

Despite General Wu's statement, the Cease-Fire Group continued its efforts to end hostilities in Korea. On December 18, it cabled Premier Chou En-lai a message offering to discuss cease-fire arrangements with the Chinese Communists either at Lake Success or any other place that would be mutually convenient. The telegram said:

"The purpose of this cease-fire in Korea will be to prevent the conflict from spreading to other areas, to put an end to the fighting in Korea, and to provide an opportunity for considering what further steps should be taken for a peaceful settlement of existing issues, in accordance with the purposes and principles of the United Nations.

The above committee has now met representatives of the Unified Command in Korea and has discussed with them, in an exploratory manner, possible conditions upon which a cease-fire might be established. Since the Government of the Communist People's Republic of China has expressed strong views on the future of Korea, and about the present state of warfare in that country, and since Chinese are participating in that warfare, the committee wishes also to discuss with your Government or its representatives, and with the military authorities in command of the forces operating in North Korea possible conditions upon which a cease-fire might be established.

Proposal Rejected

Despite the Cease-Fire Group's telegram the Chinese Communist delegation left New York on December 19. On December 22, Premier Chou En-lai notified the United Nations of his government's rejection of the cease-fire proposal. Premier Chou's telegram was addressed to Mr. Entezam as President of the Assembly and not as head of the Cease-Fire Group, which he refused to recognize. The telegram stated that the Chinese Communist representative had not participated in the discussion setting-up the Cease-Fire Group, and that the Chinese Communist Government regarded as "illegal, null and void", all major resolutions concerning Asia which were adopted by the United Nations without the participation of the Peking representative. It also stated that United States forces in crossing the 38th parallel had "obliterated forever this demarcation line of political geography". Finally the telegram reiterated the conditions which had been laid down by General Wu for negotiating a possible settlement—withdrawal of all foreign troops from Korea, withdrawal of United States forces from Taiwan, and the seating of the Peking Government representative in the United Nations. "To put aside these points" the reply concluded "would make it impossible to settle peacefully the Korean problem and the important problem of Asia".

As the year ended the United Nations awaited the report of the Cease-Fire Group which it was expected would be made early in the New Year. According to published reports, Mr. Gross of the United States delegation at the United Nations informed Sir Benegal Rau on January 1 that the United States would not take part in any "cease-fire" negotiations with the Chinese Communist government if its forces continued their reported drive below the Thirty-eighth Parallel. It was expected that, following the report of the Cease-Fire Group, the Political Committee would reconvene to consider the Far Eastern problems still outstanding on its agenda.