

people feel they are carrying the whole burden of the conflict since they alone are providing ground forces. A flat refusal to assist by combat troops might have serious repercussions.

Attached is a suggested draft statement which the Prime Minister might make following the Cabinet meeting tomorrow.

A.D.P. H[EENEY]

[PIÈCE JOINTE/ENCLOSURE]

*Projet de déclaration du premier ministre*

*Draft Statement by Prime Minister*

[Ottawa], July 18, 1950

The eruption of the North Korean aggressors into South Korea is a breach in the periphery of the free world. Each of the democratic nations has its role to play. So far as Canada is concerned we have our obligations under the North Atlantic Treaty as a member of the United Nations, we have our responsibilities with the United States for the defence of the North Atlantic continent, we have our responsibilities for home defence. Presented with the Korean crisis, the Canadian Government has, therefore, to estimate with urgency but with cool heads where we can make our weight most effectively felt in the overall defence pattern. This is a decision which calls for priorities in manpower, in expenditure and in mutual aid. The Korean crisis is the most immediate of many demands on the free world. In Korea the struggle has entered into an acute phase and the United Nations has undertaken police action in which Canada is actively cooperating.

But the situation there cannot be viewed in isolation. Indeed it must have a galvanizing effect on the whole defence structure of the free nations. From that point of view, if from no other, the Korean aggression has not served the purposes of Communism, for it has stimulated the tempo of defence measures and has increased the cohesion of resistance to aggressive Communism in other parts of the world. The measures which the United States Government have taken and are taking to put their great country into a posture of defence are far-reaching and significant. Here in Canada we have felt that the Korean crisis is a stimulus and a challenge. We shall press on with measures which will increase the preparedness of this country. We are increasing our defence expenditures. We may have to impose sacrifices upon our people. I do not propose at this time to enlarge further upon the measures which we have in mind for the immediate future. They are designed to make Canada more able both to defend herself and to make her maximum contribution as an ally and as a responsible member of the United Nations in this time of crisis.

Meanwhile, the Government is considering with a sense of the greatest urgency the further steps which can be taken to help out in the Korean operation itself. Our decisions in that sphere should be considered in relation to the other obligations which I have mentioned. We must not overlook in the pressure of events in the Pacific the obligations which we have assumed and must meet in the North Atlantic