

STATEMENTS AND SPEECHES

INFORMATION DIVISION
DEPARTMENT OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS
OTTAWA - CANADA

No. 54/32

STATEMENT AT GENEVA

Statement by the Acting Head of the Canadian Delegation, Mr. C.A. Ronning, made at Geneva, June 11, 1954, at the conference on Korea and Indo-China.

I should like to begin by referring to a subject which we consider very important. That is the challenge which has been made by all the representatives of Communist states at this conference to the position of the United Nations. These representatives have denied repeatedly, and even more categorically than they have done since 1950, the legality and the moral right of United Nations intervention in Korea and indeed of all the efforts made by the United Nations to bring peace, prosperity and unity to the Korean people. These are allegations which we must deny bluntly and unequivocally, with no less conviction because our rejection is not couched in the extreme terms in which the charges were made. I mention this subject here so that there can be no mistake about the views consistently held by the Canadian delegation. The majority of us at this conference are here because we voluntarily took part in the defence of the Republic of Korea at the request of the United Nations against palpable and inexcusable aggression. This action was taken in accordance with the Charter of the United Nations and sanctioned by the vast majority of the members of that organization. I do not wish at this point to go into the formal and constitutional justification of our position, as this has already been stated on many occasions. It is hardly necessary to do so, in fact, because the absurdity of the pretension that our actions were illegal is clear to all who are free to judge the case on its merits.

A clear attempt has been made by Communist speakers to detach many of us from our devotion to the principles of the United Nations and from our belief in our own mission in Korea by referring constantly to this mission as if it were an action entirely undertaken by the United States. The United States, to its enduring credit, has undertaken by far the greatest obligations in Korea, but we other countries which have of necessity made smaller contributions are no less firmly convinced of the rightness of our mission than is the United States. Because we are a free coalition, we sometimes disagree honestly and publicly about the details of the conduct of our joint enterprise, but there should be no illusion among Communist delegations that they can, therefore, drive us apart on matters of fundamental principle in which we all believe so strongly.

The attempt has been made by Communist delegations to support their charges against the United Nations by arguing that the "United States", as they put it, cannot seek to