

Despite the ready response of member nations, and particularly of the United States, to the North Korean aggression, and while the Unified Command was building up its strength for the counter-attack, the superior forces of the North Koreans compelled a steady retreat throughout July and August to a beach-head around Pusan. Meanwhile, on August 1, the Soviet Representative returned to the Security Council to take his turn as President and, as expected, to block any further constructive action on Korea. In anticipation of the revival of the veto, the Council passed a last resolution on this question on July 31, dealing with the problem of civilian relief.

By mid-September the first phase of the Korean crisis had ended. The Security Council was inhibited from further action by the return of the U.S.S.R., which purported to view recent events in the inverted perspective of an unsuccessful attack by the Republic of Korea, backed by the United States and condoned by the illegal actions of an improperly constituted organ of the United Nations. Moreover, United Nations forces had gone over to the offensive and after the Inchon landing on September 15, were approaching the 38th parallel. Additional and urgent United Nations decisions, involving the unification and rehabilitation of Korea and, more immediately, the scope of further military operation were clearly required. Discussion of the Korean question was, therefore, transferred to the General Assembly which had, in any case, an item on its agenda entitled "Report of the United Nations Commission on Korea" dealing with the problem of the independence and unification of that country.

When the Fifth Session of the Assembly opened on September 19, the Korean question was given priority on the agenda. The Canadian attitude was outlined in a statement by Mr. Pearson on September 27, during the opening debate. This statement set forth five main principles which might govern the Assembly's decision on Korea:

- (1) "The general objective of the United Nations in Korea should be to fulfil now the purposes which have repeatedly been stated at previous Assemblies - a united Korea, a free Korea, a Korea which the Korean people itself governs without interference from outside."
- (2) "The United Nations must assist the people of Korea to establish peace and order throughout its territory as a firm foundation for democratic institutions and of free self government."
- (3) "The Korean people, once peace has been restored, must be assured that no nation will exploit the present situation in Korea for its own particular advantage."
- (4) "Nothing shall be done in the establishment of a united free Korea which carries any menace to Korea's neighbours."
- (5) "The free governments of Asia should take a major share of the responsibility for advising the Korean people upon methods of government which they should adopt and procedures which they should follow in establishing those methods of government."