

If only we could get across to those people whose governments have cut themselves off from the international community, that peace is all we have in mind; that there is no other purpose in this United Nations intervention but to stop aggression in Korea; and that no one, least of all the leader in this collective action, the United States, desires for one moment to exploit or extend this conflict, or to indulge in any action beyond that which is required to carry out the specific and restorative purposes of the Security Council resolution. That resolution has now received the approval of 53 states. They include many countries, and Canada is one of them, who resent and repudiate the charge that in doing our duty to the international community, and to peace, we are merely following the orders of a single member of the United Nations which has particular interests to safeguard in Korea. This is not the case. The people of Canada know that it is not the case. The Communists, of course, in language of crude and vicious ferocity, charge that the United Nations is merely being used as the cloak for imperialist aggression, and that, in any event, its action is illegal because the U.S.S.R did not vote for the resolution decreeing it.

It is true that resolutions of the Security Council, of the kind passed on Korea, require the approval of seven members, including the votes of the permanent members of the Council. But it is equally true, though the Russians and their Friends, of course, do not mention this now, that it has become a well established rule under the Charter that absence from the Council, or even abstention on a vote when present, cannot be considered as the application of the veto. The Soviet representative on the Security Council has himself abstained from voting on a number of occasions, and on no single one of these instances has the Soviet Union challenged the legality of the action taken by the Council. Indeed, on the contrary, the Soviet representative, Mr. Gromyko himself, has explicitly stated in the past that his abstention was not to be considered as a veto. Only now in the case of Korea is this legal technicality dragged out, dusted off and used in an attempt to block action for peace. If the Soviet Union had disapproved of the action of the Council in this matter, it could have attended the Security Council, expressed its views, and voted accordingly. It has refused to do so, having arrogantly walked out from the Council when the Chinese Communist government, which was supported by it, was not able to secure recognition by a majority of the members of the Council. No doubt the U.S.S.R. thought that it may have been possible to blackmail the Council in this way to recognition. I am not at this time arguing the merits of recognition or non-recognition of Communist China. There is a great deal to be said for having the government of China, which is at present in control of the continent of China, speak for China in the United Nations, but the free people of the world are not to be brow-beaten into a decision on this point by the tyrannical exercise of this kind of pressure.

And what is Canada's position in all this? It is, I suggest, dictated by the necessity of supporting United Nations action. That is our only obligation, but it is one which we are discharging from considerations, both of national honour and of national safety. We have accepted that obligation as a Government, as a Parliament, and as a people, and we are discharging it. On this matter, we were united in the House of Commons and, I think, we are united, apart from the Communists, in the country. There may be, of course, a few who will argue that no Canadian interest is involved in Korea; that Korea is a country far away of which Canadians know nothing. There could be no reasoning more false than this. The terrible events of the last twenty years have shown us that there is no country far away from Canada and that there is no Canadian interest which matches our interest in peace. If that interest in peace is risked in Korea, or any other place, it becomes a matter of immediate concern to the Canadian people; for Canada, in this jet-propelled, atomic, inter-dependent age, cannot by itself remain secure and at peace in a warring world. And so it is a matter of primary Canadian interest, as it is the interest of all free and peaceful peoples, that the collective police action of the United Nations should succeed.