

GOVERNMENT



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WEEK'S EVENTS IN REVIEW

GENEVA CONFERENCE: The Secretary of State for External Affairs, Mr. L.B. Pearson, made a report to the House of Commons on June 11 on the progress of the Geneva Conference. He said:

"The Korean talks at this Conference, that is the Korean side of the Conference, have made very little progress since my report to the House two weeks ago today, on May 28. It will be recalled at that time the Conference had before it proposals put forward by the North Korean delegation in the earlier days of the Conference, and a set of proposals submitted by the South Korean delegation on May 22. The distance between the two sides, as exemplified by these proposals, is still very great, and nothing in the nature of detailed negotiations has yet been possible.

"On June 5, Mr. Molotov, the leader of the Soviet delegation, submitted to the Conference a five point resolution on what he called the fundamental principles for a Korean settlement on which he sought the agreement of the Conference. At first glance these proposals seemed to be plausible enough. In fact, some of them are merely a restatement of principles on which agreement had already been reached through the armistice arrangements and at the Berlin Conference of Foreign Ministers last February. The Molotov proposals are, however, cast in such broad and general terms that they completely gloss over the differences between

ourselves and the Communists on this subject, and their acceptance would convey a completely false impression that real progress had been made and that something substantial had been agreed upon, which is not the case.

"For instance, the Molotov resolution calls for an international commission to supervise the holding of elections, which on the face of it seems acceptable enough. But the same proposal on this particular subject would leave for later discussion the composition of this commission, and the composition of such a commission is, of course, a fundamental matter. In the light of the experience of the neutral nations Supervisory Commission in Korea, it would be folly to accept a commission which would include communist representatives who would be in a position to hamstring any effective supervision of the election. That is only one of the questions which must be answered before these latest and very general communist proposals for a settlement can be considered as even a basis for negotiation. There is no reason to believe that the answers will be satisfactory.

"This Korean Conference has been going on now for more than six weeks, and if we do not get some satisfactory answers soon from the Communists on the matter of free elections, and all that that term implies, and if the Communists are not prepared to agree to inter-