

# *External Affairs in Parliament*

## **North Korean Seizure of U.S. Ship**

*The following statement was made to the House of Commons on January 29 by the Secretary of State for External Affairs, the Honourable Paul Martin :*

On Friday last, a number of questions were raised with regard to the serious situation which has developed as a result of the seizure of the United States ship known as *Pueblo* by North Korea and their continued detention of that United States naval vessel and its crew.

I am sure all Hon. Members will understand that the fullest possible statement cannot be made at the present time because of the important discussions and consultations that are now still under way at the United Nations. The United States authorities have stated categorically that, at the time of its seizure on the evening of January 21, the vessel in question was in international waters. We accept the United States statement with regard to the ship's co-ordinates at that time. The information available to us strongly indicates that this point does lie in international waters and not in territorial waters. North Korea has alleged otherwise but so far has not put forward any evidence in support of its contention.

The ship in question was under United States command and not under the command of the United Nations in Korea. The dispute, therefore, is essentially one between the United States and North Korea. We do not consider it to be a violation of the Korean armistice of 1953. Canada, therefore, on that account is not involved. However, we are concerned with the potential danger to international peace which this incident involves. We have a particular responsibility as a member of the Security Council to make every effort to find a peaceful solution.

On Thursday last, when I was not in the House, questions were asked about our obligations to Korea under the declaration made by the 16 contributing countries in the United Nations force. Canada's present obligations to Korea derive from the 16-nation declaration on Korea issued at Washington on July 27, 1953, immediately following the signing of the Korean armistice agreement. That declaration includes this statement:

We affirm, in the interests of world peace, that, if there is a renewal of the armed attack, challenging again the principles of the United Nations, we should again be united and prompt to resist.

The United Nations command remains in Korea with the full sanction and authority of the Security Council. Canada still has a liaison officer attached to the United Nations command but the last of the Canadian contingent, which was the third largest national force sent in Korea as a result of the