

Canada Alerts Observers for Vietnam but Has Some 'Tough' Demands of Her Own

By JAY WALZ

Special to The New York Times

OTTAWA, Jan. 15—Canada is prepared to begin moving a peace-keeping force of as many as 1,450 military personnel into Vietnam within 10 days of a cease-fire agreement, officials in the Department of External Affairs say.

Whether a contingent that large would be dispatched, however, depends on a number of tough conditions that some officials complain have not been clarified in Washington, Saigon or Hanoi, or discussed anywhere with Canadians.

The Defense Department reported today that 400 officers and men had already had inoculations and were on alert for Vietnam duty. They are stationed across the country, spokesmen said, and would be flown to the St. Hubert base near Montreal for the 27-hour

flight to Saigon by way of Hawaii and Guam.

Eighteen Canadians now serving on the International Control Commission in Vietnam are also available for temporary service on a cease-fire supervisory group.

**No Commitment Yet**

Mitchell W. Sharp, External Affairs Secretary, emphasized in the House of Commons 10 days ago that Canada had not yet made any commitment to accept a role in Vietnam. Any initial undertaking would be limited to 30 days. This would be extended to 60 days if it were to take that long for an international conference to lay down specific assignment or to determine what political authority would supervise an agreement.

Canada's conditions will be tough, an official said. "But we want to help, he added, "and

for that reason we might not insist that all conditions be met at the outset."

For example, he said, if Washington and Hanoi wished, Canada might initially watch over the withdrawal of United States troops, or the return of prisoners of war.

Canada's planning has been based on the suggestion in reports from Paris that Canada, Poland, Hungary and Indonesia form a team to "observe and supervise" in Vietnam if a cease-fire agreement is reached.

**Force's Size a Factor**

An official said that the four countries had contacted each other and that Canada had been accepted as a member of the team by the United States, South Vietnam and by North Vietnam. No word has been received from the Vietcong side but no particular significance

is attached to this at the moment.

Canadian sources say they have had no direct word from either North Vietnam or South Vietnam on the size of the team that would be acceptable. It has been reported, largely through the disclosures of Henry A. Kissinger, President Nixon's adviser on national security, at a news conference in Washington last month, that North Vietnam favors a small force of fewer than 250 altogether. The United States is understood to be thinking in terms of about 1,500 men for each country on the team, while South Vietnam has urged a force of at least 25,000.

When the Departments of National Defense and of External Affairs here drew up their contingency plan, they hit upon the figure of 1,450, informants say, entirely on their own, taking into account

the expense and the capabilities of the Canadian military personnel.

But one Canadian objection to the large force recommended by South Vietnam is the "danger of getting involved in enforcing the truce"—using arms to prevent infiltration into "leopard spots," as Canadian officials call the enclaves that will be controlled by Communist forces in South Vietnam after the cease-fire.

Canadians say they are ready to help watch out for any infiltration of arms and men into these spots, but the Canadian Government, it has been emphasized here, will never permit its observer troops to become combatants.

Officials here are disappointed that the governments directly involved, notably Washington, have not kept Ottawa informed about peace developments.

Most Canadians fully expect their country to be involved eventually in preserving a cease-fire in Southeast Asia. Since Canada has taken part in virtually every international peace mission since World War II, they consider themselves "the most experienced peace-keepers in the world."

**'We're in the Dark'**

One official, speaking privately this weekend, said, "It's strange no one is taking us into their confidence, if only to ask our advice."

An External Affairs spokesman, who said he had learned of this morning's White House order to stop bombing Vietnam from a radio broadcast, declared, "We're in the dark—probably more than you newspapermen are."