

Opening Remarks  
by Ambassador David Bruce  
at the One Hundred and Nineteenth Plenary Session  
of the Paris Meetings on Viet-Nam

Pal. Set.  
FILE SUBJ.  
DATE SUB-CAT.  
7/71

July 1, 1971

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Ladies and Gentlemen:

Since these meetings began, we have consistently sought to engage you in serious negotiations. We have put forward realistic and reasonable proposals designed to lead to an honorable and lasting settlement of this conflict. This continues to be our goal here.

President Nixon has stated in the clearest terms that the United States Government will not impose any government on the people of South Viet-Nam. Our essential objective has always been to have the people of South Viet-Nam determine their own future without any outside interference. This remains our objective, and all our proposals and actions are designed to help achieve it.

You have suggested that we consider carefully your remarks this morning. It has always been our practice to examine any proposals made by your side, and we have consistently stated our desire to negotiate on all proposals made by both sides.

I have no further comment at this time and suggest we adjourn until next Thursday.