

No. 54/38/UN9/15 THE KOREAN QUESTION

Text of a statement on December 3, 1954, by Mr. David M. Johnson, Canadian Representative in the First Committee at the ninth session of the United Nations General Assembly, New York, on agenda item 17(a) - Report of the United Nations Commission for the Unification and Rehabilitation of Korea.

Note: The text of a resolution adopted by the Committee and the results of the voting are included at the end of the statement.

By resolution No. 711 of August 28 last year, the General Assembly recommended that those member states which would participate in the Political Conference on behalf of the United Nations should report back when agreement was reached or as appropriate. It is therefore appropriate that the Korean problem should again be under consideration here, though we have regretfully to report that no agreement was reached at Geneva on the Korean question. This problem remains a United Nations problem, and the concern of my Government remains that of a responsible member of the United Nations. Insofar as the United Nations has been seized of the Korean problem so has Canada.

Thus, when the United Nations decided that armed aggression should be repelled by collective military measures, Canadian servicemen went to Korea to fight and some to die. When the United Nations undertook a programme for relief and rehabilitation of a Korea devastated by the conflict foisted on it, Canada responded in cash and kind. When the Geneva Conference seemed to provide an opportunity to convert the Armistice Agreement into a lasting peace settlement which would ensure a free, united and democratic Korea in accordance with the objectives of the United Nations, Canada accepted an invitation to participate.

At Geneva the other side confronted us with a plan for the unification of Korea which, if we had accepted it would have required us to repudiate the objectives of the United Nations and to exclude this organization from any part in the substance and supervision of the settlement. Their unification plan was based on elections to be conducted throughout the peninsula by an all-Korean commission on which the aggressor and the victim of aggression were to have equal representation despite the very unequal numbers of people involved on both sides. It was all too clear that the purpose of this commission was not to assist the people of the whole of Korea to express their free will but to provide the North Koreans, after their failure to win control by force of arms, with another means for implementing their programme. The representatives of North Korea, Communist China and the Soviet Union