



STATEMENTS AND SPEECHES

INFORMATION DIVISION
DEPARTMENT OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS
OTTAWA - CANADA

No. 53/12

THE KOREAN QUESTION

Statement by the Acting Chairman of the Canadian Delegation to the seventh session of the United Nations General Assembly, Mr. Paul Martin, made in the First Committee, March 5, 1953.

"To bring the fighting in Korea to an end and to move forward into the positive phases of reconstruction and peaceful settlement is still the greatest challenge which faces the United Nations." If I do not follow in great detail the statement to which we have just listened, it is because I am afraid that this presentation -- the first, I understand, of the Foreign Minister of Czechoslovakia -- really did not address itself to the issue that has brought us here at this particular moment.

My first sentence was an assertion made by the President of the General Assembly, after the adjournment of the first part of the seventh session last December. That statement, it seems to us, should still be our guide. Our discussion should not be obscured by invective and attempts, by raising extraneous issues, to divert attention from the immediate central purpose of our deliberations. Declarations which do not contribute to this end are not constructive, and those which hinder it are worse.

Certainly it is not incumbent upon this Committee to listen to hypothetical speculations and predictions, without factual basis, about the future general course of United States policy. This is the type of thing about which we should complain, for it distorts and confuses the issue. I also think that at this point one could emphasize that it is not the function of this Committee to consider the domestic political alignments of the United States or of any other country.

I must say that I was surprised to hear the Foreign Minister of the Soviet Union, Mr. Vyshinsky, the other day, attempting to draw a distinction between the so-called "ruling classes" and the people of the United States. That distinction does not of course exist, and it is a conception which would not even have occurred to a spokesman of any democratic country. I am afraid that Mr. Vyshinsky, in the excitement of the moment, allowed himself to employ terms which would have been more appropriate closer to home. The Soviet Union representative has been coming here for a long time now and I think we are always glad to see him, and sometimes even to hear him, but it seems to me that he in turn has not taken the opportunity to learn that in the