

STATEMENTS AND SPEECHES

INFORMATION DIVISION
DEPARTMENT OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS
OTTAWA - CANADA

No. 51/3 Statement by Mr. L.B. Pearson, Secretary of State for External Affairs, and Chairman of the Canadian Delegation to the United Nations General Assembly, made in the First (Political) Committee on January 30, 1951, explaining the Canadian vote on the Arab-Asian and United States resolutions on Korea.

Irrespective of the decision which the Committee may make in regard to the procedure which had been suggested to it by the representative of Egypt, I wish to take this opportunity to explain in a very few words the vote which my Delegation will cast on the two resolutions* which are now before us and on which I thought we were about to vote.

In respect of the Asian resolution, though we support its underlying principles and pay tribute to the sincerity of purpose and the high idealism of those who have sponsored it, I regret that we cannot support it for the following reasons:

First, because, though it does embody the essential principle that there must be an end of fighting before there can be a discussion of political questions, it sets up a seven-power agency of a kind, and with a membership, which would not make it satisfactory in our opinion for bringing about a cease-fire arrangement in Korea. For one thing it includes a member of this Committee which has bluntly stated on more than one occasion that it will have nothing to do with a cease-fire except on terms which would be completely unacceptable. My Delegation continues to feel that such terms for a cease-fire must be based on those already submitted by the Cease-Fire Group and that they should be at once negotiated by a small group representing the United Nations, the United States and the Peking Government.

Second, because we feel that any further communications from this Committee or any new proposals from it to Peking should be precise and detailed and should provide for a specific programme to begin on a certain date and to proceed by definite stages, and to our regret the Asian draft resolution as we see it does not provide satisfactorily for this.

* The United States resolution, referred to on page 2, appears in its final form as an appendix to this statement.