



# STATEMENTS AND SPEECHES

INFORMATION DIVISION  
DEPARTMENT OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS  
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(Part I)

Statement by the Secretary of State for External Affairs, Mr. L.B. Pearson, made in the House of Commons on March 21, 1952

...I shall omit from consideration this afternoon any questions arising out of the Japanese Peace Treaty, because we shall have a separate discussion on that measure shortly. I shall leave to my Parliamentary Assistant on external affairs (Mr. Lesage) the responsibility of discussing the work of the United Nations Assembly, though I may be able to touch on it briefly. He will deal also with questions of international economic assistance, such as the Colombo Plan, which looms so large in our international relations these days.

There are two matters, however, with which I should like to deal specifically. One is the situation in the Far East, more particularly the situation in Korea and United Nations action there. The other is the recent meeting of the North Atlantic Council at Lisbon.

In so far as that latter question is concerned, I should say at once that the Government supports the decisions reached by the North Atlantic Council at Lisbon. In so far as Korea and related questions are concerned, the Government will continue to support United Nations action in Korea. We do not support, however, any policy or any action which would extend that war to China without the assurance that such policy or such action would end it in Korea, unless the proposals in question are required by immediate military necessity and in order to ensure the safety of the United Nations forces in Korea, which include Canadian forces. On this question, the policy of the Government is clear. I hope that before this debate is finished the position of the official opposition, and of the other opposition parties, will also be made clear. We should know where we stand on these matters, and I hope that it will be shown that at least on essentials, and on principles, we stand together.

I shall deal with the Far Eastern questions first.

At the very beginning I think I should refer to some observations made by the Leader of the Opposition (Mr. Drew) concerning a statement which I made in New York on March 7, and which he said involved a question of privilege affecting every member of this House. Presumably he based that statement on his assumption that I had announced in New York new policies of the Government on which, and I quote him, "this House has not passed." Even if that were