

# CANADA WILL STAY ON PEACE AGENCY

MAR 28 1973

Says It Will Keep Observers  
in Vietnam at Least 90 Days  
NYTimes

By JAY WALZ

Special to The New York Times

OTTAWA, March 27 — External Affairs Minister Mitchell W. Sharp announced today that Canada would keep its 290 cease-fire observers in Vietnam for at least 90 days more.

His announcement, made a day before the end of the Government's first 60-day commitment to the International Commission of Control and Supervision, left no doubt about Canada's misgivings in remaining a member of the body, which is charged with supervising the Vietnam cease-fire. Canada serves on the commission with Hungary, Indonesia and Poland.

"Unless there is a substantial improvement in the situation or some signs of an imminent political agreement," the foreign minister told the House of Commons, Canada "will cease to participate in the I.C.C.S. by June 30, 1973."

"We will not take part in a charade nor will we tacitly condone inaction when we believe action is required," he added.

But Mr. Sharp in his statement to the House said the Government had decided that the opposing forces in Vietnam "need a little more time to demonstrate the feasibility" of the peace prescribed in the Jan. 27 cease-fire agreement.

The Government has therefore decided, he said, to keep the observer team in Vietnam for another 60 days. At the end of May the Government will again appraise the operation. If it decides to withdraw, it will allow a 30-day period after May 31 for time to find a replacement for Canada on the commission.

"This means," the Minister said, "that Canada, unless there is a substantial improvement in the situation or some signs of an imminent political agreement, will cease to participate in the I.C.C.S. by June 30, 1973."

"All the parties will by then have had adequate time to carry out those provisions which the I.C.C.S. was created to supervise, perhaps even the holding of elections."

Mr. Sharp said that Canada was ready to help supervise elections in South Vietnam if they were held under provisions of the cease-fire agreement.

## Had Asked an Authority

Canada's complaint as outlined by Mr. Sharp was that the conditions the Government set for joining the commission had not been met. The most important was the establishment of a continuing political authority to which the commission would report. Such an authority was provided for neither in the Jan. 27 peace agreement nor, despite Mr. Sharp's urging, at the international conference on Vietnam in Paris last month.

Canada's immediate complaint is that the commission's members are not able to carry out their function of observing. Almost continuous, if localized, fighting has marred the cease-fire.

The Government's decision today follows nearly two months of disputes within the commission, with Canada and Indonesia on one side and Hungary and Poland on the other. Moreover, the Canadian observers, under Ambassador Michel Gauvin, have insisted on publicizing the disputes that have brought about the "inaction" Mr. Sharp complained of today.

Yesterday, Mr. Sharp told a conference that if Canada did, indeed, decide to stay in Vietnam, her "open-mouth policy" would continue.

Mr. Sharp said that the Government had been urged by some countries to stay in Vietnam for "psychological" reasons, a position that Canada could not accept.

Mr. Sharp said that the argument maintained that "although the I.C.C.S. may not be necessary for the purposes of carrying out the agreement, its absence would be taken as an indication that the agreement lacked world support and consequently our withdrawal could become a further destabilizing psychological factor in a situation already very unstable."

"There are two things I would like to say about this so-called psychological role," Mr. Sharp continued. "The first is that I am not convinced that the I.C.C.S. does play such a part in the thinking of the Vietnamese. The second is that I do not believe that Canada and Canadians can be expected over any protracted period to play this part."

Canada, the minister said, would give the parties another 60 days to show "the feasibility" of resolving the conflict.

"The resumption of large-scale hostilities or any action tantamount to a direct denial by the parties of their obligations under the agreement would, in the Government's view, release Canada of further responsibility to the I.C.C.S.," Mr. Sharp said.

Opposition Conservatives speaking in the House of Commons today approved the Government's decision to extend the observer commitment. But they criticized the Government for not consulting Parliament in the matter. Mr. Sharp replied that the government would bring the issue before Parliament for debate but that there were no plans for a vote.