



STATEMENTS AND SPEECHES

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Statement by Mr. L.B. Pearson, Secretary of State for External Affairs, on matters relating to the situation in Korea, made in the Special Session of the House of Commons on August 31, 1950.

...This afternoon I imagine the House will expect me to deal with the international position generally, and in some detail with events in Korea; to review what has been happening there since parliament prorogued and the action which has been taken by the government to meet that crisis. Korea must be the centre of our attention these days. It is there that the struggle with Soviet Communism has come completely into the open and its nature been most clearly shown. The aggression against the Republic of Korea has rung an alarm which has echoed through all the countries of the world. It has sounded imperatively here in Canada, causing us to accelerate our own military preparations and our military co-operation with our allies. It has also been one of the main reasons for the calling of this special session of parliament.

Before turning to Korea, however, I should like to consider as briefly as possible the world situation of which it is only a part. In particular, I should like to remind the House of some of the outlines of the menace by which we are now confronted, outlines etched by recent developments in Korea. There is much in the Soviet system, a system spawned by Marxist materialism out of Russian mysticism, and in the designs of those who manipulate it, which is hard for anyone bred in western traditions and accustomed to western modes of thought to understand. Nevertheless we know, or certainly should know by now, a great deal about it. It is important that we should keep its main features firmly in mind. Only by constantly remembering the nature of the forces that we are up against can we put ourselves in a position to decide on wise policies to deal with them. "Know your enemy" is a principle which is taught to every soldier. It is a principle as valuable in this half-light between war and peace as it is in war itself.

The first characteristic of Soviet communist imperialism which I should like to stress today is that its operations--we know now as we never knew before--are on a world-wide scale. Believing as they do that their slave system is an inevitable opposition to the free systems of government of other peoples, the masters of the Kremlin survey every part of the world in their calculations. Today there is fighting in Korea. Yesterday there was pressure on Persia, Greece and Yugoslavia, and a coup d'état in Czechoslovakia. Tomorrow there may be aggression against Indo-China or a civil war fomented in Germany. Soviet attacks will be made wherever