

is a very real difference between the two positions in so far as Canadian participation, if not Canadian interests, is concerned. We have been invited to Geneva, as a member of the United Nations with forces participating in Korea, to help bring about a peace settlement. The text of the invitation makes that quite clear, and I shall read it:

In accordance with the proposal agreed upon at a meeting of the foreign ministers of the United States, France, the United Kingdom and the Soviet Union, February 18, 1954, and announced in the enclosed communique of the same date the government of the United States has the honour to extend to the government of Canada an invitation to participate, if it so desires, in the Korean political conference to be convened at Geneva on April 26.

In so far as the Indo-Chinese aspect of this conference is concerned, the communique of the foreign ministers in Berlin has this to say. They are agreeable that the problem of restoring peace in Indo-China will also be discussed at the conference, to which representatives of the United States, France, United Kingdom, Union of Soviet Socialist Republics, Chinese People's Republic and other interested states will be invited. Our position here is, however, entirely different. We have not been invited to take part in the Indo-Chinese discussions. There was a basis for our invitation to the Korean Peace conference because we are a participating power in the Korean operation. It might be a quite different situation in so far as Indo-China is concerned.

It may well be that those most immediately concerned will want to keep that conference restricted to those who are actually concerned with Indo-Chinese operations.

(MR. FULTON): Would the minister be kind enough to read that communique again, because it does not seem to be capable of the interpretation he is putting upon it.

(MR. PEARSON): It says they are agreed that the problem of Indo-China will also be discussed at the conference - that is the Korea conference - to which representatives - that is to the Indo-Chinese discussion - to which representatives of the United States, France, United Kingdom, Union of Soviet Socialist Republics, Chinese People's Republic and other interested states will be invited.

(MR. FULTON): That surely refers to the Korean conference.

(MR. PEARSON): It has been made quite clear to us that "the interested parties" refers to those who may be invited to the Indo-Chinese talks. If we are invited, we shall play as active a part as we can. However, if it appears to be in the best interests of settling the problem that the discussion be restricted to the four or five countries immediately concerned, I do not think it would serve the best interests of peace to press for an invitation.

In the process of negotiations at Geneva, concessions of some kind may be necessary on both sides to reach any solution. For instance, if some concessions had not been made and some compromise had not been reached at Panmunjom - a compromise upon which the United Nations did not desert its principles - we would have had no armistice at all and no peace negotiations could even be attempted in Geneva. No