



STATEMENTS AND SPEECHES

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Statement by the Secretary of State for External Affairs, Mr. L.B. Pearson broadcast on January 1 over the International Service of the Canadian Broadcasting Corporation

The year just past has seen some heartening achievements in the weary and seemingly endless struggle for world security. It has also seen some old problems remain unsolved and new ones arise which demand action.

During the year we have become more conscious than ever of the fact that many of the problems which we face are long-term ones, and that there is no quick or easy way to solve them. Great wisdom, great patience and great effort will be demanded of us, if we are to develop the strength and co-operation among the free democratic nations which is required if the right solutions are to be found and put into effect.

Prominent among the achievements of 1953, in the search for security, was the signature of an armistice agreement in Korea, which has brought - if not yet peace - at least an end to fighting.

The fact that aggression has been stopped in Korea by the collective action of the free world is in itself a major achievement of the United Nations; and especially of the United States, which has provided the leadership and by far the largest proportion of the United Nations forces involved. That the armistice was signed only after twenty-five months of weary and often exasperating negotiations, is also important as an illustration of the principle - no less true in diplomacy than in other fields of human action - that patience and perseverance can produce results, even in the face of obstacles that often seem to make further effort futile. In the pursuit of peace, whatever the difficulties, hope must never be abandoned.

Korea, however, is only one phase of the great challenge presented by forces now on the move in the Far East, demanding national freedom and better conditions of life; as well as by the attempt of Communism to exploit these forces for their own purposes. We of the West must be careful lest differing views as to how we should face these Far Eastern questions should disrupt the unity of our coalition against Communist imperialism. Anti-Communism or anti anything else will not be enough to hold us together. Our Asian policy must comprise much more than mere opposition to Communism. We must have a positive policy and convince the peoples of Asia, by deed and word, that free democracy is a vital liberating force and can do more for the individual, and for society, than Communism can ever hope to do.