

This statement of principles was transmitted to the Central People's Government of China which was asked whether the principles would be acceptable "as a basis for the peaceful settlement of the Korean problem and other Far Eastern problems". On January 17 the Foreign Minister of the Central People's Government replied in terms which some states interpreted as an outright rejection and which others interpreted as a partial acceptance or counter-proposal. The United States particularly took the view that the reply of the Central People's Government could not be accepted as a basis for continued negotiation and on January 20 introduced a resolution naming the Central People's Government of China as an aggressor in Korea, requesting consideration of additional measures to meet the aggression and providing for the appointment of a Good Offices Committee.

Meanwhile steps were taken to try to clarify the meaning of the Central People's Government's reply of January 17. On the basis of this clarification, 12 Asian and Arab countries, including India, presented a resolution of January 25 recommending "that representatives of the Governments of France, the United Kingdom, the United States of America, the Union of Soviet Socialist Republics, Egypt and India, and of the Central People's Government of the People's Republic of China, meet as soon as possible for the purpose of securing all necessary elucidations and amplifications of the above mentioned reply and of making any incidental or consequential arrangements towards a peaceful settlement of the Korean and other Far Eastern problems".

The Political Committee of the General Assembly rejected the Asian-Arab resolution on January 30 (Canada abstaining) and adopted the United States resolution with amendments accepted during the course of the debate. Canada reluctantly voted in favour of this resolution for reasons which the Secretary of State for External Affairs stated before the Political Committee on January 26:

We think the putting of such a resolution at this stage and in this form when the possibilities of negotiation with the People's Government of China are not in our opinion completely exhausted to be premature and unwise...

The main purport of this resolution as we understand it and certainly as the public in our own country will understand it, is to condemn the Chinese People's Government for the assistance they have given the aggressor in Korea. We think that there is no shadow of doubt about this continuing participation in aggression and we believe that the action of the Chinese People's Government in this matter has been morally wrong, and that the United Nations cannot ignore such a defiance of the principles upon which it is founded.

The resolution as passed on February 1, 1951, included the following paragraph:

The General Assembly...

Finds that the Central People's Government of the People's Republic of China, by giving direct aid and assistance to those who were already committing aggression in Korea and by engaging in hostilities against United Nations forces there, has itself engaged in aggression in Korea.²

²See Appendix 4 for the full text of this resolution.