

No. 53/37 CHARGES OF USE BY UNITED NATIONS FORCES OF
BACTERIOLOGICAL WARFARE

Text of statement delivered on October 28, 1953 by the Acting Chairman of the Canadian Delegation, in the First Committee of the eighth session of the United Nations Mr. Alcide Coté, M.P., General Assembly. (Agenda item 24)

Now that an armistice has brought the fighting in Korea to an end, we hope for good, we might perhaps have passed over in silence the final chapter in the bacteriological warfare story. We might, I suppose, have let all the infected fleas, feathers and flies concocted by the imaginations of the Communist psychological warriors return in peace to the limbo of the brains that bore them. After all, even the most tortured minds sometimes benefit from a rest; and there has been every indication in recent weeks and months that the notorious germ warfare charges are being given a rest by their inventors. In these circumstances, to have let sleeping dogs lie would have been the easiest way of disposing of the matter.

With the return home of the United States marines and airmen whose so-called "confessions" were presented to this Assembly by the Soviet delegation last spring, however, a new side of the picture emerges. The case histories presented to us by Dr. Mayo, and their implications, are indeed sobering. They should be faced. For the story these men have to tell of what they endured at the hands of the Communists who were determined to secure their "confessions" at any price reveals some of the finer points in the most up-to-date techniques of brain washing. It is a story that makes the previous practitioners of this ugly trade look like crude amateurs. The communist technique involves a minimum of physical violence. Playing on the subtler mechanisms of man's mind, their brain laundry has developed a scientifically advanced process of dry cleaning. It is a process of which anyone who puts the political objectives of an all-powerful and all-embracing State first, and the values of the individual human nowhere might well be proud.

The fact is that if there were the slightest substance to the Communist allegations that bacteriological warfare had in any form at any time been used in the Korean War, the Communists would have welcomed an impartial investigation of the facts. That is what they have been offered in varying forms on four separate occasions. The Assembly's offer was, as we all know, to send an impartial commission composed of competent scientists from countries not involved in the Korean fighting. In their investigation of the facts, these men would have been bound only by their professional consciences as scientists, and would not have been subject to any form of reprisal if their conclusions were embarrassing to the governments or political parties to which they belonged. We cannot