

APPENDIX 7

**Excerpts from statement by the Secretary of State for External Affairs
in the House of Commons, June 28, 1950**

Mr. Speaker, perhaps I might be permitted to report to the House on certain developments that have taken place in the last forty-eight hours with respect to the situation in Korea, and to outline the attitude of the Canadian Government.

The House will recall that at its meeting on Sunday the Security Council of the United Nations termed the armed attack upon the Republic of Korea as a breach of the peace, and called upon the Communist forces to withdraw to the 38th parallel. It soon became apparent that this appeal would be without effect on the Communist government of North Korea. Their forces continued to advance on Seoul, the capital of Korea. The United Nations Commission on Korea reported that they were convinced that North Korea would pay no heed to the resolution of the Security Council.

When the Charter of the United Nations was drawn up, it was intended that such an act of aggression would be met by the dispatch of forces put at the disposal of the Security Council by member governments as the result of prior agreements. However, the Security Council has never been able to negotiate such agreements, for reasons which I need not go into now. In these circumstances, with one link missing in the chain which has been designed to hold aggression in check, it was impossible for the Security Council itself to take effective action to provide military assistance to the Republic of Korea. If help were to be given, the responsibility would have to be shouldered by individual members of the Security Council acting within the terms of the Charter, but on their own initiative. In this case the United States recognized a special responsibility which it discharged with admirable dispatch and decisiveness.

As hon. members will know, President Truman yesterday announced that the United States would send air and sea forces to give the Korean Government's troops cover and support. I feel sure that all members of the House will applaud and support this act of high courage and firm statesmanship on the part of the Government of the United States.

I think it would be appropriate, Mr. Speaker, if I read into the records of the House the statement of the President* . . .

I should like to point out, if I may, that although the United States Government has taken this step on its own authority, it is acting not only in accordance with the spirit and letter of the Charter of the United Nations, but also in pursuance of the resolution which was adopted by the Security Council on Sunday. This resolution, it will be remembered, called on all members of the United Nations to render every assistance in regard to its execution. It should also be borne in mind that the United States has accepted responsibility generally for the maintenance of international peace and security in the Pacific area, and specifically for the maintenance of the security of Japan as the power responsible under international agreements for the occupation of that country. Those specific responsibilities, as well as the responsibilities which are shared

*See Appendix 5.