

Political events during the past year have been such as to underline the above considerations and to call upon our sober determination to make the best and most constructive use we can of the instrument at our disposal. In particular, though it is disappointing that the year which began with the Korean Armistice has not ended with a Korean peace, it is incumbent upon us to study the general development of events in Korea, and to draw from them lessons that may indicate how our efforts to achieve international stability can more effectively be furthered through the United Nations.

The Korean Armistice Agreement has run for a year without serious incident. President Rhee claims that it works to the disadvantage of the Republic of Korea and has appealed for support for a drive to the Yalu River. But, with the United States and other governments, we stand by the Armistice and will not support the resumption of hostilities in Korea despite the failure of the Geneva Conference to achieve the political unification of the country. As the Armistice gains a kind of stability through the passage of time, it is reasonable to expect that there may be a progressive withdrawal of Chinese Communist and United Nations forces from Korea.

Though the Geneva Conference made no real progress towards the objective of unifying Korea, it did provide an opportunity for the parties concerned to put on record their views on the problem. Any further efforts to solve it will not have to go over the same ground again. Furthermore, the Communist Representatives at the Conference failed in their persistent efforts to split the United Nations group.

In view of the results of the Geneva Conference, it may not be possible to make early and decisive progress toward the peaceful unification of Korea. But when further efforts can be made, the United Nations will have to face the hard fact that Korea cannot be unified peacefully except through negotiation with the North Korean and Chinese Communist Governments. Such negotiations can be conducted outside the United Nations but in conformity with United Nations principles, as they were at the Geneva Conference. But if they are to be conducted under the ægis of the United Nations, the participation of the North Korean and Chinese Communist Representatives would pose a problem. Neither Government is a member of the United Nations. Nevertheless, because of their military strength, they would expect to be treated in any such conference on a basis of equality. This in turn would create a difficulty for those member governments which are opposed to the Chinese Communist Government's securing a foothold in the United Nations.

If the United Nations is to serve as the principal forum for the settlement of contentious international issues it will have to face the problem of finding a mutually acceptable procedure for sponsoring negotiations with non-members when they are necessary; even with those who, like the Chinese Communists and North Koreans, have defied its Charter.

The difficulties are not only political. At the same time that the United Nations summoned the collective strength of its members to repel the unprovoked aggression in Korea, it called upon them to