

elections and all that implied, and if the communist powers at Geneva were not prepared to agree to international supervision of an election by a workable commission acceptable to the United Nations and composed of genuine neutrals, the United Nations side might shortly have to consider whether it was worth while continuing the effort at Geneva to reach agreement for the peaceful unification of Korea.

Shortly after I made that statement the communist representatives at Geneva made it crystal clear that they would neither agree to a Korea united through genuinely free elections nor accept the mandate of the United Nations mission in the divided peninsula. So the conference ended on June 15, as there was no useful purpose to be served in continuing it.

Subsequently the participating member states on our side informed the United Nations in a joint report of the failure of the conference. When the last session of the General Assembly reached the Korean item on its agenda the communists had not at that time given any indication of a change in their position, so the assembly could make no move last autumn in New York toward the achievement of peace and unification on any satisfactory basis. All that could be done was to pass a resolution, and that was done by a vote of 50 to 5, approving the report reaffirming the United Nations objective in Korea, and expressing the hope that progress toward this might soon be made. Should the communist position on these matters change we would favour resumption of negotiations.

How could such negotiations best be conducted if the circumstances were propitious for them? The Korean question remains before the United Nations; yet it is clear now, of course, that it cannot be peacefully resolved without the concurrence of the North Korean and Chinese communist governments, governments which are not members of the United Nations and which have defied its charter.

At Geneva negotiations were conducted outside of the United Nations, but in conformity with its principles. If further efforts to unify Korea peacefully are to be made then the United Nations will have to face the problem of finding an acceptable procedure for sponsoring negotiations which, to have any chance of success, will have to include these two non-members, North Korea and communist China.

And now I should say something about Formosa, the third sector of what I might call this Far Eastern front. I should like to try to explain as briefly as possible why the situation which has arisen in the Formosan straits is so worrying, and indeed so potentially explosive; particularly our own concern with and relationship to that situation. On the substance of the matter I have not very much to add to what I said in the House in January and last month, because the policy I stated then has not been altered. But there have been certain new developments.

It is reassuring, for instance, that the evacuation of thousands of civilians and soldiers from the Tachen and Nankishen Islands has taken place without any serious incident. The decision to evacuate these islands was, if not an easy one, certainly a wise one for the Chinese nationalist government to make. The Chinese