

# STATEMENTS AND SPEECHES



INFORMATION DIVISION  
DEPARTMENT OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS  
OTTAWA - CANADA

No. 50/41 Statement by Mr. L.B. Pearson, Secretary of State for External Affairs, made in the New York Herald Tribune Forum, on October 24, 1950.

In this confused and troubled world it is a consolation to know that out of evil good can sometimes come and that out of danger security sometimes grows. We have had a good example of this within the last few days. With the passage by the General Assembly of the United Nations by an overwhelming majority of the resolution on "United Action for Peace" we can begin to see how the attack on the Republic of Korea last June, wanton and wicked though it was, has resulted in an important step forward towards the goal of organized international forces ready to check aggression.

When the Republic of Korea was attacked by aggressors in June, there were no international forces in being which could be used against the invaders. The provisions which had been written into the Charter designed to equip the United Nations with such forces had remained inoperative because it was impossible to agree with the Soviet Union on how such forces should be raised. Nevertheless, all those countries which value their own freedom and which realize that in the last analysis it cannot be maintained unless the freedom of other countries is also preserved were at once acutely aware that this attack could not be allowed to succeed. They also realized that a broad international effort should be made to defeat it. In that situation the Government of the United States acted with great vigour and courage. On behalf of the United Nations, and in response to a resolution of the Security Council, American troops were at once committed to battle in a desperate attempt to stem the invasion. No praise would be too great for the heroism they displayed and for the prodigies they performed. All of us throughout the free world are greatly in their debt.

Gradually other countries were able to make contributions to augment the strength of United Nations forces in Korea. Naval and air contingents were despatched by seven countries, including my own, Canada, and, as the need for additional ground forces became apparent, steps were taken in a number of countries to raise them for service in Korea. This was a slow process, however; and to the present day, of course, your forces, along with those of the Republic of Korea, and the United Kingdom have had to bear the brunt of the fighting.

The delay in the despatch of ground forces of other countries to take their place in the line in Korea must often have been hard to understand. However, it was an inevitable result of the failure of the United