the new ICCS, the implication being that Canada was the only nation left to agree.

TALKS

Similar arguments were used by Assistant Secretary of State Marshall Green in talks with Canadian officials.

Both U.S. officials, it was said, sought to mollify the extreme reluctance of Canada to accept an open-ended commitment to supervise a peace agreement about which it knew nothing.

On November 2 Sharp announced that Canada would "place at the disposal of the new international supervisory body, for the initial period, the Canadian delegation to the existing International Control Commission in Vietnam, established by the 1954 Geneva Conference."

The minister's statement was made against the judgment of his advisers and the bitter lessons Canada has learned from 19 years membership in the old ICC.

Washington Post Service