

# CANADA PROPOSES A FORUM TO DEAL WITH TRUCE CRISES

On Opening, Paris Parley  
Hears Plan for U.N. Chief  
to Convene Sessions

## ROGERS SUPPORTS IDEA

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But Communists Insist That  
Cease-Fire Responsibility  
Lies With Belligerents

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PARIS, Feb. 26—The international conference on Vietnam opened today with a proposal by Canada for a forum that could act on any future breakdown of the cease-fire.

Canada's suggestion, by External Affairs Minister Mitchell W. Sharp, was that the United Nations Secretary General be empowered to call the 13-party conference back into session if fighting is resumed. His plan drew general approval from Secretary of State William P. Rogers but was rejected by the Vietnamese Communists.

The exchanges took place as the conference opened this morning precisely 30 days after the signing of the cease-fire, as provided in the agreements.

### Disagreements Continue

There were formal congratulations on the achievement of the accords, but also evidence of continuing disagreements and pointed reminders that the shooting has not stopped in Vietnam, or in the rest of Indochina.

And tonight there was no visible outline of a compromise on a plan of action should the cease-fire break down. But American and North Vietnamese negotiators were reported to have drawn up a draft declaration for the conference in private talks this afternoon, with points of agreement and disagreement to be submitted to all the participants.

Although details were not disclosed, one point of disagreement was the problem of continuing responsibility for the cease-fire. North Vietnam and the Vietcong have insisted that it rest with the belligerents.

Canada's main demand was that the truce control teams have some international political authority to receive their reports for as long as the four foreign supervisory nations—Canada, Hungary, Indonesia and Poland—remain in Vietnam.

### Sharp Reiterates Warning

Mr. Sharp reiterated Canada's pledge to withdraw from all responsibility unless better arrangements were made for supervising the cease-fire.

The Canadian minister, the Vietcong's delegate—Mrs. Nguyen Thi Binh—and other foreign ministers drew attention to the fact that a month after the signing of the cease-fire, it had yet to become fully effective.

Nevertheless, the major powers—either in conference speeches or in off-hand remarks by delegates at a French Foreign Ministry reception this evening—seemed content that the situation was reasonably in hand and members of the American, Soviet and Chinese

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delegations beamed with confidence.

This morning, with a minimum of protocol, the foreign ministers of the 12 participants and Secretary General Waldheim of the United Nations filed into the ballroom of the former Hotel Majestic where the cease-fire had been signed.

The ambiguity that had been necessary to get the conference going was reflected in the fact that the United States and North Vietnam were the "inviting powers" and could not agree on choosing a chairman.

Late last night, they compromised by designating Canada and Poland as rotating "presiding officers." The careful avoidance of naming them co-chairman was a result of a continued dispute about who if anyone should bear ultimate responsibility for future international action. Should the cease-fire break down.

According to an agreement that speeches and seating be-

alphabetical, Mr. Sharp was the first to take the floor.

He discarded diplomatic euphemism to warn that Canada would withdraw completely unless means could be found to enforce the cease-fire more effectively.

### Hostilities Continue

"The Vietnamese parties are still engaged in hostile activities related to efforts by one side or the other to enlarge its areas of control," Mr. Sharp said.

He said the international commission setup to supervise the truce had not been able "to meet its obligations" and he called for establishment of an international authority to receive violation reports. Mr. Sharp proposed that the Paris conference accept this role and that Mr. Waldheim be empowered to reconvene the conference.

Otherwise, he said, Canada would be in a position of having to choose between suppressing evidence of violations or bearing "the onus of passing to the former belligerents in Indochina reports that could conceivably result in a re-escalation of the war."

The Canadian minister said that Canada, considering this unacceptable, would withdraw formally on March 30, pulling

her truce teams out by April 30, if satisfactory arrangements could not be made before then.

Mr. Rogers, though he gave general support to Mr. Sharp's proposal, suggested that the conference could be reconvened on the demand of six members, which would mean that either the Communist or non-Communist side could take the initiative.

### 'Redress Wounds of War'

An effort to achieve a compromise on this issue of long-term international responsibility thus emerged as the major controversy of the conference.

On two other questions, posi-

tions were so far apart that it appeared unlikely there would even be an attempt to arrange a compromise before the scheduled signing of a final declaration by the conference delegates on Friday.

One was the question of reconstruction aid. The United States faced with stern Congressional opposition to direct assistance for North Vietnam, would like an agreement on such aid from many nations.

The North Vietnamese flatly rejected this today, saying that the United States owed help to "redress" the losses of war and that all other aid would be welcomed only through arrangements between Hanoi and particular countries.

The second question concerned Laos and Cambodia. Secretary Rogers expressed the American desire to have a specific conference reference to a cease-fire and neutrality in those two countries, but North Vietnam was opposed.

The North Vietnamese spokesman, Nguyen Thanh Le, said after this morning's two-and-a-half-hour formal session that the conference had "no competence to discuss the problems of Laos and Cambodia."

He also denounced American B-52 raids on Communist-held areas of Cambodia as a "very serious act of war" and a violation of the Paris agreements.

The delegates did agree to hold only morning conference sessions, and to set up a drafting committee to work out the conference declaration. The private American-North Vietnamese group met this afternoon.

The limited schedule of formal meetings left time for private meetings. Secretary Rogers met with the Chinese Foreign Minister, Chi Peng-fei, last night and will see him again. He is also to confer with the Soviet Foreign Minister, Andrei A. Gromyko.