

11. Excerpts from a statement by the Secretary of State for External Affairs in the New York *Herald Tribune* Forum, October 24, 1950

... When the Republic of Korea was attacked by aggressors in June, there were no international forces in being which could be used against the invaders. The provisions which had been written into the Charter designed to equip the United Nations with such forces had remained inoperative because it was impossible to agree with the Soviet Union on how such forces should be raised. Nevertheless, all those countries which value their own freedom and which realize that in the last analysis it cannot be maintained unless the freedom of other countries is also preserved were at once acutely aware that this attack could not be allowed to succeed. They also realized that a broad international effort should be made to defeat it. In that situation the Government of the United States acted with great vigour and courage. On behalf of the United Nations, and in response to a resolution of the Security Council, American troops were at once committed to battle in a desperate attempt to stem the invasion. No praise would be too great for the heroism they displayed and for the prodigies they performed. All of us throughout the free world are greatly in their debt.

Gradually other countries were able to make contributions to augment the strength of United Nations forces in Korea. Naval and air contingents were despatched by seven countries, including my own, Canada, and, as the need for additional ground forces became apparent, steps were taken in a number of countries to raise them for service in Korea. This was a slow process, however; and to the present day, of course, your forces, along with those of the Republic of Korea, and the United Kingdom have had to bear the brunt of the fighting.

The delay in the despatch of ground forces of other countries to take their place in the line in Korea must often have been hard to understand. However, it was an inevitable result of the failure of the United Nations to make prior arrangements for the organization of international forces which could be used in such a situation. Smaller countries like my own do not ordinarily have armed forces available for quick despatch to any part of the world; and we had not been given any indication that the Security Council would be able to agree on measures by which such forces would be required. Our experience had led us to believe that action of this kind would not be possible because of the operation of the veto.

The Korean war has underlined the necessity for arrangements within the United Nations, which would enable a genuinely international force to be quickly assembled. The resolution which was recently passed by the General Assembly attempts to provide such permanent arrangements; and it seems to me to be well designed to that end. We in Canada have taken special interest in this proposal for the creation on a permanent basis of international forces earmarked to carry out obligations we have all undertaken under the United Nations Charter. When we announced in Canada the raising of our special force for service in Korea, we made it clear that this force would be available for whatever action might be necessary in any quarter of the globe in order to carry out our military obligations either under the United Nations Charter or under the North Atlantic Treaty. We were the first country, I believe, to